



de Stolfe Journal
13.SPECIAL : SHARK WEEK 2024



SHARK WEEK 2024



*St. John's River Jacksonville, Florida
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Ship Mate Gator

COMMENTS BY RG

Watch Out! Shark!!

Welcome to Shark Week 2024! This is an update to the Shark Week special issue I published in 2021. Because sharks is such a cool and interesting topic, I thought I'd do a little better job showing the sharks and telling about them in a newer issue.

For this special issue, I used Wikipedia text and photos this time and have included 16 varieties of sharks! Way more than in the last issue. I also do a better job to give more scientific information about each shark.

The Discovery Channel has a shark week special every year.

Shark Week started way back on July 17, 1988. John Cena hosts Shark Week this year on July 7 to 13, 2024 starting at 8 PM. (maybe Eastern Time? or maybe on a delayed presentation in each time zone? You will just have to confirm with your service.)

I like doing these special issues to break up the regular issue routine and to also be able to focus on one topic or range of topics as part of a cohesive presentation.

Enjoy, and look out!



Producer, RG de Stoffe

RG

John Cena hosts Shark Week on the Discovery Channel July 7-13, 2024.



SHARK WEEK 2024

Shark Sciency Stuff

So, I am no scientist, and I am certainly not one of the oceans and the things living in it! Therefore, this special issue just passes along information obtained through various sources by those who know a whole lot more about sharks and aquatic life than I do!

According to the Shark Research Institute (yes, that is a real organization), the 400+ species of sharks can be classified into eight orders of sharks in the Elasmobranchii group of the Chondrichthyes class. (Got that? Okay.)

- Kingdom: Animalia (all animals)
- Phylum: Chordata (all chordates)
- Class: Chondrichthyes (cartilaginous fish)
- Order: Lamniformes (mackerel sharks)
- Family: Lamnidae (mackerel sharks)
- Genus: Isurus
- Species: oxyrinchus

Now you can see why I would be overwhelmed in trying to summarize all of this into a fun shark special issue!

Eight orders of sharks in Elasmobranchii group of Chondrichthyes class

[My own comments are in brackets.]

Carcharhiniformes—“Also known as “ground sharks” *[not to be confused with “land sharks” — I’m looking at you Derek Klingenberg!]*, carcharhiniformes is largest order of sharks. Their characteristics include five gill slits, moveable eyelids which protect their eyes from injury, two spineless dorsal fins, an anal fin, and a wide mouth filled with sharp teeth located behind the eyes.”

Heterodontiformes—“This is a small order of sharks with only nine known species. They have five gill slits, a dorsal fin with a strong spine, and both sharp and flat rounded teeth in their mouth.”

[These look like a big fish!]

Hexanchiformes—“Considered the most primitive order of sharks alive today, these sharks have six or seven gill slits, a single dorsal fin, an anal fin, and

thorny teeth. Most live in cold, deep water.”

[The Frilled Shark looks like an eel!]

Lamniformes—“These sharks have five gill slits, a large mouth with several rows of sharp teeth, two dorsal fins, an anal fin, and are able to maintain a higher body temperature than the water in which they are swimming.”

[The Basking Shark is not one I would want to meet in dark waters, nor in crystal clear waters on a sunny day either!]

Orectolobiformes—“Among the most diverse order of sharks, these sharks have five gill slits, two spineless dorsal fins, an anal fin, and spiracles near their eyes. Most have a patterned skin, and some have barbels on their chins.”

[This order has sharks that look really cool!]

Pristiophoriformes—“Also known as sawsharks, these sharks have long saw-like snouts. These sharks have five or six gill slits, two dorsal fins, no anal fin, wide pectoral fins, and transverse teeth. Most sharks in this order live in tropical coastal waters.”

[You’ve seen these before, they look like they have hedge cutters for noses!]

Squaliformes—“With an estimated 126 different species, this order of sharks is found in nearly every marine habitat. These sharks have long snouts with a short mouth, five gill slits, two dorsal fins, and lack an anal fin. Some deepwater Squaliformes are bioluminescent.” *[Creepy looking eyes!]*

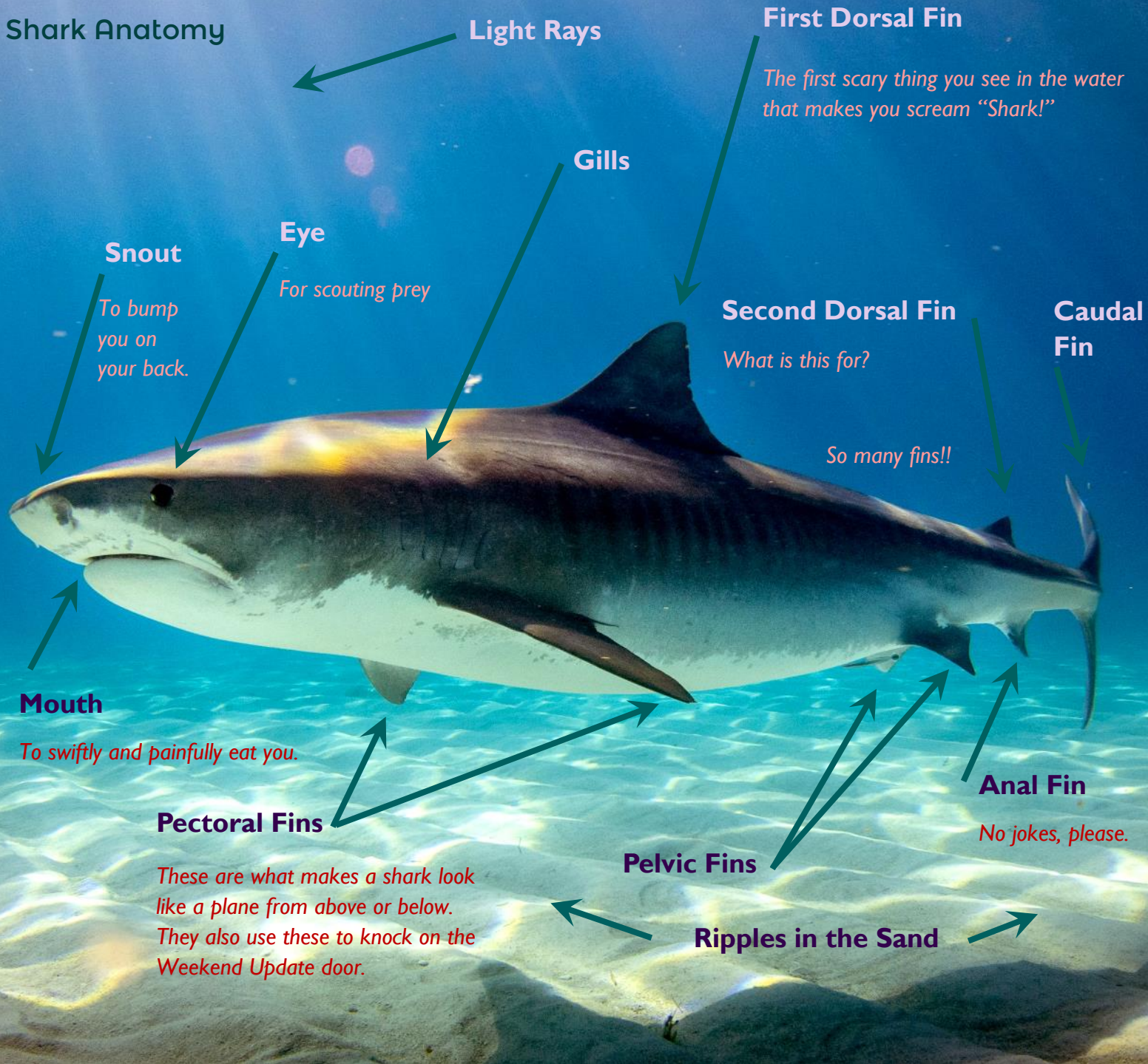
Squatiniiformes—“Sharks in this order have flattened bodies *[visualize a thick pancake]*, a mouth with dermal flaps in front of a short snout, nasal barbels, eyes, and spiracle on the top of their head, and lack an anal fin.”

Go to the Shark Research Institute website to see images of these sharks by their class and order:

www.sharks.org/species

SHARK WEEK 2024

Shark Anatomy



Light Rays

First Dorsal Fin

The first scary thing you see in the water that makes you scream "Shark!"

Gills

Snout

To bump you on your back.

Eye

For scouting prey

Second Dorsal Fin

What is this for?

Caudal Fin

So many fins!!

Mouth

To swiftly and painfully eat you.

Pectoral Fins

These are what makes a shark look like a plane from above or below. They also use these to knock on the Weekend Update door.

Pelvic Fins

Ripples in the Sand

Anal Fin

No jokes, please.

SHARK WEEK 2024

AND NOW PRESENTING

The Sharks!



SHARK WEEK 2024

Angelshark

squatina australis

(Definitely looks squat!)

Angelshark

squatina australis

The Angelshark, and specifically the Australian Angelshark, *squatina australis*, commonly inhabit sandy seabeds up to depths of 150 meters, or 490 feet. This type of shark is different in that it has a flattened body with broad pectoral fins causing them to appear much like rays. Most species live in shallow temperate or tropical

seas while a few species will live in deeper waters to 1,300 meters, or 4,300 feet. The Australian angelshark is found in the subtropical waters of southern Australia from Western Australia to New South Wales between the latitudes of 18°S and 41°S and at depths to 255 meters, or 840 feet. They can get up to 1.52 meters, or about 5 feet,

long, but are usually much smaller. The Australian Angelshark has a broad, vertically compressed body and large triangular pectoral fins with free trailing flaps and two small dorsal fins set far back along with small tail fin.

Read More: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angelshark>

SHARK WEEK 2024

Blacktip Reef Shark

(This is a cool looking shark.)



carcharhinus melanopterus

Blacktip Reef Shark

carcharhinus melanopterus

The Blacktip Reef Shark, *carcharhinus melanopterus*, not to be confused with the Blacktip Shark, is easily identified by the prominent black tips on its fins. These sharks are the most abundant in the tropical coral reefs of the Indian and Pacific Oceans. They prefer shallow, inshore waters over reef ledges and sandy flats, though they

will sometimes go into brackish or freshwater environments.

Blacktip Reef Sharks can reach a length of 1.6 meters, or 5.2 feet, and like to remain within their same local areas for up to several years at a time. They tend to be timid and skittish are difficult to approach. While they seldom pose a danger to humans,

people wading through shallow water might be at risk of having their legs mistakenly bitten as food!

Read More: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blacktip_reef_shark

SHARK WEEK 2024



Brown Shyshark

haploblepharus fuscus

The Brown Shyshark, *haploblepharus fuscus*, is a species of catshark prevalent only in the shallow, coastal waters of South Africa from west of Cape Agulhas to KwaZulu-Natal.

Measuring in length up to 73 cm, or 29 inches, the Brown Shyshark is stoutly built, with a broad, flattened head and rounded snout.

Unlike other shysharks,

the Brown Shyshark has a plain brown color, though some will have faint “saddle” markings or light or dark spots.

This benthic species is usually found over sandy or rocky bottoms.

When it feels threatened, the Brown Shyshark will curl into a circle with its tail covering its eyes, hence where the shy comes into play of its name.

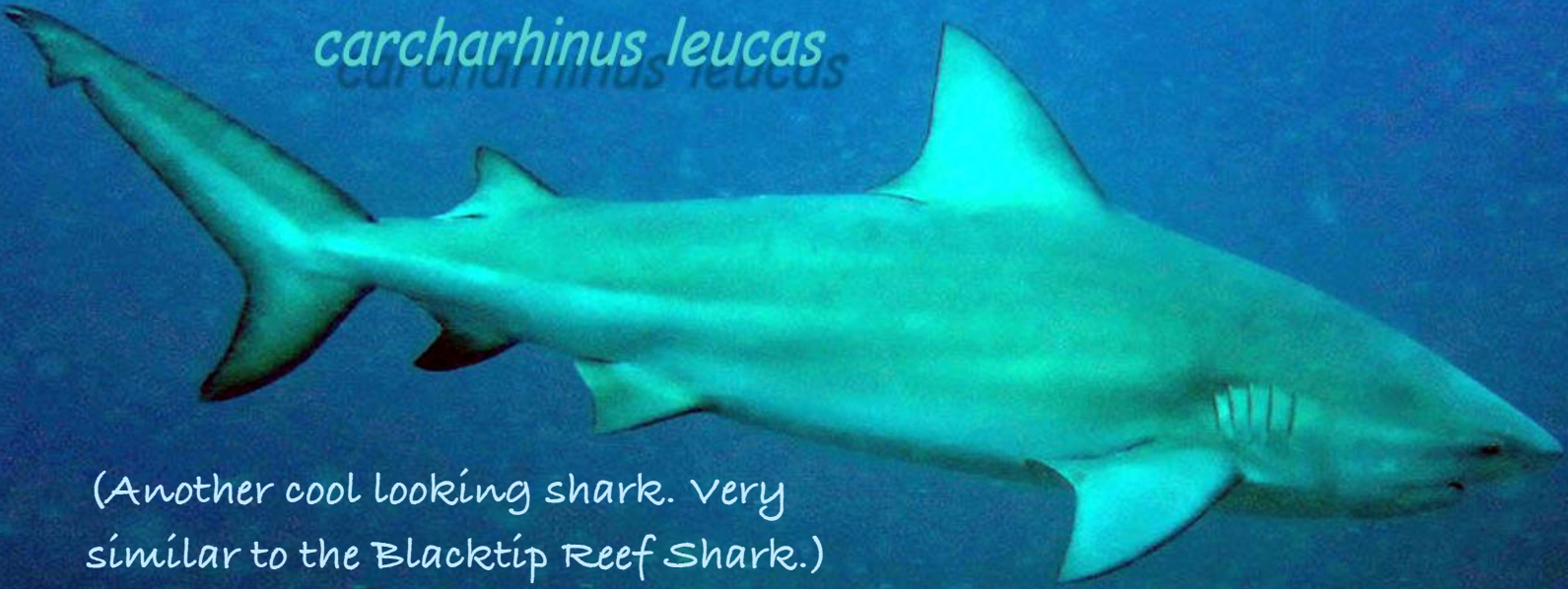
This species of shark is harmless to humans, but its very localized habitat can make this shark vulnerable from fishing pressure.

Read More: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brown_shyshark

SHARK WEEK 2024

Bull Shark

carcharhinus leucas



(Another cool looking shark. Very similar to the Blacktip Reef Shark.)

Bull Shark

carcharhinus leucas

The Bull Shark, *carcharhinus leucas*, also called Zambezi Shark, Zambi, and Lake Nicaragua Shark, is a species of requiem shark found worldwide in warm, shallow brackish waters or in freshwaters along coasts and in rivers and can thrive in both salt and fresh water, but are not true freshwater sharks. The Bull Shark typically

has an aggressive nature which has caused it to be listed as vulnerable because of shark culling practices to protect humans from attacks. Larger bull sharks are mostly responsible for nearshore attacks and shark bites.

Fun fact, the Bull Shark appears on the 2 Mil Colones bill of Costa Rica.

Read More: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bull_shark

SHARK WEEK 2024

Caribbean Reef Shark

carcharhinus perezii

(Smooth and slender.)



Caribbean Reef Shark

carcharhinus perezii

The Caribbean Reef Shark, *carcharhinus perezii*, is a species of requiem shark found in the tropical waters of the western Atlantic Ocean from Florida to Brazil and is the most commonly seen reef shark in the Caribbean Sea. While this species can be difficult to tell apart from other requiem sharks, the Caribbean Reef Shark

has grayish colored fins with no prominent markings, a short free rear tip on the second dorsal fin, and differs in tooth shape and number. Measuring in length up to 3 meters, or 9.8 feet, this shark is one of the largest apex predators in the reef ecosystem. Caribbean reef sharks are important to fisheries as a source of meat, leather, liver oil,

and fishmeal, but have also become valuable for ecotourism, specifically observance aquatourism. However, Caribbean Reef Sharks are responsible for a small number of attacks on humans, usually happening in spring and summer.

Read More: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caribbean_reef_shark

SHARK WEEK 2024

Carpet Shark

orectolobus leptolineatus



(This is a weird looking shark!)

Carpet Shark (Wobbegong)

orectolobus leptolineatus

A Carpet Shark, also called a wobbegong, has its name by the ornately patterned skin resembling a fine carpet. There are 12 species of these carpet sharks in the family Orectolobidae, which are found in shallow temperate and tropical waters of the western Pacific Ocean and eastern Indian Ocean, mainly around Australia

and Indonesia. “Wobbegong” might come from the Australian Aboriginal language to mean “shaggy beard” that refers to the growths around the mouth of the shark. The Indonesian wobbegong, *orectolobus leptolineatus*, can grow up to 120 cm, or just under 4 feet, in length and is harmless to humans.

Read More: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carpet_shark

SHARK WEEK 2024

Great White



(It's not all white)

carcharodon carcharias

Great White

carcharodon carcharias

The Great White Shark, *carcharodon carcharias*, also known as white shark, white pointer, or great white, is a species of large mackerel shark which is found in the coastal surface waters of all the major oceans. This shark is notable for its size, with males averaging in length from 3.4 to 4.0 meters, or 11 to 13 feet, and females measuring from

4.6 to 4.9 meters, or 15 to 16 feet. This species of shark has a dirty, darker top while having a clean almost bright white belly, hence the name. The lifespan of Great White Sharks is estimated to be as long as 70 years, making it one of the longest lived cartilaginous fishes currently known. These sharks can swim at speeds of 25 km/h, or 16

mph, in short bursts and go to depths of 1200 meters, or 3,900 feet. Popular culture has framed this shark to be a ferocious man eater, but humans are not its preferred prey. However, Great Whites are responsible for the largest number of reported and identified fatal unprovoked shark attacks on humans. The orca is the only known

natural predator of Great White Sharks.

Read More: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_white_shark

SHARK WEEK 2024



Hammerhead Shark

sphyrna lewini

(How does it see??)

Hammerhead Shark (Scalloped)

sphyrna lewini

The Hammerhead Shark, and shown here the scalloped hammerhead shark, *sphyrna lewini*, is quite the unusual shark among sharks in that it has a distinct head shaped like a T to the body, like the head of some hammers. Their heads are more flat and have eyes on the outside of each cephalofoil with a mouth underneath in

the middle. The scalloped variety, also known as bronze, kinky headed, or southern hammerhead, is the most common of hammerhead sharks, and has flowing scallops on the outside of the slightly curved head. While found worldwide, Hammerhead sharks prefer warm, temperate, and tropical coastal waters along coastlines

and continental shelves to a depth of 500 meters, or 1600 feet. But unlike most sharks, some hammerhead species will congregate and swim in large schools during the day, but then become solitary hunters at night.

Read More: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hammerhead_shark

SHARK WEEK 2024

Leopard Shark

triakis semifasciata

(Awesome pattern!)



(Blacksmith Damselfish)

Leopard Shark

triakis semifasciata

The Leopard Shark, *triakis semifasciata*, is a species of houndshark found along the Pacific coast of North America, from Oregon to Mazatlán, Mexico. This slender bodied shark is easily identified by the pattern of black saddle like markings and large spots over its back, hence its name. Leopard Sharks are usually a length of 1.2 to 1.5 meters, or 4 to 5 feet and are most commonly

near the coast in waters less than 4 meters, or 13 feet. Large groups of these sharks are common swirling around in bays and estuaries, swimming over sandy or muddy flats or rock strewn areas near kelp beds and reefs. Despite this terrifying thought of being surrounded by sharks, Leopard Sharks are harmless to humans!

Blacksmith Damselfish

chromis punctipinnis

The Blacksmith Damselfish, *chromis punctipinnis*, is native to the subtropical northeastern Pacific Ocean, ranging from Monterey Bay, California to central Baja California, Mexico. Adults are blue-black in color with small black spots towards the tail and can reach 25 centimeters, or 10 inches, long. They live at depths upwards of 46 meters, or 151 feet, typically along the sea floor, over rocks, on slopes, or in kelp forests resting in rocky crevices at night. Known to be territorial, they can be aggressive toward other fish.

Read More: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chromis_punctipinnis

Read More: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leopard_shark

SHARK WEEK 2024



Nurse Shark
ginglymostoma cirratum

Nurse Shark

ginglymostoma cirratum

The Nurse Shark, *ginglymostoma cirratum*, has two rounded dorsal fins, rounded pectoral fins, an elongated caudal fin, with a broad head. The “nurse” in the name likely comes from the old English word “hurse”, meaning dogfish, rather than meaning something medical or as in nursing a baby. The maximum

documented length of an adult Nurse Shark is 3.08 meters, or just over 10 feet. Adult nurse sharks are brownish in color, and they typically have a calm, sedentary nature, which make them extremely tolerable and robust for capturing, handling, and tagging by shark researchers. However, as inoffensive as they may appear, they are

ranked fourth in documented shark bites on humans, likely by diver careless behavior. An interesting note, American alligators and crocodiles commonly prey on nurse sharks in some coastal habitats where they have shared habitats.

Read More: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nurse_shark

SHARK WEEK 2024

Sand Tiger Shark

carcharias taurus



(Another smooth slender one.)

Sand Tiger Shark

carcharias taurus

The Sand Tiger Shark, *carcharias taurus*, not to be confused with tiger shark or a nurse shark, has a sharp, pointy head and a bulky body, making it relatively placid and slow moving. They are gray with reddish brown spots on their backs and can reach 3.2 meters, or 10.5 feet, in length, but are normally 2.2 to 2.5 meters, or 7 to 8 feet.

Sand Tiger Sharks live in subtropical and temperate waters worldwide, typically along the continental shelf, from sandy shorelines and submerged reefs to a depth of about 191 meters, or 627 feet. They are also found in the waters of Japan, Australia, South Africa, and the east coasts of North and South

America. Despite its fearsome appearance and strong swimming ability, there are no confirmed human fatalities.

Read More: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sand_tiger_shark

SHARK WEEK 2024



Sawshark

pristiophorus japonicus

Sawshark (Japanese)

pristiophorus japonicus

The Sawshark, and specifically here the Japanese Sawshark, *pristiophorus japonicus*, is unusual in that it has a unique long, saw like snout or bill edged with sharp teeth, which they use to slash and disable their prey. Among the eight species, the Japanese Sawshark are most commonly found in the waters from the Indian Ocean to the

southern Pacific Ocean at depths around from 40 meters to 100 meters. The Japanese sawshark reaches a maximum length of 1.36 meters, or 4.5 feet.

Read More: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sawshark>

SHARK WEEK 2024

Sicklefin Lemon Shark

negaprion acutidens

(They say “lemon”, but I doubt that any amount of lemon will make this shark taste better!)



Sicklefin Lemon Shark

negaprion acutidens

The Sicklefin Lemon Shark, *negaprion acutidens*, is closely related to the better known Lemon Shark and is almost identical in appearance, but the sicklefin variety has more falcate (sickle shaped) fins than the American variety. These sharks have a plain yellow tinged color, hinted at with the name “lemon” and can grow

in length to 3.8 meters, or 12 feet. They are widely distributed in the tropical waters of the Indo-Pacific and generally live in water depths of less than 92 meters, or 302 feet, and live in a variety of habitats from mangrove estuaries to coral reefs. The Sicklefin Lemon Shark is slow moving and rarely travels long distances, often living

year round in its own location. While they are potentially dangerous to humans and are known to respond strongly to provoking, these sharks are cautious and tend to retreat if approached.

Read More: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sicklefin_lemon_shark

SHARK WEEK 2024

(Smooth and slick, but still would not want to meet it!)



Silky Shark

carcharhinus falciformis

Silky Shark

carcharhinus falciformis

The Silky Shark, *carcharhinus falciformis*, also called names like blackspot shark, gray whaler shark, olive shark, ridgeback shark, sickle shark, and sickle silk shark, is a species of requiem shark named for the smooth texture of its skin. This ocean shark is abundantly around the world in tropical waters and is

typically found over the edge of the continental shelf down to 50 meters, or 164 feet. The Silky Shark has a slender, streamlined body of deep, metallic bronze-gray on top with a white belly and is distinguished from other large requiem sharks by a fairly small first dorsal fin with curving rear margin, tiny second dorsal fin with long free

rear tip, and long, sickle shaped pectoral fins. The large size and cutting teeth of the Silky Shark make it potentially dangerous, and it has behaved aggressively towards divers, which is rare considering that few humans venture to its oceanic habitat.

Read More: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silky_shark

SHARK WEEK 2024



Tiger Shark

galeocerdo cuvier

The Tiger Shark, *galeocerdo cuvier*, is a species of ground shark with populations that are found in many tropical and temperate waters, particularly in the central Pacific islands region. The tiger in its name comes from the dark stripes on its body, resembling tiger stripes. The Tiger Shark is solitary and mostly a nocturnal hunter and has

a reputation as a “garbage eater” in that it will eat a variety of inedible, man made objects. The Tiger Shark is in second place to the Great White in recorded fatal attacks of humans.

Read More: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiger_shark

SHARK WEEK 2024

Whale Shark

rhincodon typus

(A whale of a shark!
Yuk yuk yuk)

Whale Shark

rhincodon typus

The Whale Shark, *rhincodon typus*, is a slow moving, filter feeding carpet shark that is the largest known extant fish species, with the largest one having a documented length of 18.8 meters, or 61.7 feet. Whale sharks inhabit open waters of all tropical oceans and are rarely found in water below 21°C, or 70°F,

and can live between 80 and 130 years. Whale Sharks have very large mouths and are filter feeders, which also only occurs with the Megamouth Shark and the Basking Shark. The name comes from its appearance and large size, but the Whale Shark is a fish, not a mammal, and are not closely related at all to

whales, despite the similarities. Despite their great size, Whale Sharks pose no threat to humans.

Read More: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whale_shark

SHARK WEEK 2024

“Ooooo... a Great White!”



FINAL THOUGHT



Chris In Tahiti
Oil on canvas (partially shown)
by
Robert-George de Stolfe
54" x 42"
1994



The [de Stolfe Journal](#) is a publication made by Robert-George de Stolfe. The first issue was published in March 1986 as the de Stolfe Journal and published irregularly until 1998 (17 issues total). The *Candid* version of the Journal started in July 2012 through December 2018 (over 60 regular and special issues). Now back to the original name starting in 2019, archives of all issues—including the original ones (1980s-1990s)—are available on the website: www.destolfe.com

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