



NOAA
FISHERIES

Southeast
Regional Office

About the Species:

Life span: Up to 19 years

Length: Up to 11.25 feet

Range: Offshore in tropical and sub-tropical waters.

Threats:

- Bycatch
- Harvest for international shark fin trade.

More information:

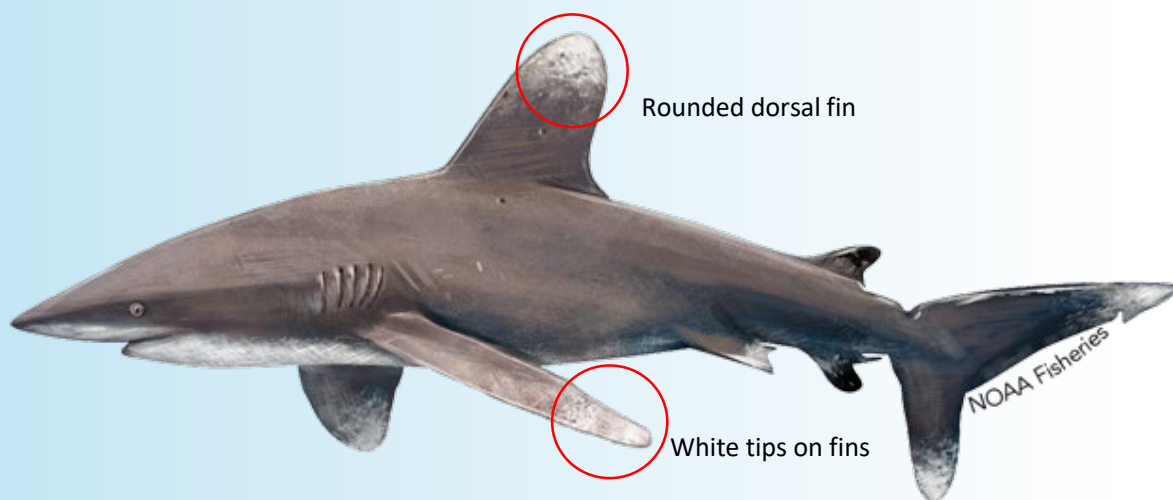
www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/oceanic-whitetip-shark

Contact:

Calusa.Horn@noaa.gov

Oceanic Whitetip Shark Handling and Release Procedures

For Commercial and Recreational Vessels



Rounded dorsal fin

White tips on fins

The oceanic whitetip shark is protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. They should not be targeted by fishermen and must be released in a manner that will promote their survival after any interaction.

Follow these procedures to safely release oceanic whitetip sharks:

- Keep the shark in the water.
- Do not gaff.
- Use the leader or net to maneuver the shark.
- Allow water to flow over the gills by moving the shark forward in the water, or by positioning the shark so the current flows into its mouth.

Hook and line release:

- Remove the hook using a dehooking device. If removing the hook would cause danger to yourself or the shark, cut the hook or cut the leader close to the hook to minimize any trailing line.

Net release:

- Cut away netting using a knife or cutting tool. Remove and disentangle as much netting as possible.
- Do not throw the netting remains overboard.

[Report Your Discards to the Applicable Logbook Program](#)