

# WHALE SHARK SANCTUARY HANIFARU, BAA ATOLL

Hanifaru in Baa Atoll is an uninhabited island with a natural underwater bay famous for whale sharks. The bay is known to divers as 'Aquarium' or locally as "Vandumaafaru adi" and is home to a large number of whale sharks, grey sharks, manta rays and sting rays, and is also a nursery for these species.

There is seasonal movement within the Maldives and in Baa **WHALE SHARKS** are sighted from **May** until **October**.

Whale sharks visit Hanifaru to **feed** along with **mantas**, and Hanifaru is particularly a **good place** for them do so.

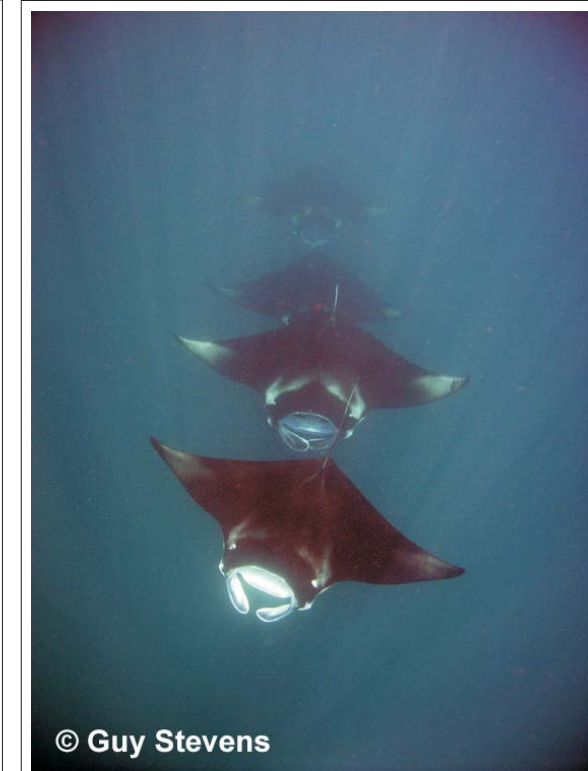
These **mass feeding events** only happen a **few times** each month and depends on the, relative plankton concentrations

HANIFARU ISLAND

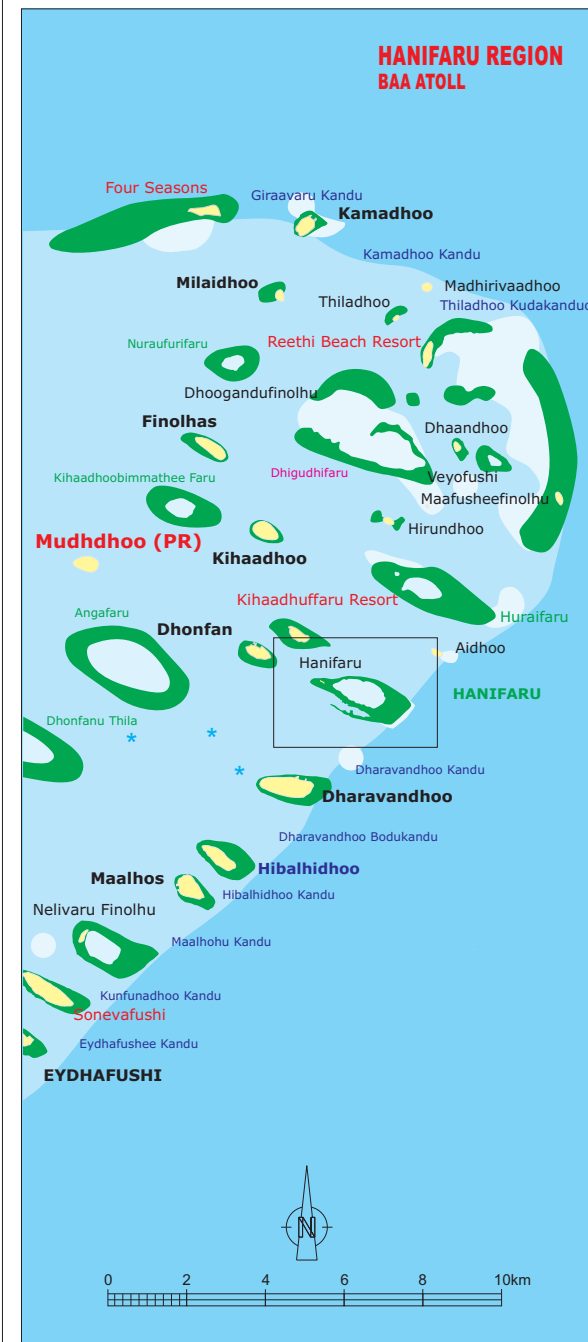
Vandhumaafaru / Hanifaru

**HANIFARU** ecosystem is vital for the aggregation of **whale sharks** and **mantas** and is a **unique natural habitat**. It is also one of the **very few** such places in the world.

photo: Google Earth



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