

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?



@sharkattackcampaign

www.sharkattackcampaign.co.za

04 PELAGIC THRESHER SHARK



One of three species in which the tail is the same length as the rest of its body. Aptly termed sambokhaai in Afrikaans, these sharks have relatively small teeth and narrow mouths which restrict them to feeding on small shoaling fish and squid. They eat mainly pelagic shoaling fish, cephalopods, pelagic crustaceans and the occasional small shark. It herds its prey into a tight ball, sometimes by slapping the water surface with its tail, which is then used as a whip to stun the prey before swallowing. A relative of the pelagic thresher shark, aptly named bigeye thresher shark, has particularly large eyes which are directed upwards to detect the silhouettes of potential prey against the light at the surface.

They are found in all warmer oceans throughout the world, common in the tropical and subtropical waters.

Scientific Name:	<i>Alopias pelagicus</i>
AKA:	Thresher shark
Ocean Hang out:	Indian & Pacific Oceans
Warm/Cool Waters:	Favours warmer water
Diet:	Small fish and squid
Slow/ Fast:	Active swimmer in open water; capable of fast bursts
S/ M/ L/ XL/ XXL:	L
Shy/ Bold:	Shy
At the beach/ In the sea: (Inhabits coastal or oceanic waters)	Oceanic, not common close inshore
Local/ International: (Endemic/ Non-native)	International in most tropical and subtropical waters
Nomadic/ Homely: (Migratory or resident)	Nomadic
Social/ Anti-social: (Normally found in groups or solitary)	Non common, generally solitary
Black Tie/ Eccentric: (Easily recognisable as a shark or ray or has a unique appearance)	Somewhat Eccentric because of their long tails, otherwise a Black Tie
Teeth:	Small pointed teeth
Best Feature:	Greatly elongated tail used to stun fish
Red Listing:	Endangered (2019)