

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?



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SHORTFIN MAKO



Circumglobal distribution in the temperate and tropical seas. Found all around the South African coast. The Shortfin Mako is a neritic and oceanic, epipelagic and mesopelagic species, found worldwide in tropical and warm-temperate seas to depths of 888m. The species reaches a maximum size of about 445cm total length. Reproduction is ovoviviparous (eggs hatch within the body of the mother) and oophagous (egg eating) – meaning the first-born will survive by means of eating the remaining eggs while still in the uterus. The shortfin mako has an estimated gestation period of 15-18 months and a three-year reproductive cycle. Litter size is 4-30 pups (mostly 10-18). It is an opportunistic predator, feeding on pelagic cephalopods (squid, cuttlefish and octopus), pelagic fish, crustaceans, small cetaceans (whales and dolphins), small elasmobranchs (sharks and rays) and sometimes cannibalistic. It is caught in large pelagic longline fisheries and by recreational game fisherman. Also taken in huge numbers as bycatch in both pelagic tuna and swordfish-directed longline fisheries.

Scientific Name:	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>
AKA:	Shortfin Mako
Ocean Hang out:	Indian and Atlantic Oceans
Warm/Cool Waters:	Warm and cool, seldom below 16°C
Diet:	Shoaling fish, small sharks and squid
Slow/ Fast:	Fast (the fastest of all sharks) in open water
S/ M/ L/ XL/ XXL:	L
Shy/ Bold:	Bold
At the beach/ In the sea: (Inhabits coastal or oceanic waters)	In the sea - occasionally close inshore but generally oceanic
Local/ International: (Endemic/ Non-native)	International in all tropical and warm temperate waters
Nomadic/ Homely: (Migratory or resident)	Nomadic
Social/ Anti-social: (Normally found in groups or solitary)	Anti-social
Black Tie/ Eccentric: (Easily recognisable as a shark or ray or has a unique appearance)	Black Tie
Teeth:	Stout, pointed, non-serrated teeth
Best Feature:	Fastest shark and extremely well-developed, large eyes
Red Listing:	Endangered (2019)