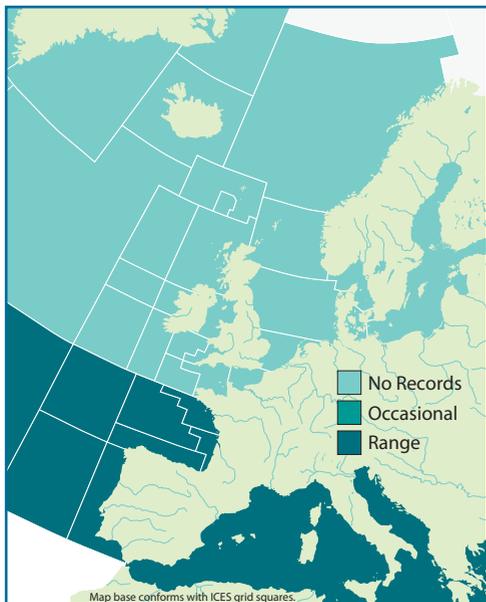


SCIENTIFIC NAME

Carcharodon carcharias (Linnaeus, 1758).

DISTRIBUTION

Circumglobal in temperate waters, larger specimens may be found in tropics. East Atlantic from Bay of Biscay to South Africa, including the Mediterranean Sea¹.



COMMON NAME

WHITE SHARK, Great White Shark, White Pointer, White Death, Man Eater, Grand Requin Blanc (Fr), Jaquetón Blanco (Es).

IDENTIFICATION

- 1 Long gill slits.
- 2 Single, powerful keels on caudal fin.
- 3 Large first dorsal fin originates over pectoral inner margins.
- 4 Minute second dorsal and anal fins¹.

COLOUR

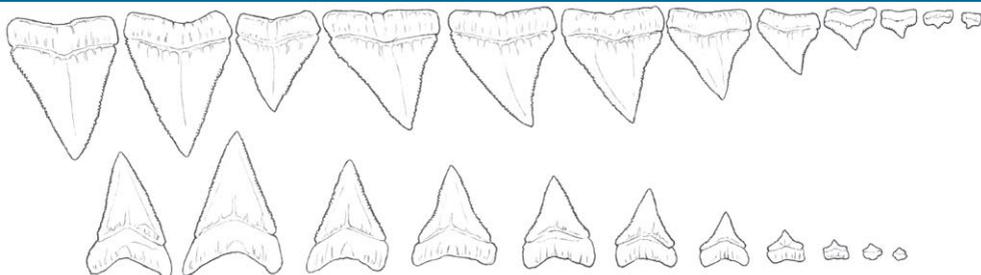
- Greyish brown to nearly black dorsally.
- White ventrally with clear demarcation on flank.
- Ventral tip of pectoral fins dark.
- Dark spot at pectoral fin base in some individualsⁱⁱⁱ.

BIOLOGY AND SIZE

- Born: 110–160cm. Mature: 450–500cm ♀, 350–400cm ♂. Max TL: ~600cmⁱ.
- Biennial reproductive cycle. Gestation period at least 12 months, possibly longer. Litters of 2–10 pups.
- Known to feed on an incredible variety of prey from cetaceans to marine snails, including carrionⁱⁱⁱ.



TEETH



- Huge, flat, triangular and serrated teeth in both jaws.
- 44–52 in total.
- Broaden as the animal grows, possibly allowing larger, mammalian prey to be takenⁱ.

SIMILAR SPECIES



○ *Carcharodon carcharias*,
White Shark



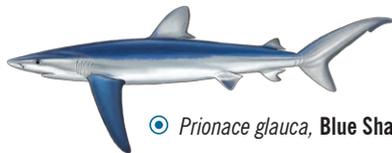
○ *Lamna nasus*, **Porbeagle Shark**



○ *Isurus oxyrinchus*,
Shortfin Mako Shark



○ *Cetorhinus maximus*,
Basking Shark



○ *Prionace glauca*, **Blue Shark**

HABITAT

- Primarily a coastal species from the surface to 250m, although it ranges into the open ocean and has been recorded to 1,280m
- Seems to prefer rocky bottoms against which it may be camouflaged from above.
- Can maintain its body temperature above that of the surrounding water allowing it to range into colder regions than most sharksⁱ.

CONSERVATION STATUS

- Wide but sparse distribution, low reproductive potential and vulnerability to fisheries mean populations are at risk of declining significantlyⁱⁱ.
- **Red List status:** Vulnerable (2005).

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- Meat is sometimes utilised for human consumption fresh or preserved. The liver oil can be extracted for vitamins.
- The jaws and teeth are valuable for the curio trade and the fins are prized in East Asia for sharkfin soupⁱⁱ.
- Cage diving with White Sharks is popular and can generate significant wealth in local communitiesⁱⁱⁱ.
- Prohibition on commercial fishers retaining this species in EU waters.

HANDLING

- Handle with care.
- Large, powerful shark.
- Sharp teeth and abrasive skin.

REFERENCES

- i. Compagno, L. J. V. *et al*; 2005. HarperCollins Publishers.
- ii. Fergusson, I. *et al*; 2005. IUCN Red List.
- iii. Martin, R. A; 2003. ReefQuest Centre for Shark Research.