

**Common Name: Pigeye Shark**  
**Scientific Name: *Carcharhinus amboinensis***



**Life History:**

The pigeye shark (*Carcharhinus amboinensis*) grows to approximately 2.8 m and has a darker grey dorsal and lighter grey/white ventral coloration pattern, with darkened fin tips, especially when young. This species is viviparous, having approximately 6 to 13 pups per litter with size at birth around 70 cm in length and a gestation period of roughly 9 to 12 months. Adult males reach sexual maturity around 1.95 m total length, while females mature between 1.98 to 2.23 m. However, there is not much information on their age and growth. Due to its size, large jaw and teeth, the pigeye shark is considered potentially dangerous.

**Geographical Distribution:**

Pigeye sharks are predominantly found in the Eastern Northern Atlantic and the Indo-West Pacific oceans, preferring shallow waters. They tend to stay inshore along beaches and near the surf line, with a depth ranging from 0 to 100 m, and have occasionally been found in brackish waters. Pigeye sharks are commonly mistaken for bull sharks (*Carcharhinus leucas*) as both species distribution overlaps around East Africa and Australia.

**Feeding:**

Pigeye sharks feed on both bottom fishes and midwater fishes, such as croaker, hairtail, and sole, while also preying on crustaceans and mollusks. They are also known to feed on inshore species such as shrimp, skates, cuttlefish, etc.

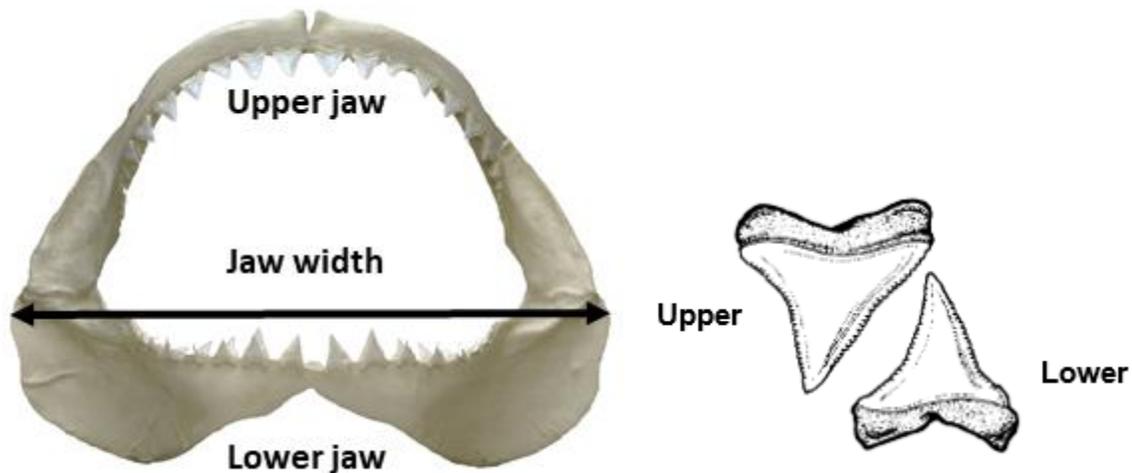
**Conservation Status:**

IUCN Red List: Data Deficient



### Tooth and Jaw Information:

All teeth are thick, upright and heavily serrated, but especially so on the lower jaw. Their teeth are similar in morphology to the bull shark (*C. leucas*); however, the pigeye shark has 23-26 front row teeth in the upper jaw and 23-25 front row teeth in the lower jaw.



### 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.

### References:

Compagno, Leonard J. V. *FAO Species Catalogue. an Annotated and Illustrated Catalogue of Shark Species Known to Date*. 4 pt 2, FAO, 1984.

Cliff, G. 2009. *Carcharhinus amboinensis*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2009: e.T39366A10217585. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2009-2.RLTS.T39366A10217585.en>  
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Ebert, David A., et al. *A Pocket Guide to Sharks of the World*. Princeton University Press, 2015.

### Picture Credit:

A Pigeye Shark, *Carcharhinus amboinensis*, at Ponta Mamoli, Southern Mozambique. Source: Barry Skinstad / <http://fishesofaustralia.net.au/home/species/2882>