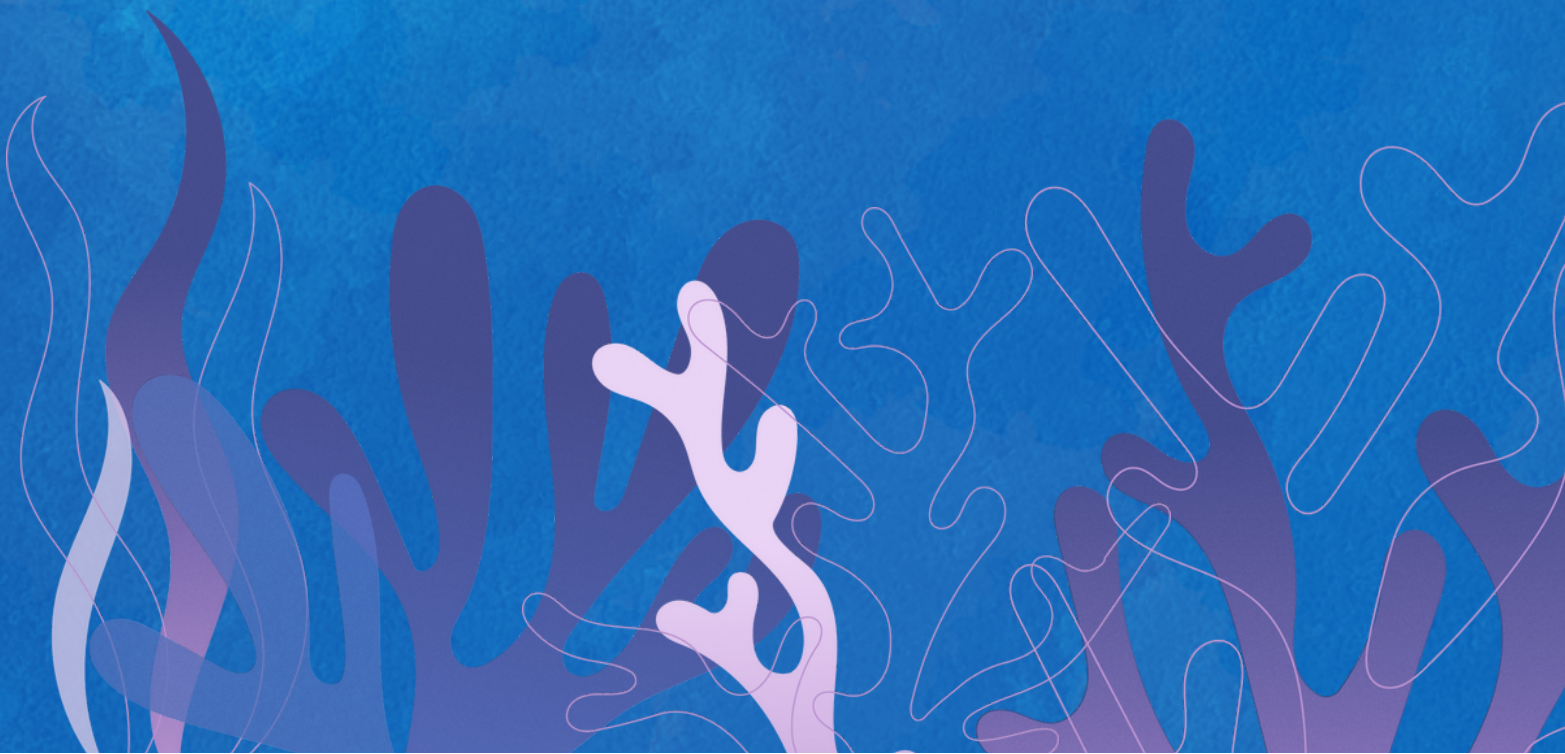




Shark Recourses

Updated 6/22/2023



Why are Sharks SO important?

Sharks are a keystone species, which means that they have a large effect on their ecosystem. They can be great indicators on how healthy an area in the ocean is. Sharks really do equal abundance of biodiversity. They help balance fish populations. They eventually are the grow serum for a balanced ecosystem.

Not only do sharks keep our ocean balanced but they also contribute positively to our economy. They contribute to it through eco-tourism. An alive shark is way more important than a dead shark.

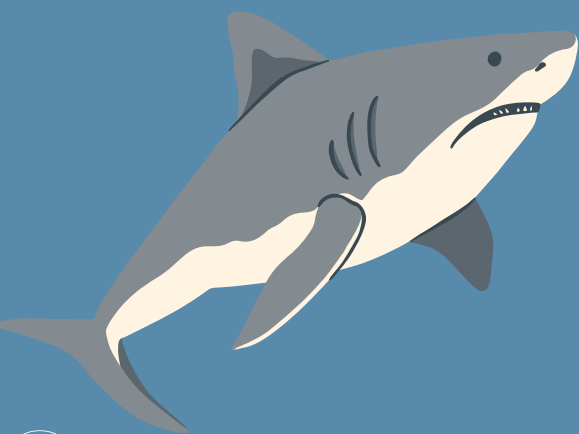


There are over 500 species of sharks. They vary widely in size, from the Whale Shark (*R. typus*) to the Cookie Cutter Shark (*I. brasiliensis*). In the vast variety of species, there are many with unique shapes. Such as the Hammerhead shark (*S. mokarran*).



What Threatens Sharks?

Most sharks take anywhere from 9-12 months to have their pups. Most sharks give birth, some sharks lay pouches/egg casings. Since sharks take so long to give birth, they are at higher risk for extreme population loss. It is important we educate others and ourselves about why it is so important to protect our sharks. Another large contributor to the decline of shark populations is the overfishing of their food source. This increases competition between other apex predators. It just makes it overall harder to survive.



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Over 100 million sharks are killed every year. This is due to human activity. Sharks are killed by bycatch, shark finning, boat strikes, and many more human activities in the oceans.

Shark finning makes up a large amount of that population loss. It's a huge industry because of the money, however the eco-tourism industry makes more. Which means an alive shark is worth more.

How can you Educate Yourself Further?

Use these websites as recourses:

- Florida Museum
- Shark Stewarts
- AWSC
- Shark Research Institute
- Save Our Sharks
- Shark Angels
- Ocean Life Education
- Sharks4kids
- Beachlex
- Blue Wilderness
- BIMINI
- BIMI
- Uni of Miami



"Sharks are beautiful animals, and if you are lucky enough to see lots of them, that means you are in a healthy ocean. You should be afraid if you are in an ocean and don't see sharks."

-Sylvia Earle