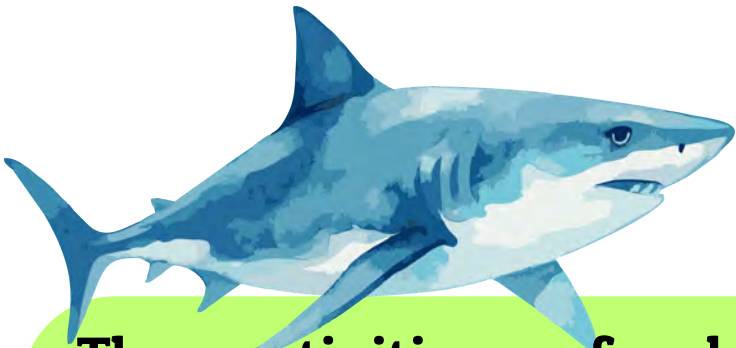




**NATIONAL
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SHARK FUN!

ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES TO LEARN ABOUT SHARKS



These activities are for elementary school-aged kids and include the following:

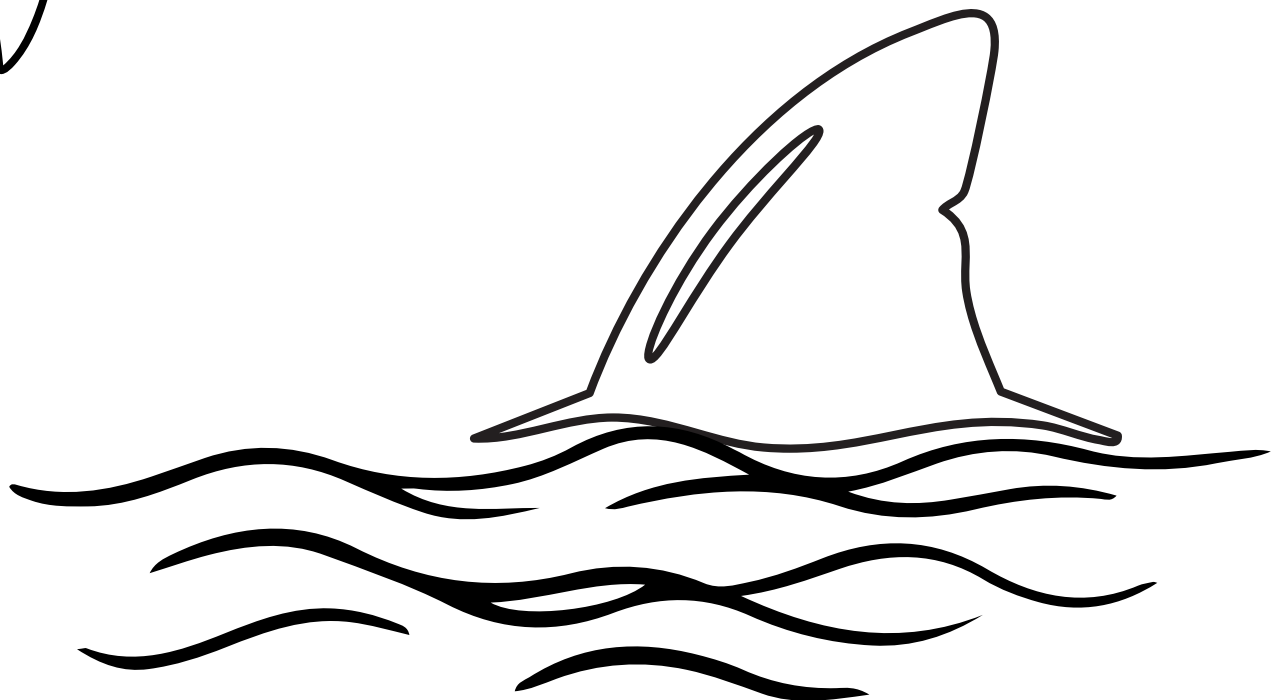
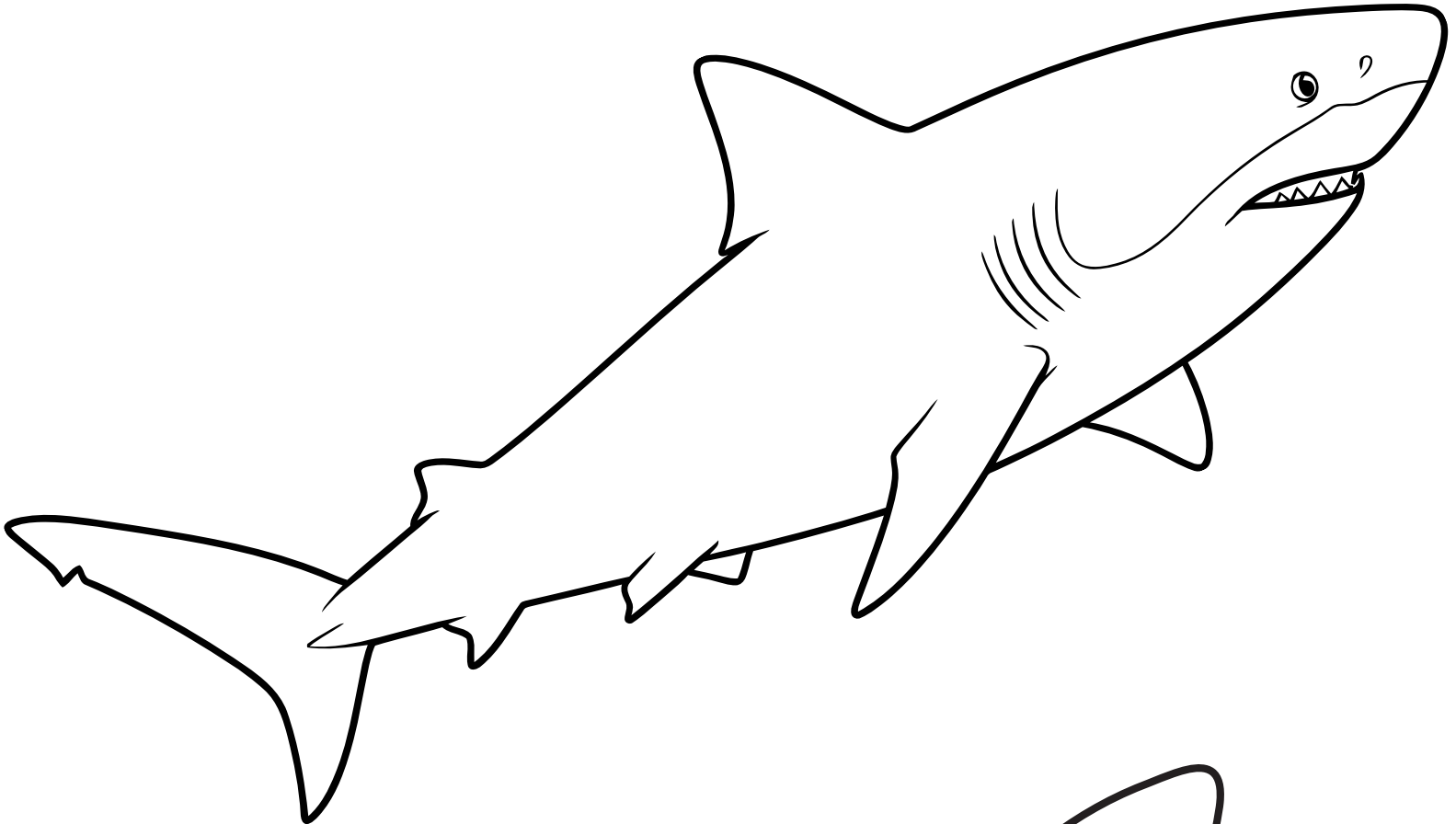
- **Coloring pages**
- **Word search**
- **Create a “take action” poster**
- **Photo gallery**



Great White Shark

The great white shark gets its name from its white-colored belly but the top of the shark (its back) ranges from dark gray to brown in color.

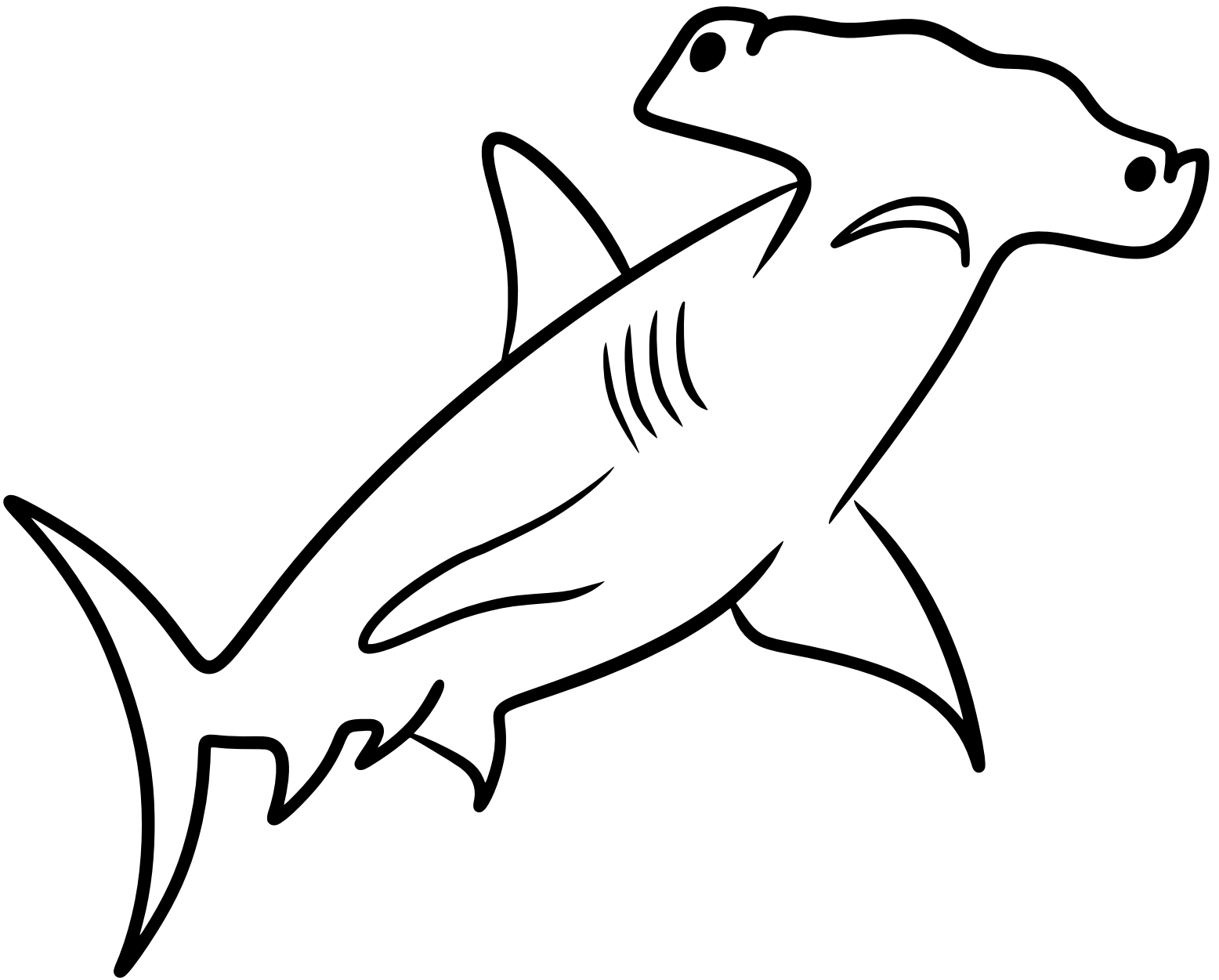
Status: *Vulnerable*, IUCN Red List



Scalloped Hammerhead Shark

The scalloped hammerhead shark can live up to 30 years!

Status: *Endangered* (distinct population segments: Eastern Atlantic and Eastern Pacific), ESA;
Threatened (distinct population segments: Indo-West Pacific and Central and Southwest Atlantic),
ESA; *Critically Endangered*, IUCN Red List



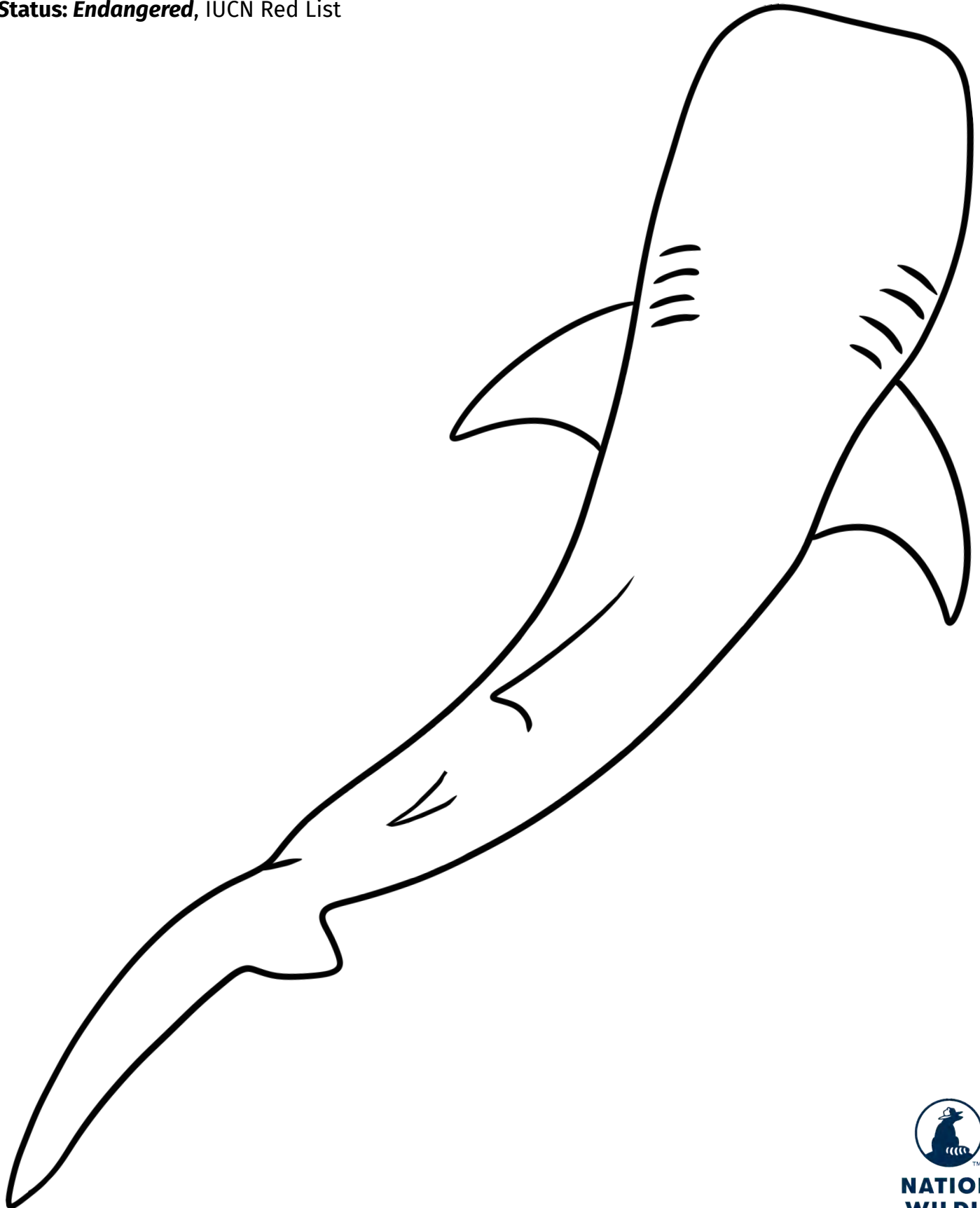
NWF

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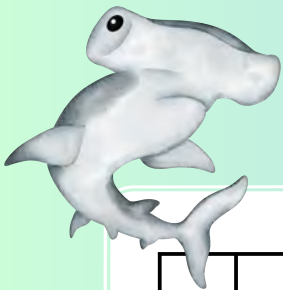
Whale Shark

The whale shark is the largest fish in the ocean and may grow up to 50 feet! However, most adult whale sharks are between 18 and 30 feet long.

Status: *Endangered*, IUCN Red List



NWF
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HAMMERHEAD SHARKS!

H	O	U	S	C	A	L	L	O	P	E	D	O	L	I	S
A	L	L	U	W	H	I	T	E	F	I	N	S	D	O	M
M	O	B	S	C	O	O	P	H	E	A	D	N	S	J	A
M	N	N	S	Y	H	C	E	E	N	T	I	C	T	O	L
E	G	O	C	E	A	N	N	I	C	Y	P	W	I	S	L
R	L	L	M	A	L	W	L	U	E	I	Y	I	N	R	E
H	E	N	I	P	A	O	O	R	E	D	N	N	G	A	Y
E	A	S	T	E	R	N	S	H	I	T	E	G	R	N	E
A	F	T	B	A	Y	O	A	M	B	I	L	H	A	O	R
D	P	S	C	F	I	W	T	I	O	N	E	E	Y	A	R
V	i	G	R	E	A	T	E	H	N	O	E	A	S	E	W
A	N	R	O	L	P	X	E	R	U	T	T	D	V	R	A
B	O	N	N	E	T	H	E	A	D	H	O	H	L	Y	Z

Bonnethead

Carolina

Great

Hammerhead

Ocean

Scalloped

Scoophead

Smalleye

Smooth

Stingray

Whitefin

Winghead

TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT SHARKS

Quick Facts About Sharks:

- There are more than 530 species of sharks in the world
- More than 50 shark species can be found in the waters along the U.S. east coast
- The largest shark is the whale shark, it can be as long as 50 feet
- The smallest shark is the dwarf lantern shark, that can fit in the palm of your hand

Sharks are critical apex predators contributing to a balanced marine ecosystem. Seagrass beds provide important habitat for many fish and invertebrate species as they mature, before moving onto coral reefs and other ecosystems. Coral reefs, kelp forests, and seagrass beds are reliant on sharks' existence in the food chain to keep these beautiful and important habitats stable.

Shark species worldwide are facing many threats. Fisheries management is key to ensuring shark populations are not depleted because of overfishing and bycatch. Enforcement is also necessary to protect shark species from illegal fishing, including finning practices. Healthy habitat for sharks is also critical to their survival - habitats free of pollution, with healthy food webs, and with places to raise their young such as mangroves and seagrass beds.

Review the following actions to learn how you can help protect sharks and other marine wildlife. Choose one action and create a poster to educate and engage your family and friends.

ACTION IDEAS



- Educate your family and friends about sharks and their important role in the marine ecosystem.
- Adopt a storm drain. Help trash and chemicals that harm wildlife out of our local waterways and oceans.
- Restore seagrass beds. Volunteer with a local organization to protect and restore the sea grass beds.
- Find out what your plastic eco-score is and adopt a new habit to reduce plastic waste.
- Purchase coral reef-safe sunscreen; these sunscreens are mineral-based.
- Advocate for laws that protect endangered shark species and other marine wildlife including the Endangered Species Act and the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

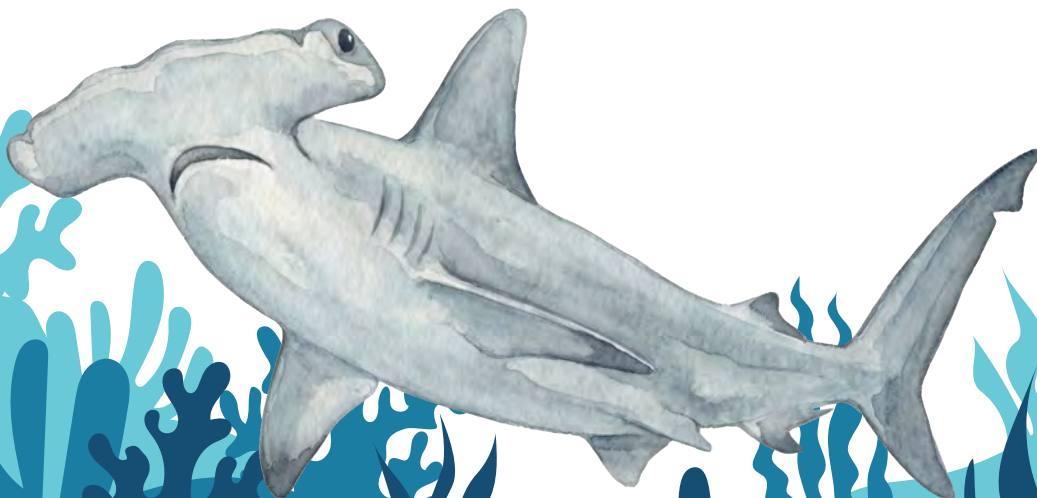
CREATE A "TAKE ACTION" POSTER

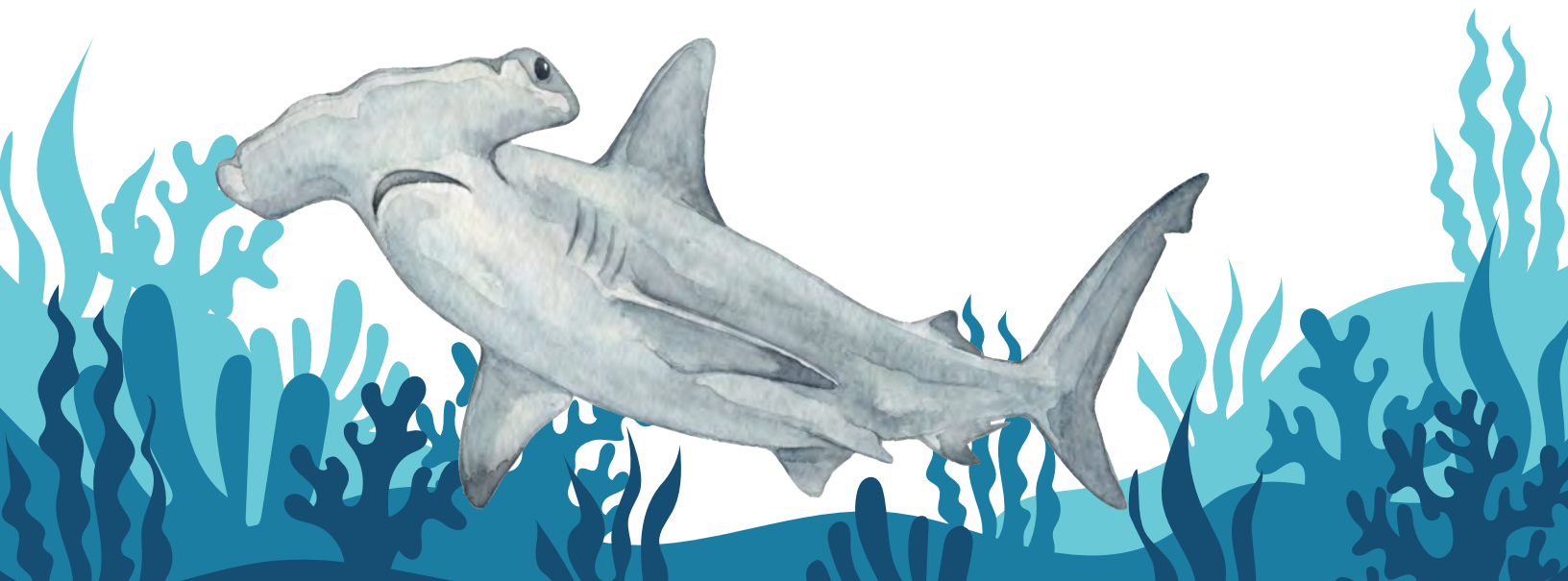
Choose one of the actions or come up with your own action and design a poster to educate and engage your family and friends to help sharks and other marine wildlife.

When designing your poster, consider including the following information:

- Drawing or photo of the shark or other marine animal you are taking action for.
- Text that describes the action you want people to take (e.g., plant sea grass, use a reusable bottle, etc.).

You can use the template on the next page for your poster, or create your own!





SHARK PHOTO GALLERY

Shark species featured on the coloring pages

Great White Shark

fun fact source:
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)



Credit: Leighton Lum



Credit: Getty

Scalloped Hammerhead Shark

fun fact source:
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Whale Shark

fun fact source:
Woods Hole
Oceanographic Institution



Credit: Getty, Philip Thurston