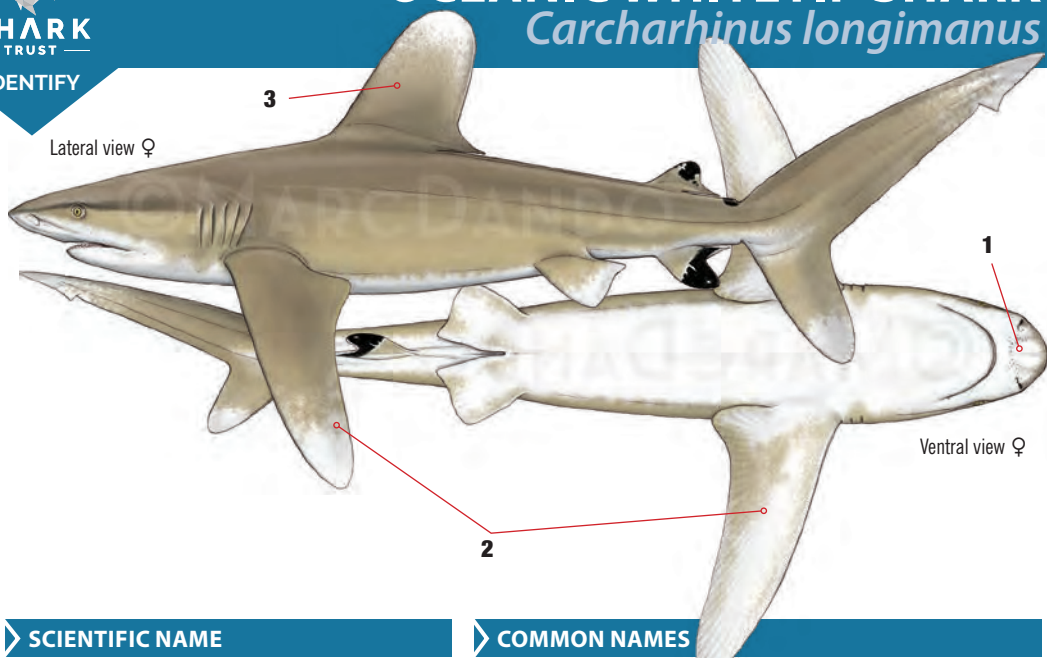


OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK

Carcharhinus longimanus



Lateral view ♀

Ventral view ♀

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Carcharhinus longimanus (Poey, 1861)

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide in tropical and warm temperate oceanic waters. Eastern Atlantic from Portugal to west coast of South Africa (unconfirmed in Mediterranean). Western Atlantic from Maine to Argentina.¹⁻⁴

COMMON NAMES

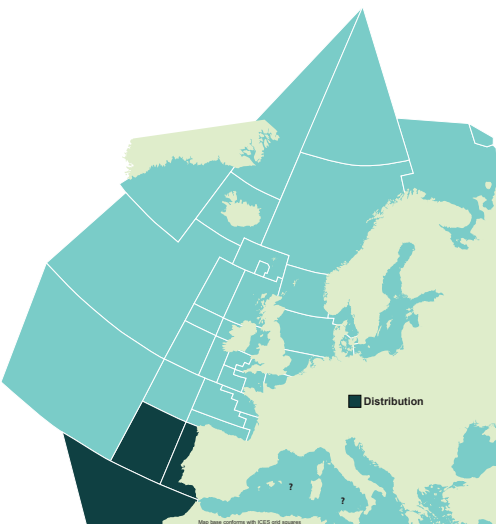
OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK, Whitetip Shark, Hochsee-Weißspitzenhai (DEU), Tiburón Oceanico (ESP), Requin Longimane (FRA), Squalo alalunga (ITA), Tubarão de Pontas Brancas (PRT).

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

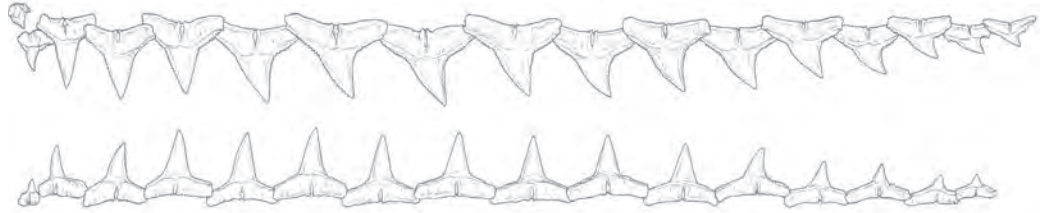
- 1 Stocky with short, blunt snout.^{2,3}
 - 2 Long, broad, paddle-shaped pectoral fins.^{2,3}
 - 3 Large, first dorsal fin with broadly rounded tip.^{2,3}
- Grey bronze to brown dorsally.³
 - White ventrally.³
 - First dorsal, pectoral, pelvic and caudal fins with distinct white mottled tips.^{2,3}

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- Birth: 55–77cm.
- Matures: female 175–224cm; male 168–198cm.
- Max. TL: 350–395cm.^{2,3,5,6}
- Age at maturity (varies regionally): female 4.5–15.8 years. Max. recorded age (varies regionally): 11–24.9 years.¹
- Viviparous, litters of 1–15 pups (avg. 6) after a 9–12 month gestation period. Litter size increases with size of female.^{2,3,6}
- Inquisitive and persistent in investigating potential food. Diet consists of teleosts and cephalopods; occasionally crustaceans, stingrays, seabirds, turtles and marine mammal carrion.^{2,3,6}



TEETH



SIMILAR SPECIES



Copper Shark *Carcharhinus brachyurus*



Silky Shark *Carcharhinus falciformis*



Sandbar Shark *Carcharhinus plumbeus*



Tiger Shark *Galeocerdo cuvier*

HABITAT

- Oceanic, epipelagic and occasionally coastal shark usually found from surface waters to <200m; one individual recorded at 1,190m.^{2,3,8,9}
- Found far offshore, occasionally in shallow, inshore waters off oceanic islands and narrow continental shelves. Able to tolerate waters 15°–28°C; prefers >20°C.^{2,3,8,9}
- Highly migratory, forms seasonal aggregations and displays site-fidelity where abundant food sources are present.^{2,7}

- Upper jaw: 27–32; broad, triangular, serrated teeth.^{2,3}
- Lower jaw: 27–33; pointed teeth, serrated near the tip.^{2,3}

CONSERVATION STATUS*

- IUCN Red List: Global: Critically Endangered (2019)
Europe: Endangered (2015)
- Formerly widespread and abundant, significant declines have been observed with an estimated global population decline of >98% over three generations (61.2 years).^{1,4}

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- Primarily taken as bycatch in purse seine fisheries and pelagic longline fisheries targeting tuna and billfish.^{1–4}
- Utilised for human consumption and fishmeal. Their fins remain of value in the global fin trade due to their large size.^{1–4}

MANAGEMENT*

- Subject to prohibitions under the CFP, RFMO and FNA regulations. Additional international regulations apply.

REFERENCES

- 1 Rigby *et al.* 2019.
- 2 Ebert *et al.* 2013.
- 3 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 4 Walls *et al.* 2015.
- 5 Seki *et al.* 1998.
- 6 dos Santos Tambourgi *et al.* 2013.
- 7 Madigan *et al.* 2015.
- 8 Howey-Jordan *et al.* 2013.
- 9 Howey *et al.* 2016.