

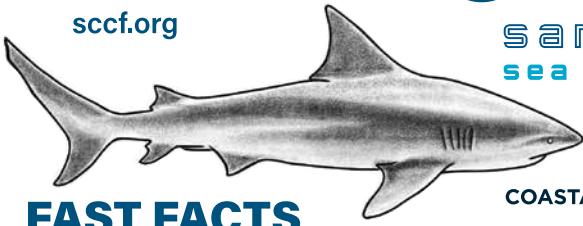
SHARKS



SCCF
SANIBEL-CAPTIVA
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

sccf.org

sanibel®
sea school



COASTAL WATCH



FAST FACTS

MOST shark species are:

- slow-growing and take many years to reach maturity
- only able to give birth to relatively few young
- apex predators: at the top of the food chain
- threatened due to overfishing

ALL shark species are:

- ecologically important; a change to their numbers can greatly impact the stability of other local fish populations

For these reasons, shark populations are extremely vulnerable, and a loss of sharks can significantly change a coastal ecosystem.

Shark fishing from shore REQUIRES:

- completion of the Florida Fish & Wildlife (FWC) Shore-Based Shark Fishing Course
- obtaining a no-cost Shore-Based Shark Fishing Permit (FWC)
- awareness and consideration of other recreational activities in the immediate area (ex. swimmers, boaters)
- up-to-date knowledge of which shark species are prohibited
- the possession and use of a tool capable of quickly removing or cutting the leader or hook

ADVOCATING FOR SHARKS

**It is up to YOU to help advocate for sharks.
Be a shark defender!**

Educate friends and community members on best practices for safe catch & release.

These animals deserve our respect and stewardship.

If you see a shark in trouble, or that is being mishandled, please take action:


- Call the nonemergency Sanibel Police number and report your concern: **239-472-3111**
- Call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and report your concern: **888-404-3922**
- Document your concern with FWC online:
<https://public.myfwc.com/LE/WildlifeAlert>
- Take photos of the situation if you can safely do so

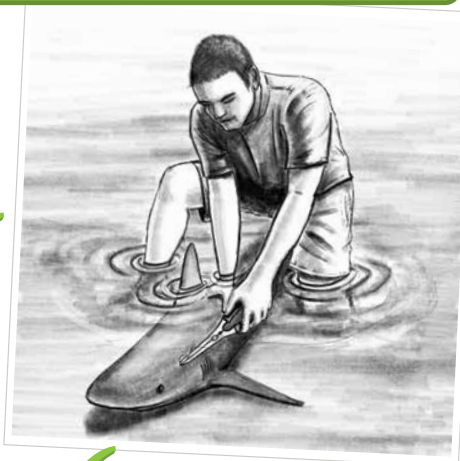
BEST FISHING PRACTICES for SAFE CATCH & RELEASE


Releasing sharks in a way that increases their chance of survival is an important step toward achieving and maintaining healthy, sustainable shark populations.

YES




The State of Florida  prohibits stainless steel hooks. **Use non-offset, carbon circle hooks.** Sharks are more likely to swallow and become guthooked by J-hooks. Any hook with two or more points and a common shaft is illegal.



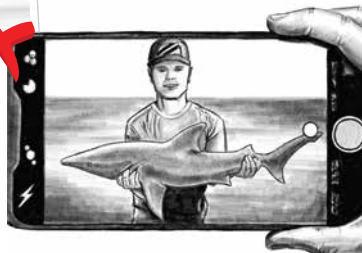
 When removing hook, **keep shark submerged and firmly restrained.**

NO



 **Minimizing fighting time is critical.** Fighting a shark to exhaustion drastically increases the likelihood that it will die (often shortly after being released).

Sharks do not have rigid skeletons and **should not be removed from the water once caught.** Doing so increases the force of gravity on sensitive internal organs, causing possible fatal damage. Prohibited species must always remain in the water; this includes when removing the hook and releasing the shark.



Never pull a shark by the tail or pick it up by the gill slits.

 **Chumming is prohibited** when fishing from shore.

Visit sccf.org for more information

Illustrations and design by Paul Harmon