

TRACKING A SHARK

Newfoundland had a surprise visitor - a one tonne great white shark. Scientists were excited. They had been tracking the shark's path north from Florida. The shark did not spend much time here. It soon headed south.

Mysterious

Great white sharks are top predators. Scientists want to find out more about these mysterious beasts. Where do they give birth? Where do they raise their young? How far do they travel? We just do not know.

"We are very concerned about the survival of great white sharks," said one researcher. "If we don't know where they are, we can't protect them."

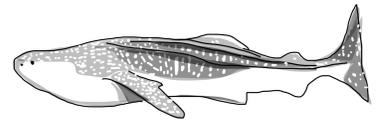
A group called Ocearch (oh-search) is studying these sharks. Scientists place tracking devices onto the shark's dorsal fin. Each time this fin breaks the water's surface, there is a 'ping.' After each 'ping', the tracker sends radio signals up to satellites in space. The signals are then used to learn the shark's location. Dozens of sharks are followed this way.



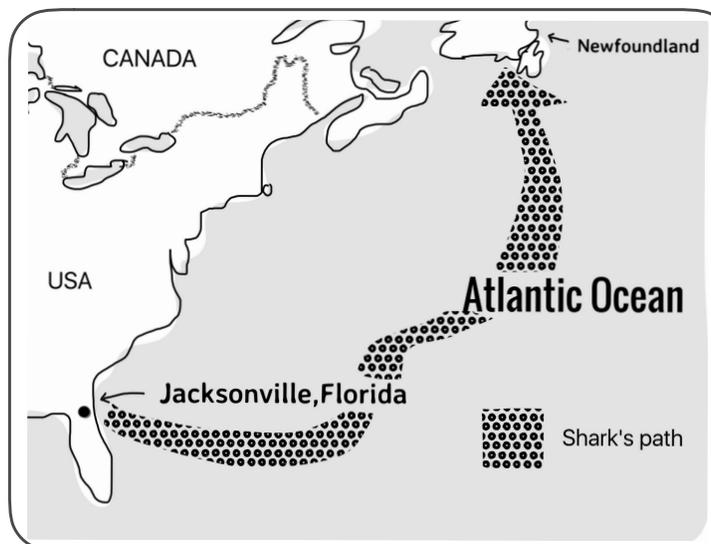
DID YOU
KNOW?

Ocearch is a non-profit organization working to learn about great white sharks. Their main purpose is to learn about the health and movement of sharks. They want to create a better understanding about sharks to help reduce the fear that people have of them.

Scientists at Ocearch share data in near real-time using a global shark tracker. They use Social Media to let the public see the studies being done.



The great white shark named Lydia was first tagged off the coast of Jacksonville, Florida. She has travelled over 50,000 km so far. The world is following Lydia closely. She even has her own Twitter account!



Amazing Journey

The great white shark that visited Canada was captured and tagged off the coast of Florida. She was named Lydia. What brought Lydia to Canada? Nobody knows for sure, but she may have been feeding off the seal buffet.

Scientists were surprised, though. They might expect to see sharks that far north in summer. However, Newfoundland waters are too cold in the late fall.

“It just makes me feel like we’re close to learning some new information,” says Mr. Fischer.

About Great White Sharks

Great whites are mighty hunters with amazing senses. A shark can smell a single drop of blood floating in 10 billion drops of water.

They can speed through the water at 50 kilometers per hour. They have rows and rows of teeth.

Sharks face only one real threat – humans. They can be caught on fishing lines or in nets. They are illegally hunted and used to make shark fin soup. Some scientists think that the number of great whites in the Atlantic Ocean have dropped.

Does that matter? Yes, because sharks are important to the ecosystem. They keep the ocean in balance. Without sharks, there would be too many seals and sea lions.

Don’t Look Now!

Some people find sharks scary. They shouldn’t. Humans are rarely attacked, yet millions of sharks are killed by humans.

How many other great whites might be swimming off Canada’s east coast? We have no idea.

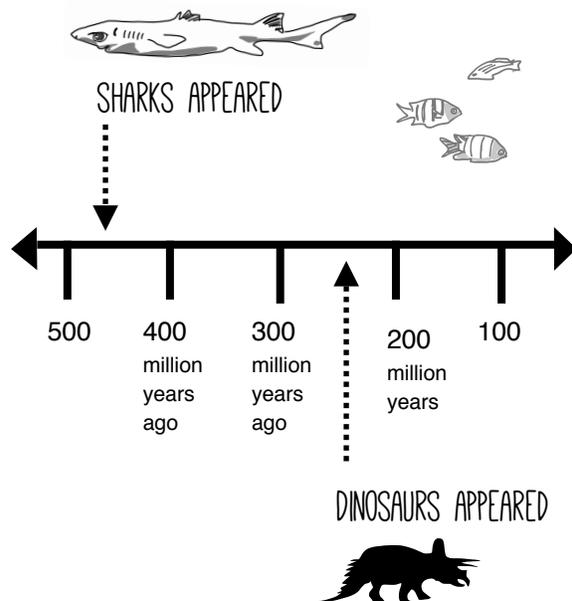
“Without knowing it, people have probably been swimming and boating with these animals for hundreds of years.” said one scientist.



DID YOU
KNOW?

Sharks are older than dinosaurs. They first appeared more than 400 million years ago.

There are more than 440 species of sharks. They range from the 15 centimetre-long dwarf lantern shark to the 20-metre-long whale shark.





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Tracking a Shark

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