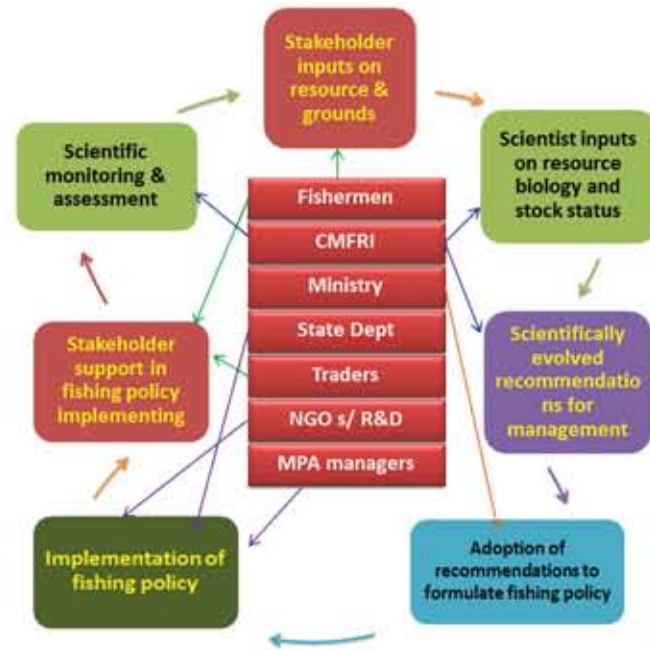




Whale Shark (Satpati)

Capture and trade of these species in any form attracts punishment of seven years imprisonment with penalty up to Rs 25,000. Captured specimens of these protected species either live or dead, intentionally or unintentionally, must be surrendered to the nearest wildlife office and the same must be informed to nearest research station of CMFRI to help study population characters. Every attempt must be made to return live specimens back to the sea.



97% of all shark species are harmless to man. Let us also not harm them.

They need our help and protection to survive. Let us join hands in allowing these creatures to continue their dominion over our seas.

Remember, by conserving their population, we contribute towards maintaining a healthy marine ecosystem.



For more information, please contact:

DIRECTOR
ICAR-CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH)
P.B. NO. 1603, ERNAKULAM NORTH P.O.
KOCHI-682018

Prepared by:
Shoba Joe Kizhakudan, G.B. Purushottama, K.S.S.M. Yousuf,
P.U. Zacharia, Rekha J. Nair and Sujitha Thomas
Demersal Fisheries Division, CMFRI

Designed by: Abhilash P.R
Publication Production & Co-ordination
Library and Documentation Centre

CMFRI Pamphlet No.35/2015



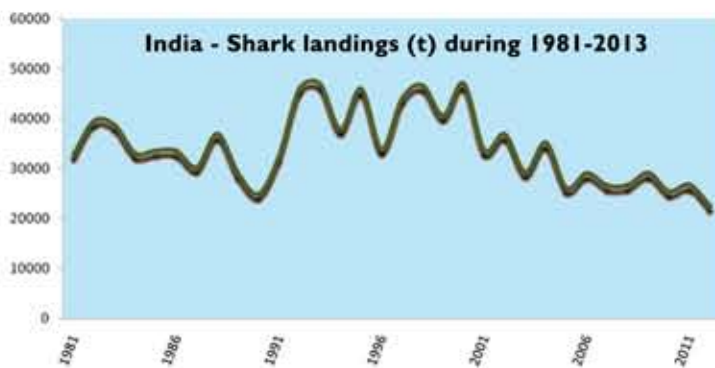
Largetooth saw fish (Malpe)

Save Our Sharks



S.O.S_{ave} O_{ur} S_{harks}

ICAR-CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Indian Council of Agricultural Research
PB No. 1603, Ernakulam North P.O.
Kochi – 682018, Kerala, India



SHARK FACTS

Sharks are majestic fishes that have ruled the seas much before man evolved.

They are more primitive than all other bony fishes.

They have been swimming the world's oceans for more than 400,000,000 years.

The first humans evolved only around 200,000 years ago.

They are apex predators essential for maintaining equilibrium within marine ecosystems.

Over 500 shark species were known to exist in the world oceans.

Today, only 10% of the population of most species remain.

Most sharks are long living and grow to large sizes.

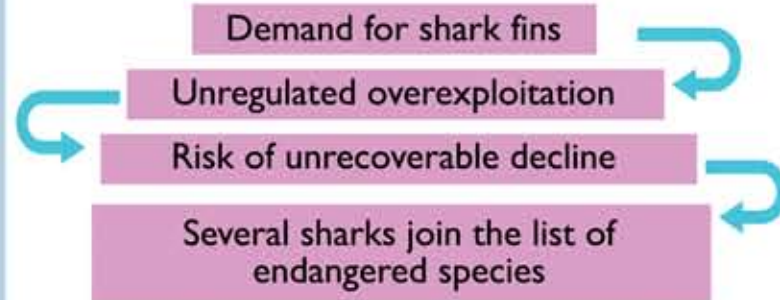
They mature very slowly and have slow reproductive cycles.

Most shark species mature at sizes that are roughly 50% or more of their maximum size.

They have very long gestation period, extending even to almost a year or more.

The number of offspring produced at a time is very few, often limited to 2-15.

SHARKS ARE THREATENED



Sharks have survived mass extinction events over several million years

BUT

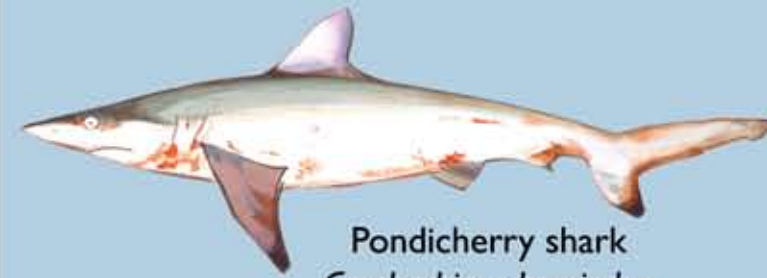
They have not evolved to withstand fishing pressure.

According to IUCN, sharks are among the most threatened marine vertebrates. It is estimated that 100 million sharks are killed every year, globally. They cannot reproduce fast enough to make up for the high annual death rate.

EQUALLY THREATENED COUSINS

Rays and skates are close relatives of sharks which stand under equal threat of population decline due to unmanaged fishing and habitat degradation caused by human interference.

The Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate change, Govt. of India included 10 species of sharks, rays and skates under Schedule I of Indian Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 which prohibits illegal fishing, exploitation and trade of these fishes in any form.



Pondicherry shark
Carcharhinus hemiodon



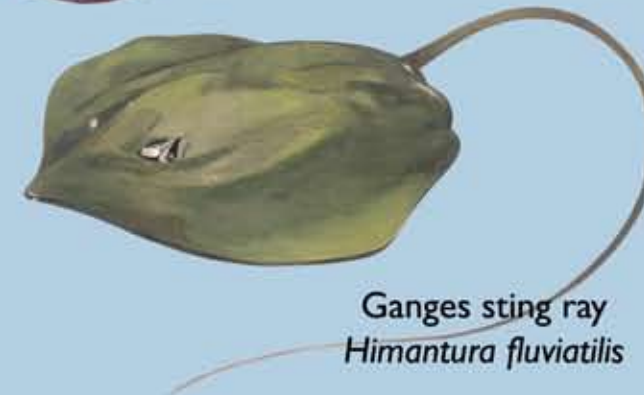
Ganges river shark
Glyphis gangeticus



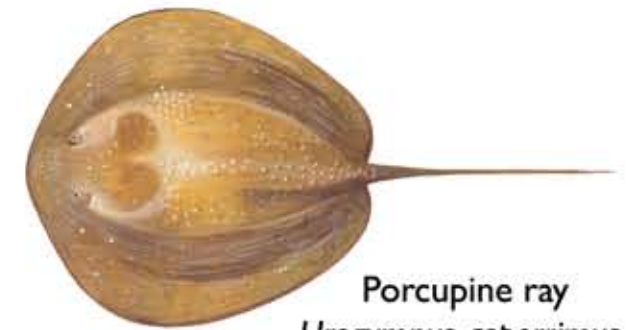
Spartooth shark
Glyphis glyphis



Whale shark
Rhincodon typus



Ganges sting ray
Himantura fluviatilis



Porcupine ray
Urogymnus asperrimus



Giant guitarfish
Rhynchobatus djiddensis



Green sawfish
Pristis zijsron



Largetooth sawfish
Pristis microdon



Knifetooth sawfish
Anoxypristis cuspidata

Sharks, rays and skates under Schedule I of Indian Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972