

**Common Name: Smooth Hammerhead Shark**  
**Scientific Name: *Sphyrna zygaena***



**Life History:**

The Smooth Hammerhead Shark (*Sphyrna zygaena*) can be distinguished from other species of hammerheads species by its wide and smooth cephalofoil, or 'hammer head', with a distinct notch at each end near the eye. *S. zygaena* is dark olive-brown in color which fades to white on the ventral side, and has a large, tall first dorsal fin. Males reach sexual maturity at lengths of approximately 2.1-2.5 m, while females reach sexual maturity at approximately 2.7 m. It is estimated that *S. zygaena* can live for over 20 years and grow to a maximum length of 5 m, while reaching a maximum recorded weight of 400 kg. Smooth Hammerhead Sharks are viviparous with a 10-11 month gestation period and a litter size of 20-40 pups. Pups measure approximately 50 cm in length upon birth.

**Geographical Distribution:**

Smooth Hammerheads are found worldwide in temperate and tropical waters. This species is considered semi-pelagic, spending time near coasts and out in the open ocean over continental and insular shelves. Hundreds of young Smooth Hammerhead Sharks aggregate at certain times of year. These sharks are believed to spend much of their time near the bottom and are considered bottom associated at depths from 1-139 m deep.

**Feeding:**

Smooth Hammerhead sharks feed on a large variety of animals, including small sharks, stingrays, and skates, along with bony fish, crustaceans, octopus, and squid.

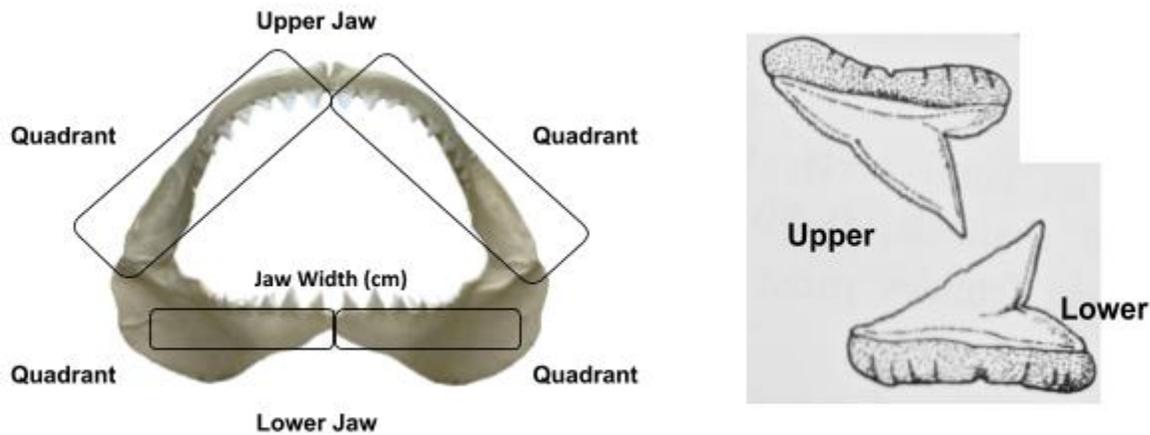
**Conservation Status:**

IUCN Red List: Near Threatened (NT)



## Tooth and Jaw Information:

There are 26-32 front row teeth in the upper jaw and 25-30 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 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 physiological and behavioral ecology of marine animals, emphasizing the effect of human activity on the ocean, often utilizing and developing innovative technologies to answer challenging questions important for the conservation and restoration of depleted populations.

## References:

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Ebert, D. A. (2015). *A pocket guide to sharks of the world (Vol. 12).* Princeton University Press.  
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## Picture Credit:

Andy Murch