

White Shark

Carcharodon carcharias



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Species Description

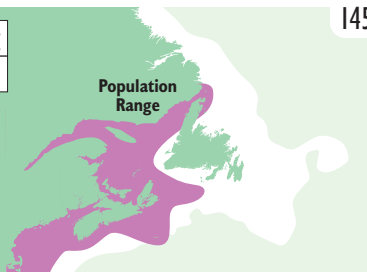
The White Shark is a large stout shark, up to 6 m long, with a brownish-grey coloured back and sides, and white undersides. It has two dorsal fins (the first is large and triangular shaped with a ragged trailing edge, and the second is very small), large pectoral fins, small pelvic fins, a tiny anal fin, and a large crescent-shaped tail (caudal) fin. It has a long blunt snout, over 40 triangular teeth, and long gill slits in front of the pectoral fins.



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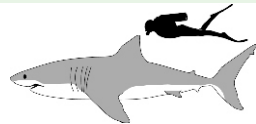
STATUS 	Endangered COSEWIC
	Endangered SARA

Globally distributed throughout tropical to sub-polar seas. Found both in the coastal and offshore waters off Nova Scotia, with infrequent sightings generally from June to September. Declined by 80% in the western North Atlantic Ocean.



Interesting Points

- This species can live up to 73 years.
- Feeds on marine mammals (whales, seals), fish (tuna, rays, other sharks) and seabirds.



Threats

- Human-induced mortality from commercial and recreational fishing, including bycatch and targeted fishing.
- Bioaccumulation of pollutants (magnified through the food chain).



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Twice as many people in the USA die from vending machine accidents than shark attacks each year.

Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

Contact: DFO Species at Risk 1-866-891-0771 or xmarsara@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Info: Canadian Shark Research Lab: www.bio.gc.ca/sharks, www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes

Sighting Reports: Shark Identification Network: <http://sharkidnetwork.com>

Stewardship: <http://atlanticsharks.org>; www.wwf.ca/conservation/species/sharks

Key ID Features: * large, stout body * first dorsal fin triangular with ragged trailing edge