

Common Name: Scalloped Hammerhead Shark
Scientific Name: *Sphyrna lewini*



Life History:

The Scalloped Hammerhead Shark (*Sphyrna lewini*) can be distinguished from other hammerhead species by an indentation located centrally along the front edge of its head, which is gray to bronze in color on the dorsal side and fades to pale yellow or white on the ventral side, and has a relatively longer first dorsal fin. Males reach sexual maturity at lengths of approximately 1.8m and weighing approximately 29kg., while females reach sexual maturity at approximately 2.5m and weighing approximately 80kg. It is estimated that *S. lewini* can live for over 30 years and grow to a maximum length ranging from 3.7-4.3 m, with females growing larger than males, while reaching a maximum recorded weight of 152.4 kg. Scalloped Hammerhead Sharks are viviparous with a 9-10 month gestation period and a litter size of 12-38 pups.

Geographical Distribution:

The Scalloped Hammerhead Shark is considered a coastal pelagic species circumglobally, typically inhabiting coastal warm temperate and tropical seas. *S. lewini* has been observed close inshore, and has been documented entering estuarine habitats, as well as offshore to depths of 500m. Scalloped Hammerheads spend most of their day closer inshore, moving offshore in search of prey during the night hours. Adults can occur solitary, in pairs, or in small schools while young Scalloped Hammerheads occur in large schools.

Feeding:

S. lewini feeds primarily on a variety of bony fishes such as sardines, barracuda, conger eels, as well as smaller elasmobranchs such as blacktip reef sharks, angelsharks, and stingrays. Stingray spines are often found within the mouth and digestive systems of Scalloped Hammerheads.

Tooth and Jaw Information:

There are front row teeth in the upper jaw and front row teeth in the lower jaw.



Where did these jaws come from?

Jaws were relinquished to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service from companies attempting to import species protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. These jaws were then entrusted to the Shark Lab at California State University Long Beach to be used for educational purposes.

What does the Shark Lab do?

Dr. Chris Lowe and his students in the Shark Lab study the physiological and behavioral ecology of marine animals, emphasizing the effect of human activity on the ocean, often utilizing and developing innovative technologies to answer challenging questions important for the conservation and restoration of depleted populations.

References:

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Ebert, D. A. (2015). A pocket guide to sharks of the world (Vol. 12). Princeton University Press.

Last, P. R., Stevens, J. D., & Compagno, L. J. V. (1995). Sharks and rays of Australia. *Reviews in Fish Biology and Fisheries*, 5(1), 136-138.

Picture Credit:

Sphyrna lewini. Digital Image. *Fishbase*. 1997.

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