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...learn and conserve

Photo by: Tomas Kotouc

The Scalloped

Hammerhead Shark

Sphyrna lewini



sharklife

conservation group
www.sharklife.co.za

Introduction

This course covers theory topics on Hammerhead shark biology and behaviour, it also outlines some best practices for diving with these sharks as well as the threats facing Hammerhead sharks today. We encourage you to conduct practical training dives with a Sharklife instructor near you.

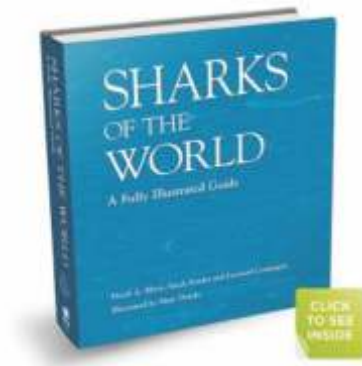
Acknowledgment

Sharklife would like to thank Marc Dando for supplying the magnificent shark illustrations found in these materials.

To learn more about sharks get the new Sharks of the World Book.

Sharks of the World is the essential book for everyone interested in sharks, from the expert requiring a major reference work, to the layperson fascinated by their beauty, biology and diversity.

Available from
www.wildnaturepress.com



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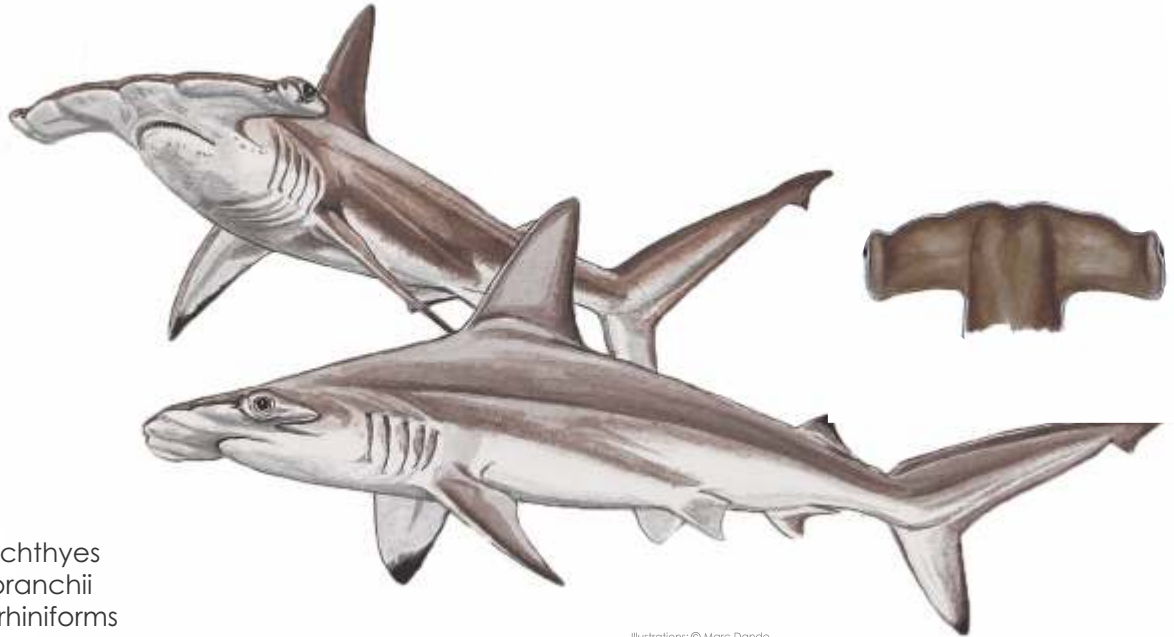
Threats.....

Thank You.....

CLASSIFICATION

The Scalloped Hammerhead Shark *Sphyrna lewini*

- slightly arched head with a central indentation, followed by two more indentations on either side, giving its head a scalloped appearance.



taxonomy

Class: Chondrichthyes
Sub-class: Elasmobranchii
Order: Carcharhiniforms
Family: Sphyrnidae
Genus: *Sphyrna*
Species: *lewini*

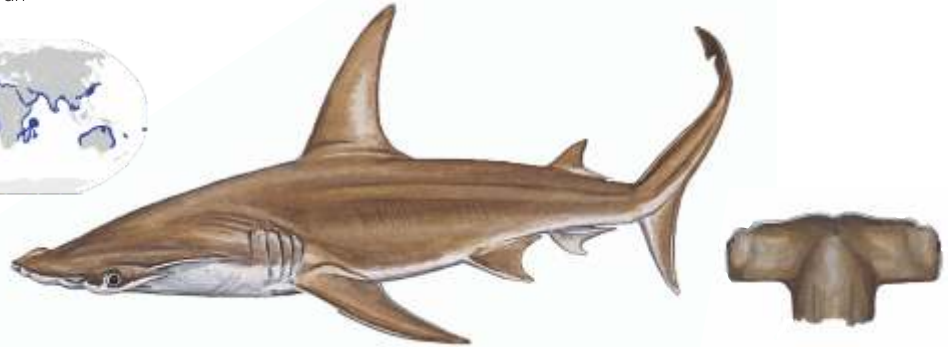
SIMILAR SPECIES

There are eight species of hammerhead shark but the two most similar in size and appearance to *S. lewini* are the following two species.

Great Hammerhead Shark *Sphyrna mokarran*

Differences to *S. lewini*:

1. Larger - max 6m
2. Colouration - browner
3. 1st dorsal fin larger
4. Head shape - more square



Smooth Hammerhead Shark *Sphyrna zygaena*

Differences to *S. lewini*:

1. Larger - max 5m
2. Colouration - more olive
3. Head - not scalloped
4. 1st dorsal - fin larger



Illustrations: © Marc Dando
Sharks of the World - Wild Nature Press
www.wildnaturepress.com

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

Wide Ranging Species

- a circumglobal species
- found in coastal temperate and tropical seas
- genetic evidence for multiple sub-populations



Global Scalloped Hammerhead Shark Distribution



Great Hammerhead



Smooth Hammerhead

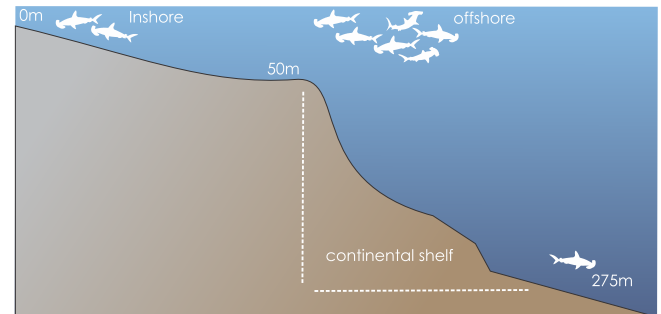
Sexual Segregation



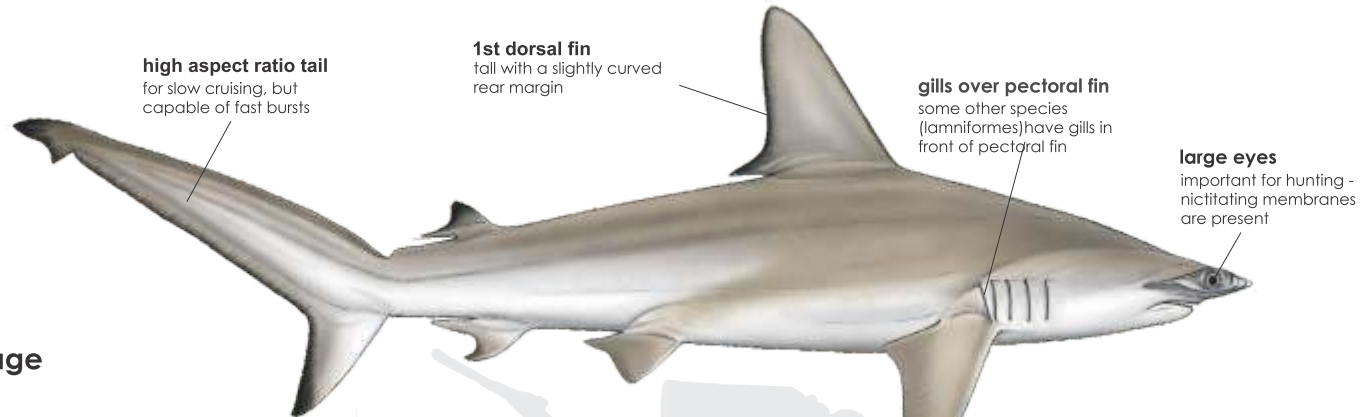
- large aggregations of females
- suggests sexual segregation

Habitat

- found predominately off-shore
- congregate of deep drop offs and shelves
- recorded to depths of 270m
- known to come close inshore on occasion



EXTERNAL ANATOMY



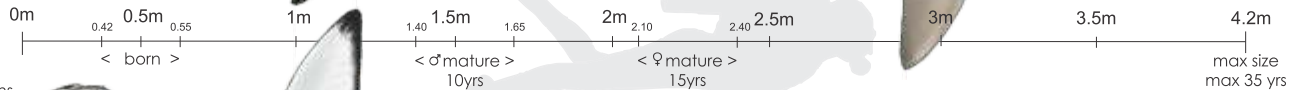
high aspect ratio tail
for slow cruising, but capable of fast bursts

1st dorsal fin
tall with a slightly curved rear margin

gills over pectoral fin
some other species (lamniformes) have gills in front of pectoral fin

large eyes
important for hunting - nictitating membranes are present

size & age



2 indentations on each side of head

♀

central indentation

head sloping rearward

hammer head

the only carcharhinid shark with such a square head

cloacal opening

males have a pair of tube-like claspers extending off each pelvic fin

no caudal keel

a distinct lateral keel before the tail - present on other species such as; tiger sharks, mako sharks and whale sharks

Illustrations: © Marc Dando