

# CALL TO ACTION

*Can you help us?*

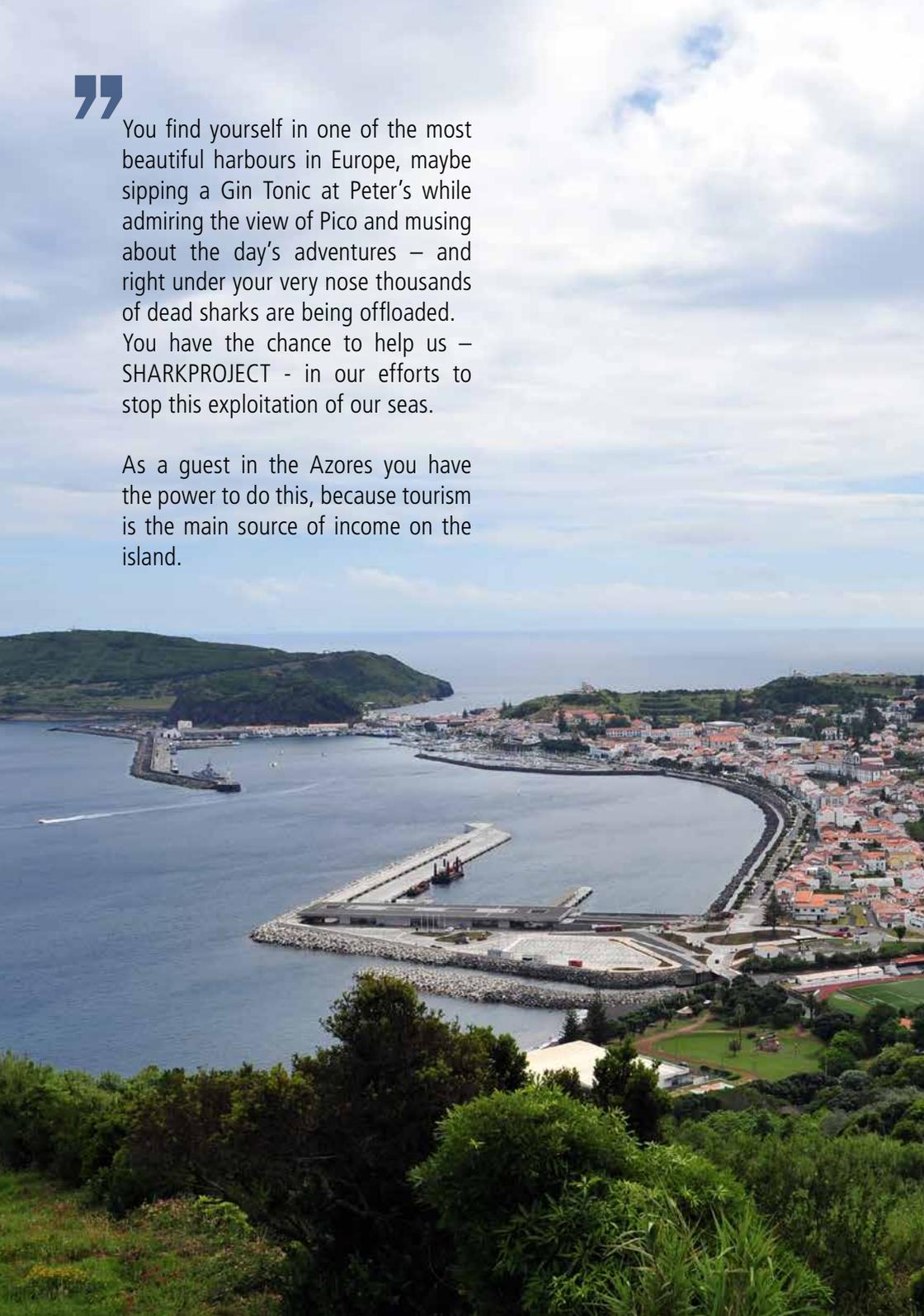
Azores.  
Portugal.  
Horta.

**SHARKPROJECT**

”

You find yourself in one of the most beautiful harbours in Europe, maybe sipping a Gin Tonic at Peter's while admiring the view of Pico and musing about the day's adventures – and right under your very nose thousands of dead sharks are being offloaded. You have the chance to help us – SHARKPROJECT - in our efforts to stop this exploitation of our seas.

As a guest in the Azores you have the power to do this, because tourism is the main source of income on the island.



## Dear Azores holidaymaker,

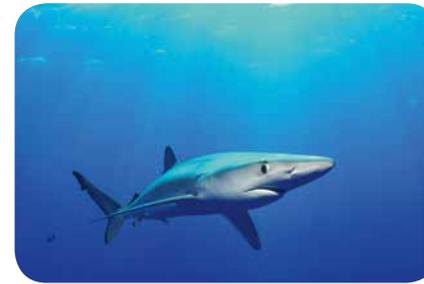
You have chosen to visit one of the most beautiful tourist destinations in Europe. Whether you are hiking over the land, whale watching or sailing over the sea, or diving under the water: **you will be fascinated by the Azores.**

We wish you many great outdoor adventures and a wonderful time on the "Green Islands", as the locals call them.

**Unfortunately there is a darker side to the Azores.**

Every year, Spanish fishing fleets offload approximately 5.000 tons of shark in Horta on the island of Faial. Horta, along with Vigo in Northern Spain, is the biggest trans-shipment point in Europe. These fleets initially only targeted swordfish but now offload almost solely Blue and Mako sharks.

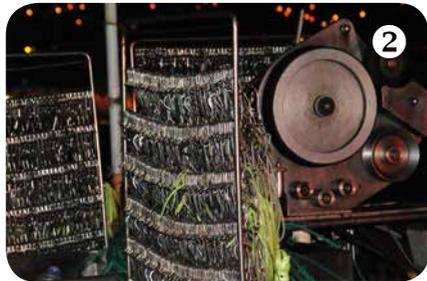
SHARKPROJECT has been working actively in this area. Together with proactive islanders we are pressuring the local government to put a stop to the offloading of shark in the port of Horta – and we explain the situation to the local population and their visitors.



## How can you help? How do you recognise Spanish ships?

The **longline ships ❶** from Vigo, Spain have an unmistakable shape.

They always have a very high stern, where the hook stations and winches for the longlines are kept ❷.



During the offloading of the caught and frozen shark ❸ there is a yellow crane ❹ present for over 12 hours. Several overseas containers are positioned directly beside the ships. (Ships dock opposite the harbour area – near the Do Canal/Horta Hotel)



**SHARKPROJECT asks for you to help us** if you see ships offloading shark in Horta.

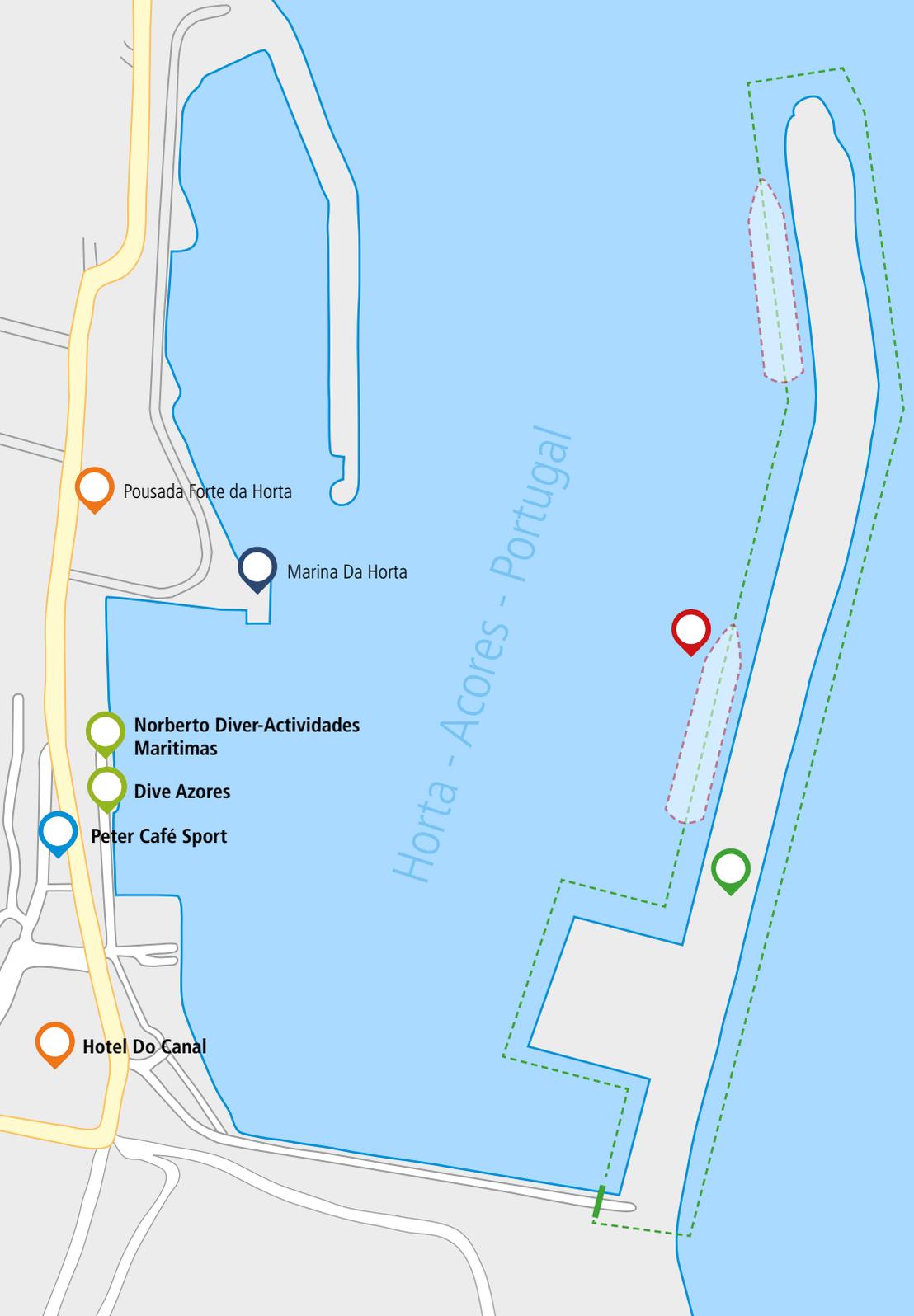
1. **Document** the offloading in **photos and film**. **Identification** is important (eg. **3A- VI 5-12-19**) and the **name of the ship** (eg. Siempre Juan Luis –Vigo). With a good telephoto lens you can film or photograph the offloading from the harbour side.
2. Take note of **how long the offloading takes**. Usually offloading from the ship to overseas containers lasts from the early morning until late in the evening.
3. If you have contact with a diving school, ask them to take you to the **side of the ship in a zodiac** so that you can film or take photographs close up from the water. The port authorities and the Spanish fishermen should know that they do not go unobserved.
4. **Make yourself known!** Let everyone know politely but firmly that the offloading of sharks is by no means consistent with the image of the "Green Islands". **Speak with the management at your hotel and with people around you** of your deep disapproval of this practice. Tell them it has to be stopped.
5. **Keep your eyes open** also when you visit other islands on the Azores. Horta is the best known shark offloading point but it might be happening elsewhere too.
6. **Don't put yourself in danger.**

**Contact us** by email [azores@sharkproject.org](mailto:azores@sharkproject.org) and send us any documentation which you have.

*Together we have the power to stop this!*

We hope you have a wonderful stay on the Azores and thank you for your help.

Your SHARKPROJECT team.



It is important to note the following:  
**NAME OF SHIP ⑤,**  
**SHIP'S IDENTIFICATION ⑥,**  
**THE DATE.**

If you have time: we really need photos or films of the cleared cargo (Sharks in bundles)\*

\*We are vitally interested in the size of the sharks.



**The pier** where the Spanish fishers dock is exactly **opposite** **the hotels, dive bases** and **Peter's bar** in the harbour.

On the way to the pier is a **green gateway**. This area of the port has been blocked by a green barred gate since 2016. Guests who want to observe the offloading of sharks are not welcome. Photographers will be expelled.



**The ships dock day and night.** When they arrive fully loaded, the cargo is landed during the day. Clearing 70-200 tons of cargo normally takes 10-16 hours.

A campaign from:  
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