

Efforts of CMFRI in whale shark conservation

- The history of shark fishery management in India began with the awareness creation that followed a spate of whale shark hunting in Indian waters, particularly along the Gujarat coast during the 1990 s.
- The whale shark was included in Schedule 1 of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 in the year 2001.
- In the subsequent year, the species was also included in CITES Appendix I
- Recent years there has been several reports of live release of whale sharks by the fishermen due to the awareness generation by CMFRI



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INTERNATIONAL WHALE SHARK DAY

30
AUGUST



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IUCN Red list- Endangered
WPA 1972-Schedule I
CITES-Appendix II
CMS – Appendix I

Whale shark facts

- World's largest fish
- Gentle giant, slow movers
- Harmless planktivore: filter feeder
- Maximum size: 21 m
- Maximum weight: 42 t
- Maximum age: 80 years
- Size at maturity: 6 m
- Reproduction: ovoviviparous
- Maximum litter size: 300
- Pups survivability: 10%

Threats

- Whale sharks colliding with boats
- Targeted hunting
- Accidentally trapped in fishing gear
- Illegal trade in whale shark products
- Ingestion of plastic

How to save?

- Follow Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972
- Stop finning sharks onboard the vessel
- Stop fin trade
- Release pregnant sharks back to sea
- Release pups to sea
- Release whale shark which are washed ashore alive or incidentally caught in net
- Spread awareness

Records of whale shark landings by CMFRI

