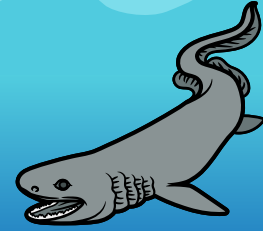
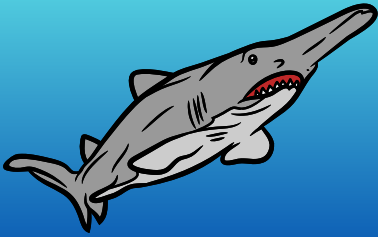




FAST FACTS about

DEEP SEA SHARKS



RESEARCH

Deep sea sharks are vastly understudied due to the expense and logistical difficulties associated with observing them in their home environment, hundreds to thousands of meters below the surface.

More than 50% of the 500+ species of living sharks reside in the deep sea. Examples include dogfish sharks, cow sharks, gulper sharks, saw sharks, and lantern sharks.

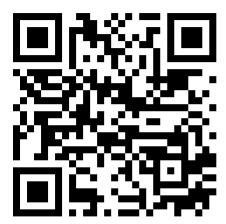


HABITAT AND TRAITS

Deep sea sharks live below the photic zone of the ocean, primarily in the area known as the “twilight zone.” This zone is between 200 and 1,000 meters deep, where light is too weak for photosynthesis. This extreme environment is limited in both sunlight and food. The sharks in this zone feed primarily on other deep sea creatures. However, some do migrate vertically to shallower waters to feed at night.

Deep sea sharks live a slow-paced life. They take longer to mature and typically have lower reproductive rates than coastal sharks. It can take them a few decades to mature and they produce very few offspring, which unfortunately, leaves them vulnerable to overexploitation.

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RESEARCH



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THREATS

Deep sea sharks face threats of overfishing. Many coastal fish species have become fully fished or even depleted, so fishermen move into deeper water. Deep sea sharks are unintentionally caught as bycatch and now are being targeted in the deepest parts of the ocean – driving some species to be critically endangered.

Photocredits:
Dean Grubbs,
Bluntnose Sixgill Shark

