Overwhelmed by what I was experiencing, I swam back to Captain Amado's boat in the strong currents as the wind began to pick up. Though seeing so many sharks in a dense ball may be cool, it was nothing like the peaceful encounters I had on my tour boat.

"We're just not using the word eco-friendly. We actually mean it. Our boats are equipped with low-emission engines," says Captain Amado, "so we don't cause any more pollution." They encourage all their tour participants to bring reusable water bottles to the shop to get them filled before the trips to reduce the amount of plastic pollution. Captain Amado also provides lunch to his tourists in reusable containers and encourages them to use reef-friendly sunscreen or sun-protective shirts, taking all the steps necessary to minimise their environmental impact.

As tourists, we can positively – and negatively – impact delicate marine environments. It is our responsibility to research different tour providers, ask questions, read reviews, and educate ourselves. "Wherever you travel, you know, try to do things the right way," Captain Amado says, "the whole planet is under a lot of stress. You wouldn't want to contribute to that. You'd want to lessen that stress and lessen that impact."

YOU'D WANT TO LESSEN THAT STRESS AND LESSEN THAT IMPACT.

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