

The great white shark

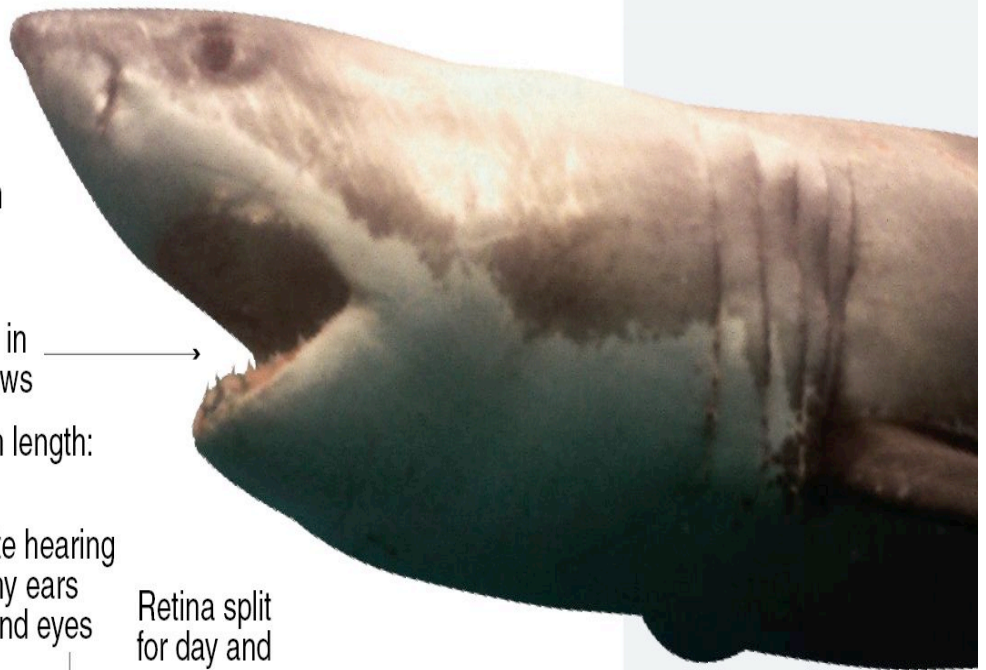
World's largest predatory fish

Known to eat:

sea lions
seals
small toothed whales
sea turtles
squid
other sharks
carrion

300 teeth in
up to 7 rows

Max tooth length:
5.7 cm

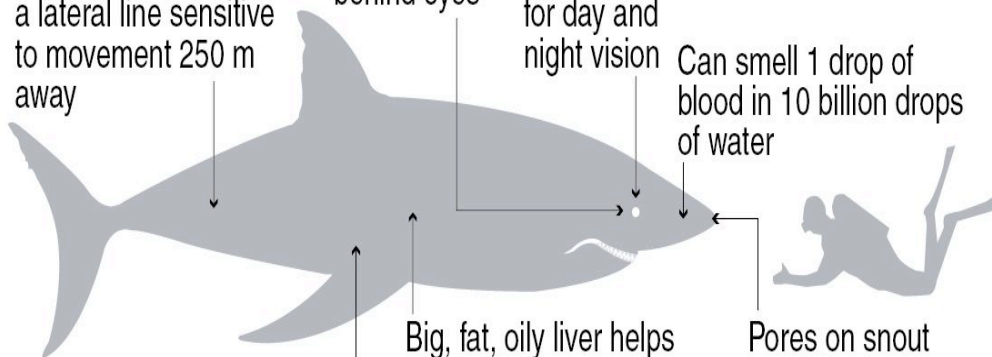


Rough skin with
a lateral line sensitive
to movement 250 m
away

Acute hearing
in tiny ears
behind eyes

Retina split
for day and
night vision

Can smell 1 drop of
blood in 10 billion drops
of water



Big, fat, oily liver helps
shark float

Skeleton made of cartilage,
not bone

Pores on snout
can detect power
and direction of
electrical currents

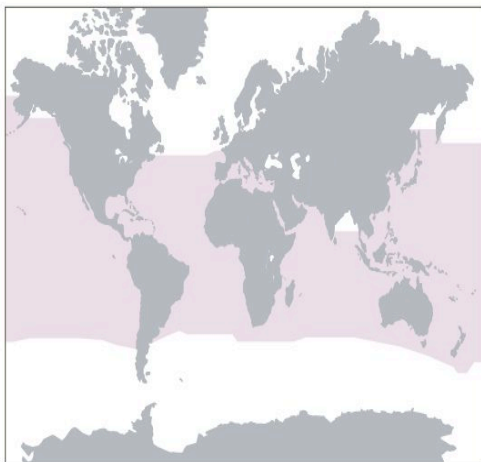
Length: 4.6 - 6 m

Weight average: 1,300 kg
Max weight: about 2,200 kg

Swim speed:

up to 50 kph

Range



Threats:

Commercial fishing for fins
Sport fishing
Entanglements
Destruction of near-shore
habitats

IUCN

conservation status:
Vulnerable

One individual great white has been tracked swimming from South Africa to Australia

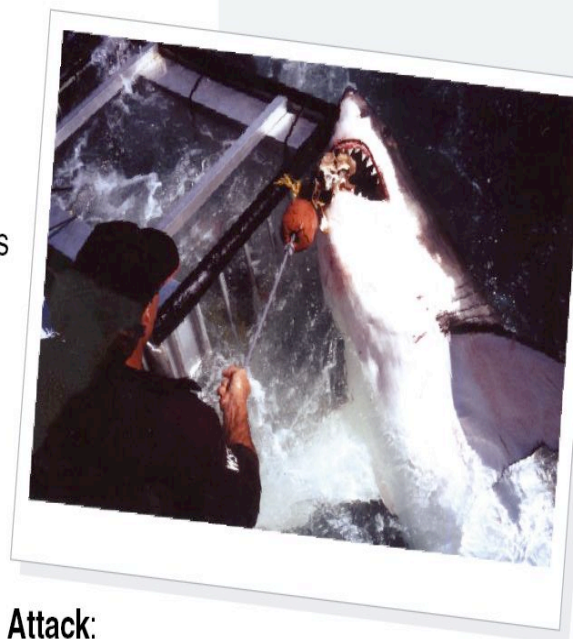
Source: National Geographic/Livescience.com/IUCN/ocean.si.edu

Carcharodon carcharias

Reach maturity at around
15 years, can live for more
than 60 years

Species existence:

350 - 400 million years



Attack:

Fast, surprise,
from below, with
powerful bite

Most great white bites
on humans are not fatal,
their bites are thought to
be "sample biting"