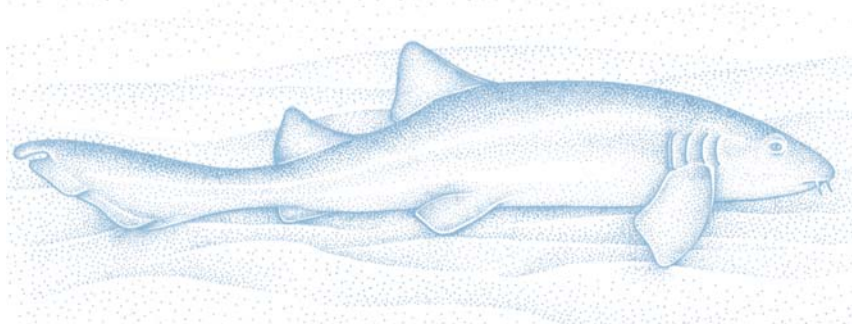


Shark Facts

The smallest shark in the world (that we know of!) is the Dwarf Lantern Shark *Etmopterus perryi* with a maximum length of 17cm in males and 19cm in females. The Spined Pygmy Shark *Squaliolus laticaudus* comes in a close second for the smallest species of shark with the males being the same length but the females being slightly larger at 20cm.

Sharks come in a variety of colours, for example the Goblin shark has a pink tinge to their skin, the gulper shark is an olive green and the lemon shark is yellow.



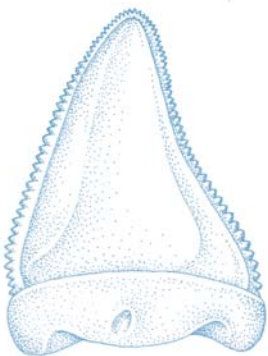
On average a shark has to eat between 0.6-3% of its body weight each day in order to survive. To help them achieve this they have expandable stomachs, which allow them to eat large amounts of food in one go.

The fussiest eater is the crested Bullhead shark which only eats red sea urchins, however the Tiger shark will eat almost anything which either lives or has fallen into the water!

Several species of deep-sea living sharks have the ability to glow in the dark! The cookie cutter shark has a luminous patch on the bottom of their chin, which looks like a small fish. This lures bigger fish into the area which then become prey to the shark!

The Greenland sleeper shark *Somniosus microcephalus* which can be found in the polar seas, has poisonous flesh.

The salmon shark is endothermic which means that it has the ability to maintain its body temperature above the temperature of the water, unlike the majority of other fish, which are exothermic. They have been recorded having an internal body temperature 15.6°C above that of the surrounding waters. This allows them to move vertically through the water column to the colder waters to search for food.



The shark with the largest teeth is the great white shark *Carcharodon carcharias* with their teeth reaching about 5.2cm (2in), however the shark with the largest teeth compared to body size is the Largetooth Cookiecutter *Isistius plutodus* with its lower teeth proportionally twice as large as those of the great white.

Nurse sharks lose one row of teeth every ten days in the summer, when feeding is good, but lose only one row of teeth every 1-2 months in the winter as feeding is poor.