

Participation Criteria for Early-Morning Hammerhead Shark Sighting Dives at Keikai

We, the Oshima Diving Council, have created the following criteria for all divers including visiting dive guides to participate in early-morning Hammerhead shark sighting dive at Keikai diving point. The criteria is effective from August 1st, 2023. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in preventing serious diving accidents.

[Definition of early-morning dive]

From time of sunrise of the day, dives last no longer than 90 minutes.

[Criteria for diving]

- 1. Divers should have at least 30 dives of experience.**
- 2. Early-morning dives at Keikai should not be the diver's first dive after arrival in Oshima.**
- 3. Divers age 65 and over or divers with existing medical conditions are required to submit a medical certificate issued by a medical doctor.**
- 4. Divers should sign the declaration form prepared by the Oshima Diving Council.**

While the above-mentioned criteria apply to all the member dive shops of the Oshima Diving Council, each shop has its own detailed criteria for its diving operation. If your dive shop operates on stricter criteria than that of the Council, the shop's criteria apply to your diving.

[Background]

In 2022 and 2023, four serious accidents occurred at Keikai. The unique nature of early morning dive forces divers to awaken at early hours (before dawn) and dive without breakfast, which can be extremely stressful for any diver's body. Some divers even misunderstand that the dive doesn't require applicable diving skills since Hammerhead sharks can be sighted in shallow water with a beach entry. Factors like these account for frequent cause of accidents. The diving criteria have been created to enhance safety and reduce the number of accidents to zero.

The Oshima Diving Council