

The conservation of sharks,
a major stake for the future
of the ocean.

The sharks in our societies, Myths and
faiths.

Shark, since its appearance until our days



Carcharhinus longimanus



Carcharodon Charcharias



The shark made its appearance there is more than 400 million years from a common ancestor in Devonian lower. From the Cretaceous, there is 100 My, many sorts(species) of sharks adopted their modern shape.

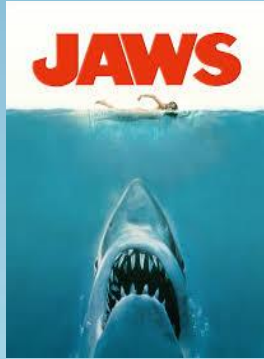
Since then, perfectly adapted to their environment(middle), more than 465 sorts(species) of sharks developed, grouped together in 35 families.

Certain sorts(species) are known only by their fossils.

Their size varies of 14 cm in more than 20 m for the whale shark.

Sharks are present in all the seas, until a depth about 2 500 meters but do not generally live in the fresh water.

Myths and Traditions



Sharks are among the least popular predators for the general public, particularly because of films such as "The Teeth of the Sea" (1976). A few decades later the director Steven Spielberg participated in a shark expedition. In contact with the professionals of the world-sailors he recognized that the film had been a wonderful commercial success but that from a "biological" point of view and "collective terror" he regretted the extent taken.

This fish, one of the rare animals that man has never managed to tame, worries, panics, terrorizes. Why ?

The bad reputation of sharks was already relevant in the Middle Ages: "This fish eats others, it is very greedy, it devours whole men, as we have known from experience; because in Nice and Marseilles we once found a whole armed man in his belly "- Guillaume Rondelet, The whole history of fish (1558).



For shark specialist Bernard Seret, "this fear comes from the fact that we dread what we do not know. In the Oceanian civilizations of the Pacific, the fear of the shark does not exist. a relative, a god, someone in the family, who is venerated: The legend of the princess Tuihana and the protective shark places him as Tâura.

Tâura are animals, plants and minerals that are "allied" with human beings, families, clans. They are considered as fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters. The relationship with them is therefore fraternal and respectful. Tâura animals are guardians and bring strength and power. The vegetable strains help balance, harmony and healing.

- In twenty years, shark populations have dropped from 60 to 90%.
- One in five species is threatened with extinction.
- Wanted for their flesh, but especially for their fins, the main constituent of shark fin soup enjoyed in Asia, they are overfished with great indifference.
- Sharks are, however, essential links in ocean food chains. ***"It would be a shame if sharks, who have survived everything, including the meteorite that caused the disappearance of dinosaurs, are eliminated by humans,"*** comments Bernard Seret.



shark consumption, a practice not without risk :
Some people think that shark consumption is good for your health. These beliefs have never been proven, quite the contrary, the shark is even sometimes bad for the man !

- the presence of toxins in its flesh:
Sharks are at the top of the food chain; therefore, it ingests all the toxins contained in the other animals (methylmercury → mercury) by concentrating them.
- What are the species of contaminated sharks?
they are all !
- What are the consequences for human health:
intoxications, sometimes fatal.



The killer animals of Men :

Sharks in last position !





Mosquito
780,000



Human
546,000

Based on data by IHME, WHO, Shark Attack File, CrocBITE, GatesNotes, National Geographic, UN FAO, WWF. Logo source: Noun Project.

Global estimates for some animals have a significant error margin, but expected to be representative of relative magnitude.

The data visualization is available at [OurWorldinData.org](https://www.ourworldindata.org). There you find research and more visualizations on this topic.

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The impact of human activities on sharks



Carcharodon carcharias

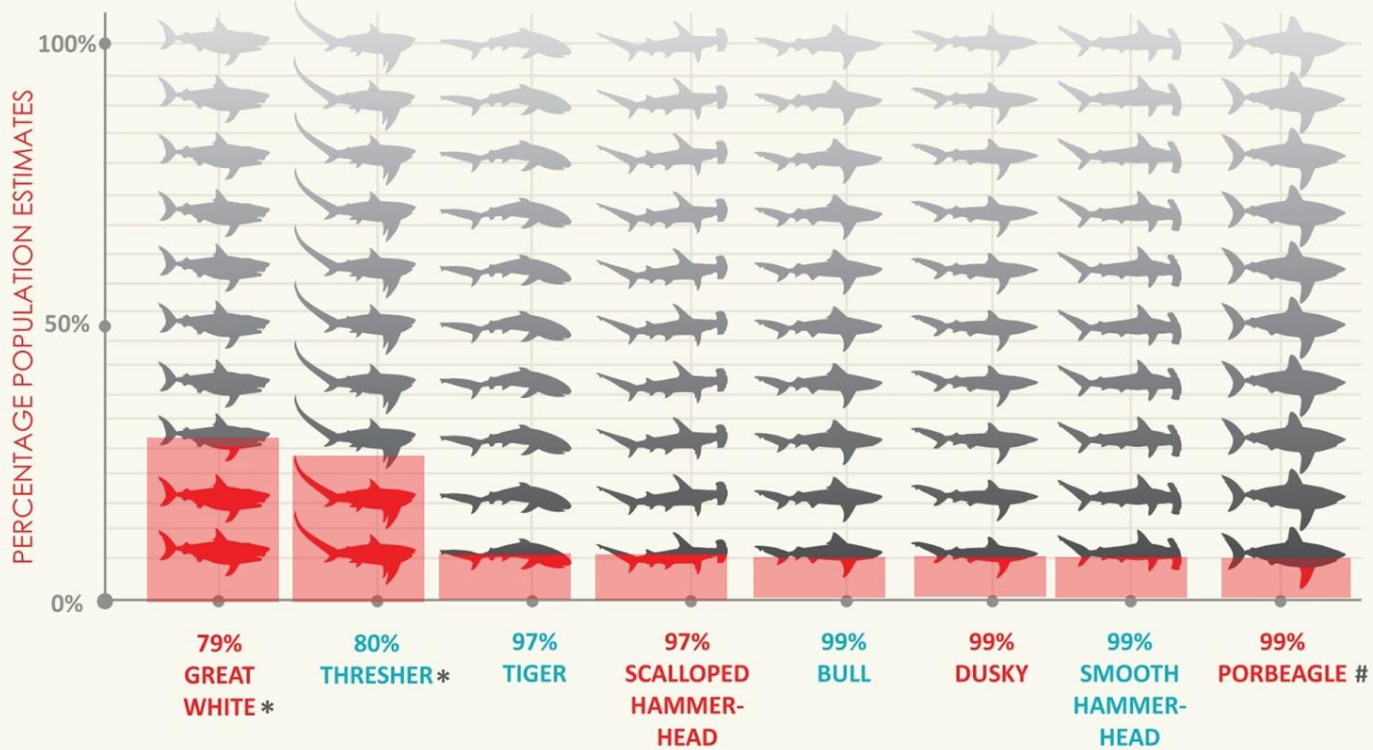


Carcharhinus albimarginatus



Carcharhinus plumbeus

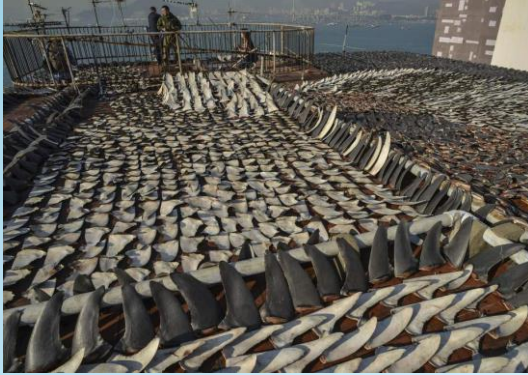
Shark Species Population Decline Since 1970's



* Decline from 1986

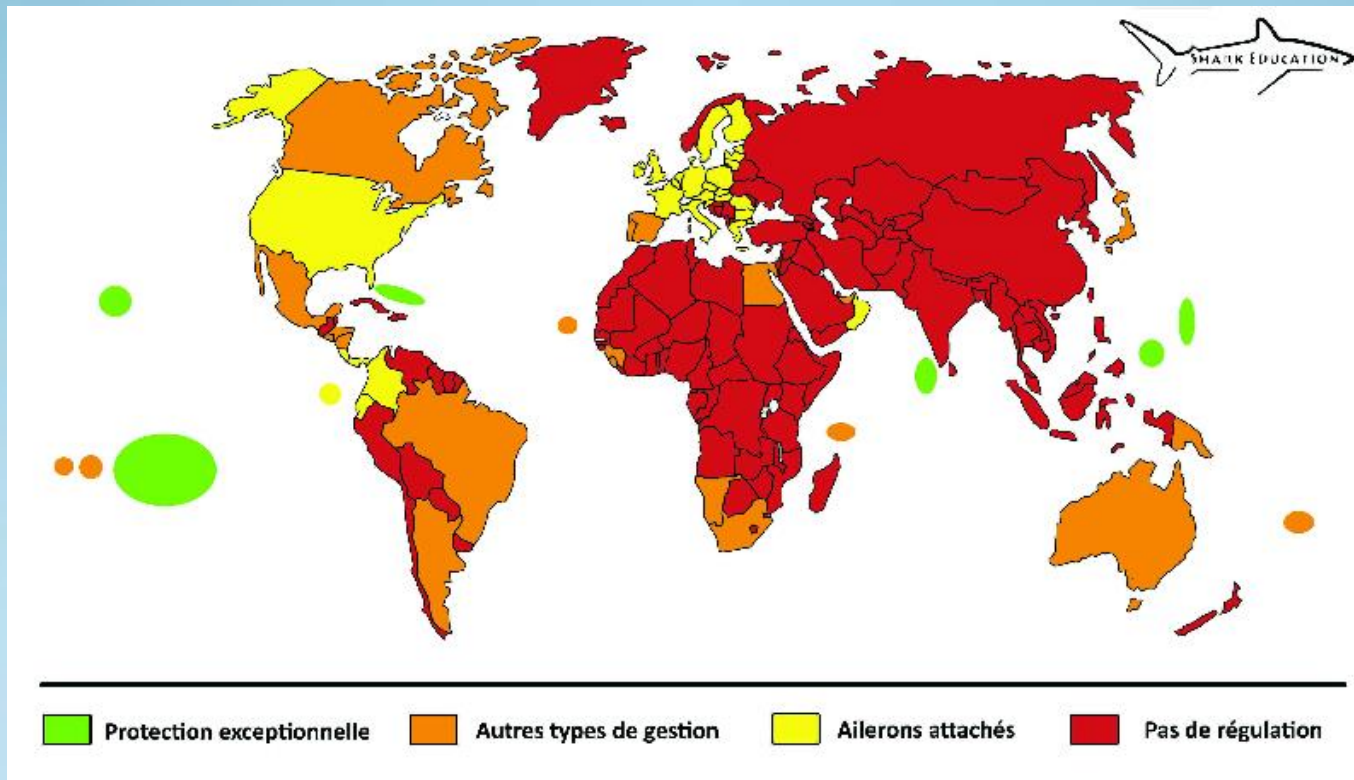
Decline from 1950

Causes of decline of shark populations



- excessive fishing of sharks for their fins
- increased consumption of shark fin soup
- bycatch of industrial or recreational fishing
- reduced shark food resources due to intensive fishing and pollution.

Regulation of shark fishing worldwide



In Africa and Asia, there is no regulation !

Shark fishing and its consequences



Requin longimane (*Carcharhinus longimanus*)



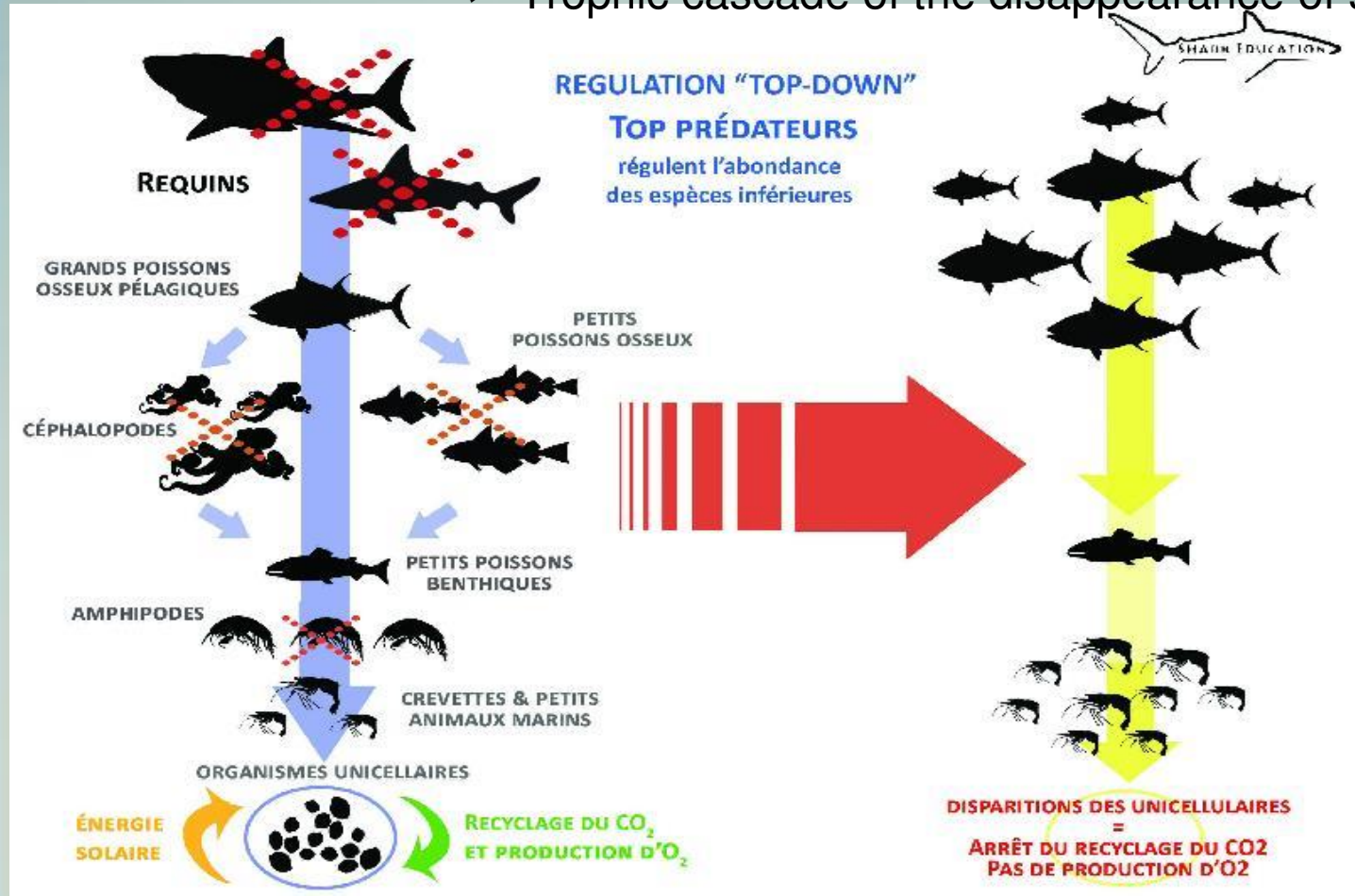
Silky shark : *Carcharhinus falciformis*

- ❑ Significant decrease in the population of shark species

- ✓ their low reproduction rate does not allow them to undergo such a fishing pace
- ✓ average size decline of longimane and silky shark by 17% per year

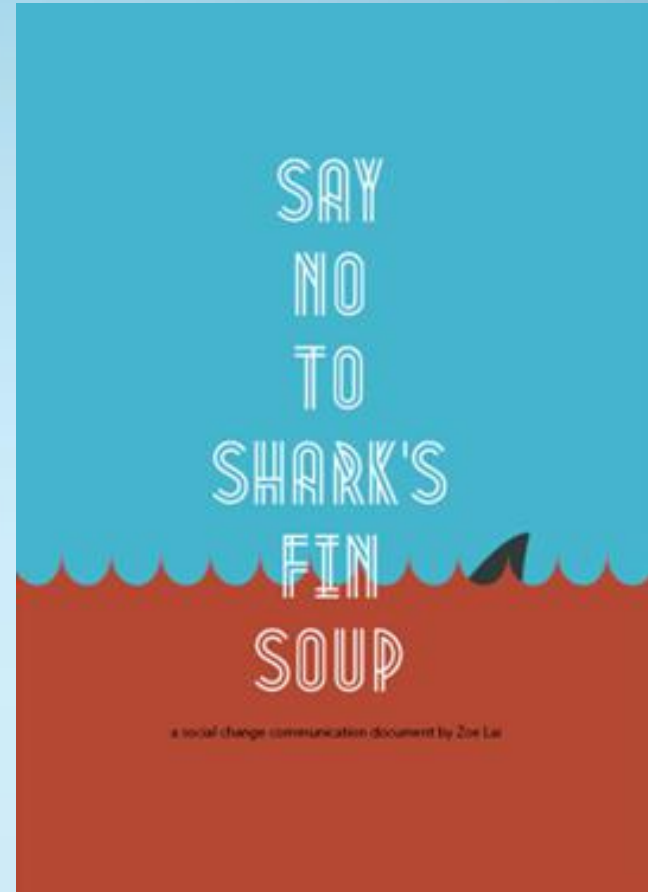
Consequences on marine ecosystems

✓ Trophic cascade of the disappearance of sharks



Solutions to the significant decline of the shark population

- ❖ Ban shark finning (cutting shark fins)
- ❖ Regulate shark fishing with international agreements
- ❖ Control and prohibit fishing methods that are too harmful for shark populations
- ❖ Monitor shark populations by controlling birth rates of different species in decline





I'm **FIN**ished
WITH FINS
一翅都唔食

