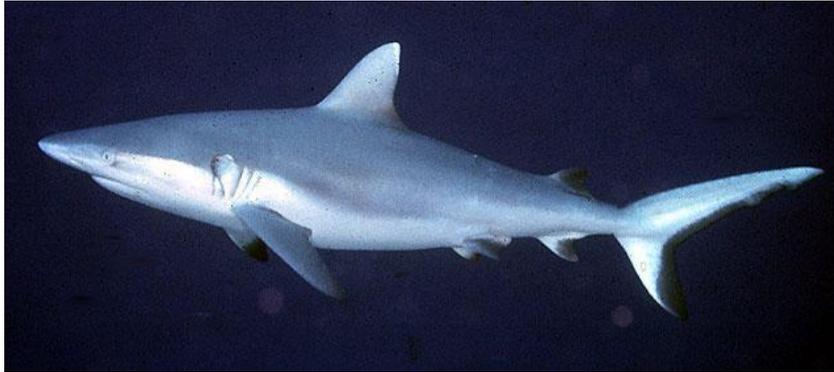


Common Name: Grey Reef Shark
Scientific Name: *Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*



Life History:

The grey reef shark (*Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*) can be identified by its grey/bronze dorsal color, which fades to white/pale on the ventral side. This species forms aggregations around reef passes and lagoons during the day but tend to be more active at night. Males reach maturity at 1.2-1.4 m long, while females mature around 1.25 m, around 7 years of age. It is estimated that *C. amblyrhynchos* can live up to 25 years and grow to over 2.5 m long! Grey reef sharks are viviparous with a 9 -12 month gestation period and 1-6 pups per litter, each pup between 45-60 cm in length.

Geographical Distribution:

The grey reef shark is an inshore and coastal-pelagic species inhabiting the Indo-West Pacific and adjacent oceans. It is commonly found near coral reefs, atoll passes and in shallow lagoons. These sharks can be found from the surface to about 100 m.

Feeding:

Grey reef sharks usually swim near the seafloor to find food, typically bony reef fish, squid, octopuses, crabs, lobsters, and shrimp.

Fun Fact:

Dr. Donald R. Nelson, who started the CSULB Shark Lab in 1966, created a Shark Observation Submersible to study grey reef shark aggression patterns. When these sharks were approached by the submersible, Dr. Nelson noted some sharks fled while others would attack the sub, biting and swimming at high speeds before fleeing. Researchers call this threat-display behavior a warning signal meant to ward off competitors or predators.

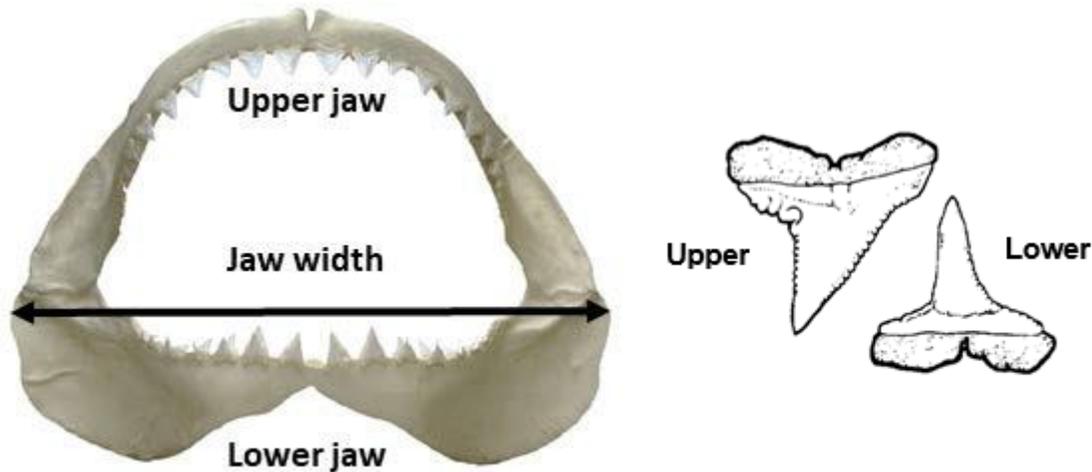
Conservation Status:

IUCN Red List: Near Threatened (NT)



Tooth and Jaw Information:

There are 28-30 front row teeth in the upper jaw and 27- 29 front row teeth in the lower jaw. Grey reef shark jaws are typically no larger than 30.5 cm across.



Where did these jaws come from?

Jaws were relinquished to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service from companies attempting to import species protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. These jaws were then entrusted to the CSULB Shark Lab to be used for educational purposes.

What does the Shark Lab do?

Dr. Chris Lowe and his students in the Shark Lab study the physiology, behavior and ecology of sharks and rays, often using and developing innovative technologies to enhance conservation and recovery of depleted populations. The Shark Lab also provides science-based education and outreach about sharks and rays.

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Smale, M.J. (2009). *Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos.* The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2009: e.T39365A10216946. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2009-2.RLTS.T39365A10216946.en>.

Picture Credit:

Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos. Digital Image. *Fishbase.* 1997.
(www.fishbase.de/photos/PicturesSummary.php?ID=861&what=species)