



International Shark Attack File

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ISAF Statistics on Attacking Species of Shark

Species of shark implicated in confirmed unprovoked attacks around the world, 1580 - 2014

USE THIS TABLE WITH CAUTION! Positive identification of attacking sharks is very difficult since victims rarely make adequate observations of the attacker during the "heat" of the interaction. Tooth remains are seldom found in wounds and diagnostic characters for many requiem sharks (family Carcharhinidae) are difficult to discern even by trained professionals. That said, this list must be used with caution because attacks involving easily identified species, such as white, tiger, sandtiger, hammerhead and nurse sharks, nearly always identify the attacking species, while cases involving difficult to identify species, such as requiem sharks of the genus *Carcharhinus*, seldom correctly identify the attacker. Thus the list is skewed to readily identified species. A number of requiem sharks in the genus *Carcharhinus* likely are involved in many more attacks than they are credited in this list and, if the list could reflect that reality, *Carcharhinus* bites would push such species as the sandtiger, hammerhead and nurse sharks towards the bottom of the list. Nonetheless, the white, tiger and bull sharks are the "Big Three" in the shark attack world because they are large species that are capable of inflicting serious injuries to a victim, are commonly found in areas where humans enter the water, and have teeth designed to shear rather than hold. Realistically, almost any shark in the right size range, roughly six feet (1.8 meters) or greater, is a potential threat to humans because, even if a bite is not intended as a directed feeding attempt on a human, the power of the jaw and tooth morphology can lead to injury. --- George H. Burgess, ISAF

<u>Species</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Non-fatal Unprovoked</u>	<u>Fatal Unprovoked</u>	<u>Total</u>
Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos ,	grey reef	7	1	8
<i>Carcharhinus brachyurus</i> ,	bronze whaler	14	1	15
Carcharhinus brevipinna ,	spinner	16	0	16
Carcharhinus falciformis ,	silky	3	0	3
Carcharhinus galapagensis ,	Galapagos	0	1	1
Carcharhinus leucas ,	bull	73	21	100
Carcharhinus limbatus ,	blacktip	28	1	29
Carcharhinus longimanus ,	oceanic whitetip	7	3	10
Carcharhinus melanopterus ,	blacktip reef	11	0	11
Carcharhinus obscurus ,	dusky	1	1	2
Carcharhinus perezi ,	Caribbean reef	4	0	4
Carcharhinus plumbeus ,	sandbar	5	0	5
<i>Carcharhinus</i> spp.,	requiem	44	7	51
Carcharias taurus ,	sand tiger	29	0	29
<i>Carcharias</i> spp.,	lamniform	0	2	2
Carcharodon carcharias ,	white	234	80	314
Galeocerdo cuvier ,	tiger	80	31	111
Galeorhinus galeus	tope	1	0	1

Ginglymostoma cirratum,	nurse	10	0	10
Heterodontis portusjacksoni,	port jackson	1	0	1
Isistius brasiliensis,	cookiecutter	1	0	1
Isurus oxyrinchus,	shortfin mako	9	1	10
<i>Isurus</i> spp.,	mako	8	0	8
Lamna nasus,	porbeagle	2	0	2
Negaprion brevirostris,	lemon	10	0	10
Notorhynchus cepedianus,	sevengill	5	0	5
Orectolobus macalatus,	spotted wobbegong	4	0	4
<i>Orectolobus</i> spp.,	wobbegong	28	0	28
Prionace glauca	blue	9	4	13
<i>Rhinobatos</i> spp.,	guitarfish	1	0	1
<i>Sphyrna</i> spp.,	hammerhead	17	0	17
Triaenodon obesus,	whitetip reef	5	0	5
Triakis semifasciata,	leopard	1	0	1
TOTALS	34+ species	668	160	828

Last updated: March 23, 2015