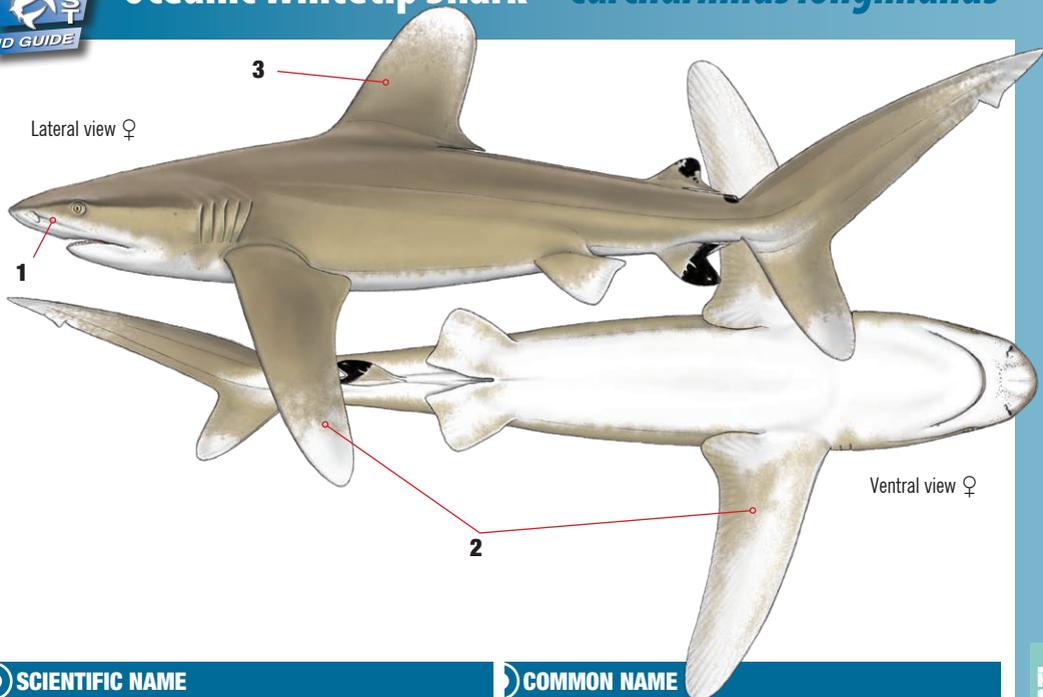


Oceanic Whitetip Shark *Carcharhinus longimanus*

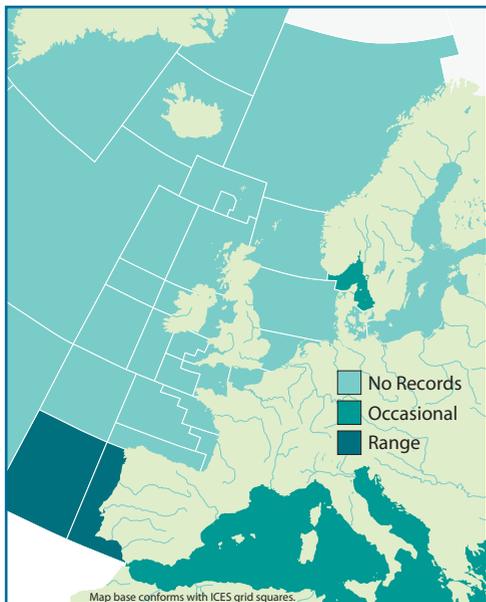


SCIENTIFIC NAME

Carcharhinus longimanus (Poey, 1861).

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide in tropical and warm temperate waters. East Atlantic from Portugal to the Gulf of Guinea, possibly including the Mediterranean Seaⁱⁱⁱ. Single record from Sweden.



COMMON NAME

OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK, Brown Milbert's Sandbar Shark, Brown Shark, Nigano Shark, Whitetip Whaler, Requin Océanique (Fr), Tiburón Oceanico (Es).

IDENTIFICATION

- 1 Stocky with short, blunt snout.
- 2 Long, broad, paddle shaped pectoral fins.
- 3 High first dorsal fin with rounded tipⁱⁱⁱ.

COLOUR

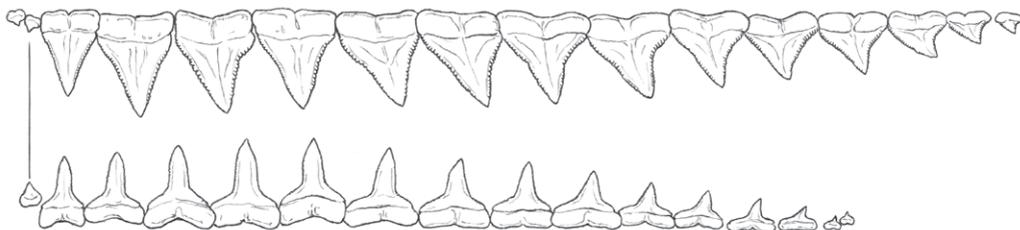
- First dorsal, pectoral, pelvic and caudal fins with obvious white tips.
- Grey bronze to brown dorsally.
- White with yellow tint ventrallyⁱⁱ.

BIOLOGY AND SIZE

- Born: 60–65cm. Mature: ~180–200cm ♀, 175–198cm ♂. Max TL: 350–395cmⁱ.
- Gestation period ~12 months, litters of 1–15 have been recorded.
- Feeds primarily on pelagic teleost fish and cephalopods, although sea birds, turtles and cetacean carrion have all been recorded.
- As with other pelagic sharks, can be very persistent in investigating potential foodⁱⁱⁱ.



TEETH



- Broad, triangular, serrated teeth in upper jaw.
- Teeth in lower jaw pointed and only serrated near the tip.
- 28–30 in upper jaw, 26–30 in lower jawⁱⁱ.

SIMILAR SPECIES



• *Carcharhinus longimanus*,
Oceanic Whitetip Shark



• *Carcharhinus plumbeus*,
Sandbar Shark



• *Carcharhinus falciformis*,
Silky Shark



• *Carcharhinus brachyurus*,
Copper Shark



• *Galeocerdo cuvier*,
Tiger Shark

HABITAT

- Pelagic, from the surface to more than 200m.
- Can tolerate waters from 15°C–28°C, prefers waters >20°Cⁱ.
- Often associated with pods of female pilot whales which it may use to locate prey^{iv}.

CONSERVATION STATUS

- Little catch data available but taken in large numbers everywhere it occurs. Once considered a pest to fisheries in some areas, it is now rarely encounteredⁱ.
- **Red List status:** Vulnerable (2006).

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- Taken as bycatch in pelagic longline and trawl fisheries.
- Fins valuable for shark fin soup. Meat, skin and liver also utilised.
- Considered a pest by tuna fishermen as it is known to damage tuna on longlinesⁱⁱ.

HANDLING

- Handle with care.
- Sharp teeth.
- Abrasive skin.

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