

The MAKO *(Isurus oxyrinchus)*

Believed to be the fastest shark!

In 2020, following a sizable donation by DWS, Heathy Seas was able to purchase its first boat that will be used by Ghost Diving volunteers to recover ghost nets from the North Sea. The boat very fittingly has taken its name from the mako shark, a species that is endangered due to unsustainable fishing practices.



DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide in tropical to temperate latitudes, normally far from land, though occasionally closer to shore. They travel long distances to seek prey or mates.



150m

Can be found up to 150m depth from surface.

60-140kg

Average weight

4m

Average length

Countershading, with brilliant metallic blue coloration dorsally and white ventrally. Its unbelievably sharp teeth are a perfect way to set them apart from many other sharks.

CONSERVATION STATUS

Endangered

5

Decades it would take the population to recover even if fishing was to stop immediately.

LIFESPAN

29 32

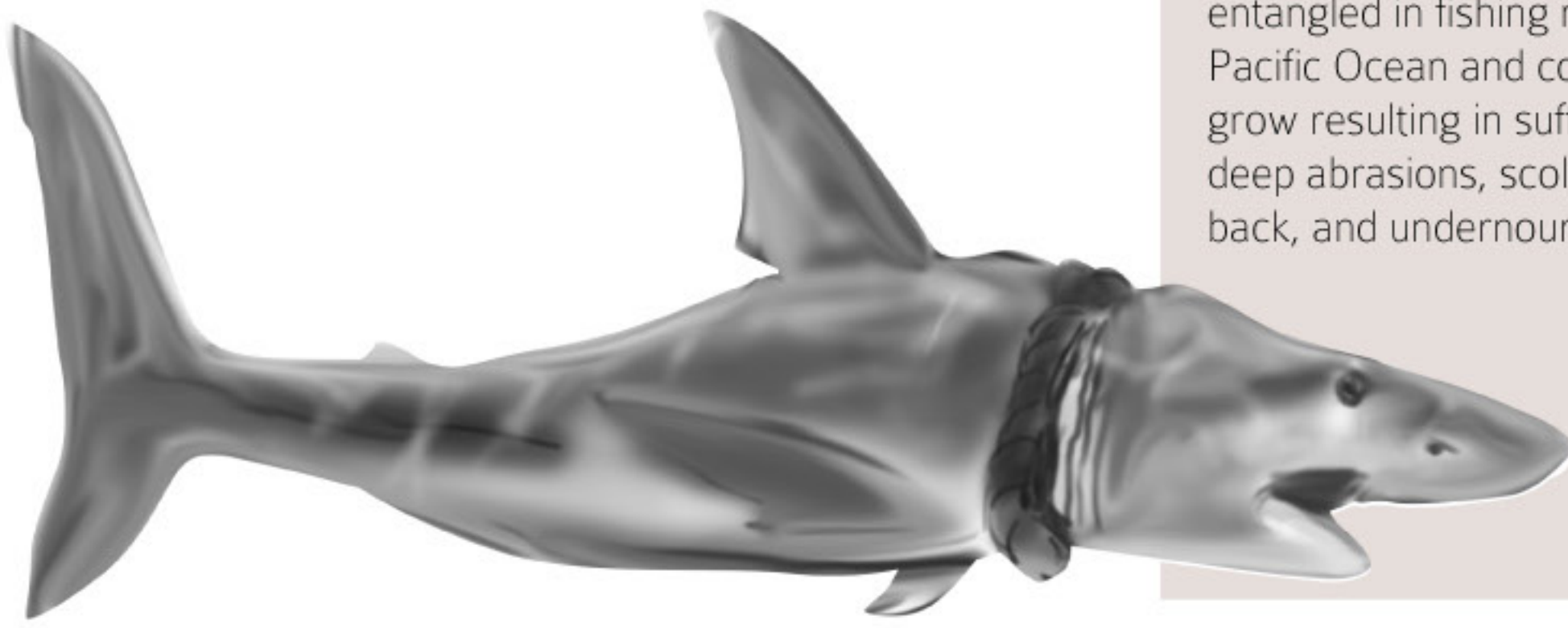
Male

Female

THREATS

GHOST FISHING CAUSES SUFFERING

It may not be a major threat to the future of sharks but there's an animal welfare issue because entanglements can cause pain, suffering and death.

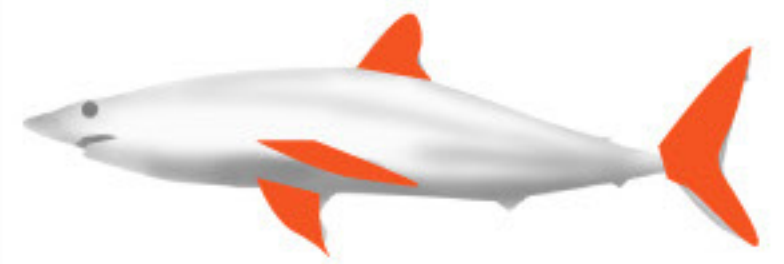


TRUE STORY

A shortfin mako shark was entangled in fishing rope in the Pacific Ocean and continued to grow resulting in suffering from deep abrasions, scoliosis of the back, and undernourishment.

A DELICACY & TROPHY

A demand for shark fin soup is one of the driving factors in the shrinking number of mako sharks in the ocean. Its strength and speed make it a target for sports fishermen. The majority of the global trade in their products, especially fins and meat, is unregulated and have led to the shark being overfished globally.



AN AGGRESSIVE PREDATOR

3%

Of its own weight is its daily food consumption

Feeds mainly upon cephalopods and bony fish including mackerels, tunas, bonitos, and swordfish, but it may also eat other sharks, porpoises, sea turtles, and seabirds.

1.5-2

Days to digest an average-sized meal.



INCIDENTAL CATCH



Regularly taken as bycatch in tuna and swordfish longline fisheries worldwide.



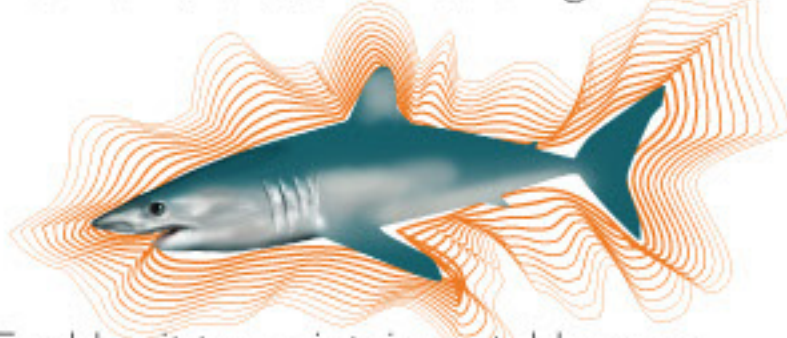
Gill net (drift and set) and hook-and-line fisheries post direct threats to this species.



HEAT EXCHANGE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM

4-7°C

Warmer than the surrounding water



Enables it to maintain a stable, very high level of activity, giving it an advantage over its cold-blooded prey.

A CHAMPION OF THE SEAS

74km/hr

Top speed



9m

They can jump as high as 9m out of the water

REPRODUCTION

A yolk-sac ovoviviparous shark, gives birth to live young.

Shortfin mako shark fetus



When pregnant makos are captured, they purposefully abort their embryos.



15-18

Months pregnant before giving birth

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