**Tiger Shark**

**Galeocerdo cuvier** (Péron & LeSueur, 1822).

### Common Name

**Tiger Shark**, Leopard Shark, Maneater Shark, Spotted Shark, Requin Tigre Commun (Fr), Tintorera (Es).

### Scientific Name

*Galeocerdo cuvier* (Péron & LeSueur, 1822).

### Distribution

Circumglobal in warm temperate and tropical waters, excluding the Mediterranean. Recorded as a vagrant from Iceland and possibly the UK.

### Identification

1. Very short, blunt snout.
2. Large mouth reaching well behind eyes.
3. Heterocercal caudal fin with low keels.

### Colour

- Deep blue/grey to black dorsally.
- Pale yellow to white ventrally.
- Dark spots and stripes prominent in young animals, fade with age.

### Biology and Size

- Gestation period 12–14 months with litters of 10–82 pups recorded.
- Primarily a piscivore but has a highly varied diet including reptiles, sea snakes, sea birds, marine mammals, molluscs, crustaceans, carrion and garbage.
**Carcharhinus longimanus**, Oceanic Whitetip Shark

**Similar Species**
- **Carcharhinus plumbeus**, Sandbar Shark
- **Carcharhinus falciformis**, Silky Shark
- **Carcharhinus brachyurus**, Copper Shark

**TEETH**
- Curved cusps with finely serrated edges.
- Deep notch on outer margin of each tooth with numerous cusplets.
- 36–51 rows of teeth.

**HABITAT**
- Surface to possibly 350m. Prefers shallow areas such as bays, estuaries and lagoons.
- Migratory with temperature, moving into temperate waters in warmer months. Individuals recorded from Iceland and northern Europe most likely followed the Gulf Stream.
- Makes diurnal migrations inshore at night across much of its range. Hawaiian research has shown sharks there are found inshore at all times.

**CONSERVATION STATUS**
- Relatively fast growing and fecund species but regularly taken in target and non target fisheries. Declines have been observed in several populations.

**COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE**
- Targeted throughout its range for its highly valuable fins, liver, hide and meat. Jaws and teeth are valued in the curio trade.
- Highly sought after big game fish for recreational anglers due to its large size and aggressive appearance.
- Increasingly important species for dive tourism.

**HANDLING**
- Handle with care. Large, powerful shark.
- Sharp teeth and abrasive skin.

**REFERENCES**

i. Compagno, L. J. V; 1984. FAO.
iii. Knickle, C; Unknown. FLMNH.