

**Common Name: Sandbar Shark**  
**Scientific Name: *Carcharhinus plumbeus***



**Life History:**

The sandbar shark (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*) is a dark grey shark with large pectoral fins, no conspicuous fin markings and can grow to a maximum size of 3 m. Females can live up to 25 years, while males can live up to 19 years. Sandbar sharks are viviparous and can have between 1 and 14 pups per litter, with size at birth between 56 to 75 cm, and a gestation period estimated between 8 to 12 months. Although these sharks are large and common, they are not thought to be particularly dangerous due to their strong preference for fish and invertebrate prey.

**Geographical Distribution:**

The sandbar shark is a coastal-pelagic species, found abundantly in inshore and offshore temperate and tropical waters within the Indo-Pacific and Western Atlantic oceans. Sandbar sharks are common in bay mouths, harbors, and shallow sandy bays, but tend to avoid beaches, surf zones, and other areas with rough bottoms.

**Feeding:**

Sandbar sharks primarily prey upon on small bottom fishes, such as sardines, flounders, eels, stingrays, and smaller sharks, but is also known to consume mollusks and crustaceans.

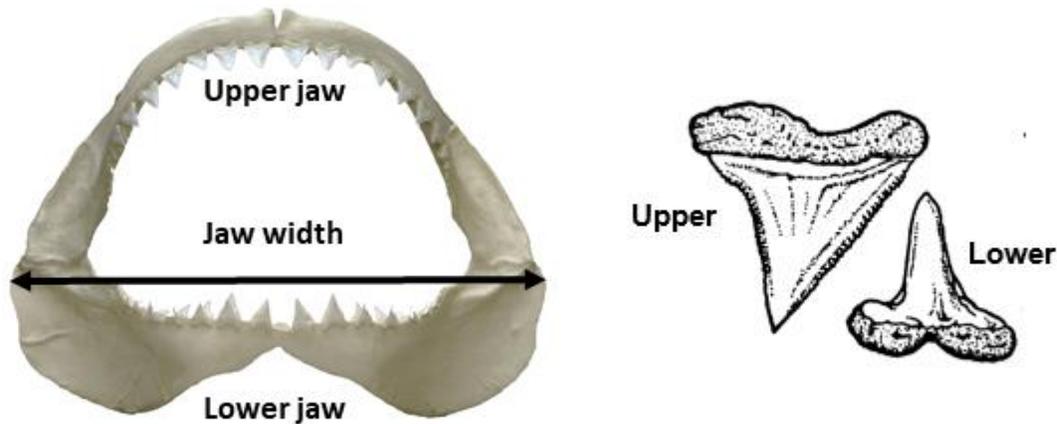
**Conservation Status:**

IUCN Red List: Vulnerable (VU)



### **Tooth and Jaw Information:**

Their upper teeth are large and broadly triangular with strong serrations, while the bottom teeth are narrow and straight. There are 27-32 front row teeth in the upper jaw and 25-32 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 at California State University Long Beach 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, L. J. (1984). *FAO species catalogue. v. 4:(2) Sharks of the world. An annotated and illustrated catalogue of shark species known to date, pt. 2: Carcharhiniformes.*

Ebert, Dave, and Matthias F. W. Stehmann. *Sharks, Batoids and Chimaeras of the North Atlantic.* Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2013.

Ebert, D. A. (2015). *A pocket guide to sharks of the world (Vol. 12).* Princeton University Press.  
Last, P. R., Stevens, J. D., & Compagno, L. J. V. (1995). *Sharks and rays of Australia.* *Reviews in Fish Biology and Fisheries*, 5(1), 136-138.

### **Picture Credit:**

A Sandbar Shark, *Carcharhinus plumbeus*, at Lehua Landing, Hawaii. Source: Ken Tam / <http://fishesofaustralia.net.au/home/species/1954>