

**Common Name: Tiger Shark**  
**Scientific name: *Galeocerdo cuvier***



**Life History:** Tiger Sharks (*Galeocerdo cuvier*) are white colored in their ventral side and grey colored in their dorsal side with dark grey bars and spots along the back and flanks. The stripes and spots are typically bolder in young and lighter in adults. Tiger Sharks are born at lengths of 0.5 – 0.7 m and reach maturity at lengths of 2.2 – 2.9 m. The largest individual recorded was 7.40 m of length. Tiger Sharks are ovoviviparous and can have an average of 26-36 pups per litter after 15 months of gestation. They reach maturity at approximately 4-6 years old and can live at least 12 years.

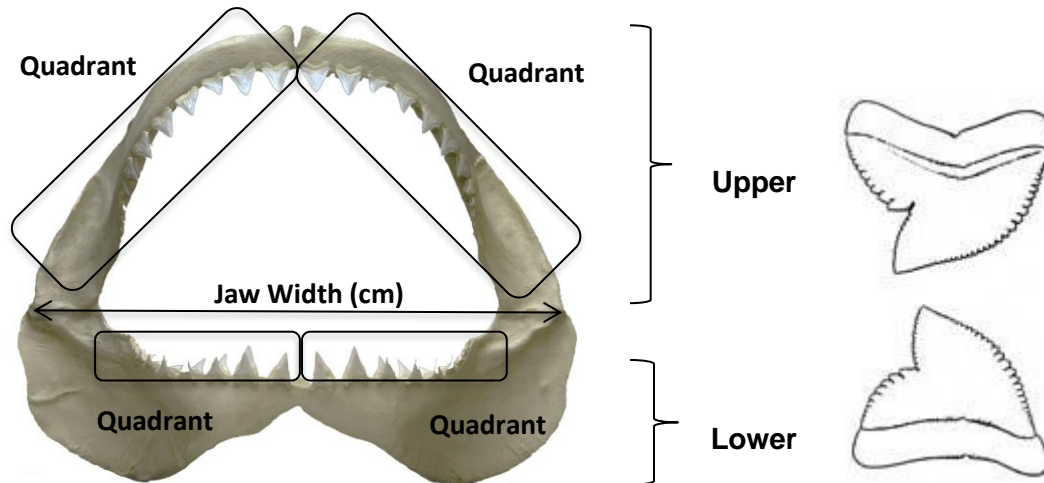
**Geographical Distribution:** Tiger Sharks are globally distributed in tropical and warm temperate oceans, ranging between latitudes of 36°S and 40°N. In the Eastern Pacific Ocean, tiger sharks are found between Peru and Southern California (U.S.A), including Galapagos and Revillagigedo Islands. In the Western Atlantic, this species ranges from Massachusetts (U.S.A) and Uruguay. They can be found in shelves, reefs and offshore – making incursions to depths greater than 1000 m and can travel thousands of miles in some cases.

**Feeding:** Tiger Sharks feed on almost anything, from bony fishes, sharks, crustaceans to sea turtles, dolphins, birds, and carrion. Interestingly, objects of human origin are found in their stomachs (e.g. plastic bottles, garbage, etc.), for which they are sometimes called “a garbage can with fins”. Tiger sharks are solitary hunters and feed at night.

**Conservation Status:** IUCN Red List: Near Threatened (NT) - Tiger Sharks are threatened by illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing practices, as well as regularly caught by recreational fisheries.



**Tooth and Jaw Information:** Tiger Sharks have large, robust looking, teeth with curved cusps that ends in a deep notch and finely serrated edges. Their teeth have similar shape and form in both upper and lower jaws and decrease in size towards the corner of the mouth. The broad serrated teeth of the tiger sharks are specialized for hard larger prey.



### 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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