



## Whale Shark: Endangered Gentle Giant

*(Rhincodon typus)*

Conservation Status: Endangered

**The World's Largest Shark!** This shark grows to be 40 feet long that's as long as a school bus! They can weigh as much as 11 tons and that's more than 5 cars! These shark eat one of the world's tiniest animals, plankton, and will travel long distances every day to eat.

### Cool Facts!

No two sharks are alike! Their spots are unique, just like your fingerprints! These slow growing sharks can live for over 100 years.

**Endangered!** These gentle giants are facing many dangers such as habitat loss, plastic pollution and getting trapped in nets.

### Where Do They Live?

These large sharks live along the equator of the world in every ocean! They swim in large open areas or near large reefs in search for plankton to eat.

### How YOU Can Help Save Them!

- Limit single use plastics like plastic bags and plastic water bottles.
- Recycle!
- Donate to WWF to help protect them
- Help get Trawling nets banned, they are often lost and can kill or maim these sharks.

### **1. A detailed description of the audience you are targeting.**

This is an information plaque or exhibit card intended for the average reader. Children from age 7+ should be able to read and understand the card.

### **2. An explanation of the specific purpose of your artifact.**

This artifact is to educate the public about the endangered species and excite them about learning about the species. It will also hopefully get them to care about the conservation about the species as well.

### **3. A bibliography for sources/images (in CSE format).**

- Pierce, S.J. & Norman, B. 2016. Rhincodon typus. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016. <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/19488/2365291>
- Greenpeace. 2020. Whale Shark, Rhincodon Typus. <https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/oceans/wildlife-facts/whale-shark/#:~:text=It%20is%20thought%20that%20the,serious%20threats%20to%20whale%20sharks>
- Bradford A. 2016 Facts About Whale Sharks. Live Science. <https://www.livescience.com/55412-whale-sharks.html>