CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY



Sharks and Rays

in Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary





Includes 11 x 17 wall poster

CHANNELISLANDS.NOAA.GOV

Mako Shark

Average length 7 feet; weight 185 pounds.

Mako sharks are fast swimming sharks and one of the few predators that can swim fast enough to catch tuna, like these albacore. They can swim up to 30 miles per hour and can be seen jumping out of the water.

Mako sharks range in depths from the surface to 490 feet.

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Illustrations by Michael Cole Pacific Angel Shark

Average length 6.50 feet; weight 77 pounds.

Pacific angel sharks are found in sandy bottoms often near kelp beds where they lie in wait for fish, like these barred surf perch, to pass nearby. They then inhale them into their large mouths. They have a flat body, broad pectoral fins, and dark spots on their back.

Pacific angel sharks range in depths from 9.8 to 673 feet.



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Basking Shark

Illustrations by Michael Cole

Average length 20-26 feet; weight 11,000 pounds.

Basking sharks are found in the open ocean where they use their cavernous mouths to capture zooplankton like shrimp. These sharks are the second largest fish in ocean.

Basking sharks range in depths from the surface to 3,000 feet.

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Pacific Electric Ray

Average length 4.5 feet; weight 90 pounds.

Pacific electric rays can be found over sandy bottoms and kelp beds looking for cephalopods, invertebrates and small fish, like this starry rockfish. They have a round, spotted body and are capable of giving a shock of 45 volts.

Pacific electric rays range in depths from 9.8 to 1,394 feet.

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Prickly Shark

Average length 13 feet; weight 260 pounds.

Prickly sharks are often found in deep submarine canyons along rocky walls. They have two small dorsal fins near the back of their body.They catch and eat bony fish and squid using suction in their mouth.

Prickly sharks range in depths from 330 to 4,900 feet.

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Soupfin Shark

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Average length 6.5 feet; weight 100 pounds.

Soupfin sharks are a common fish caught off fishing piers in California. This shark is crusing a pier encrusted with marine life looking for a meal, like the pile perch nearby. They have a slender body, long nose, small second dorsal fin, and a lobed tail.

Soupfin sharks range in depths from the surface to depths of 2,600 feet.

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National Marin Sanctuaries



Swell Shark

Average length 3 feet; weight 15 pounds.

Swell sharks are found among the rocky sea bottoms where they search for crustaceans, like the Southern kelp crab, mollusks and small fish, like the rock wrasse. They are colored with a mix of yellow and brown with dark blotches and white spots. They can expand double in size by swallowing water.

Swell sharks range in depths from 16 to 1,500 feet.

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Illustrations by Michael Cole

Spiny Dogfish

Average length 3 feet; weight 10 pounds.

Spiny dogfish are often seen in large groups hunting near the sea floor in search of crustaceans, squid and fish, like this Bococcio rockfish. They have a slim body, pointed nose, and sharp poisonous spines afront their dorsal fins.

Spiny dogfish range in depths from 160 to 1,236 feet.

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Leopard Shark

Average length 4-5 feet; weight 22 pounds.

Leopard sharks like to prowl the shallow waters off the California coast. They can be found swimming over sandy bottoms and in kelp forests where the they can find prey like the copper rockfish and barred surf perch. They have saddle-type markings and dark spots.

Leopard sharks range in depths from shallow waters to 300 feet.

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Illustrations by Michael Cole



Bat Ray

Average length 6 feet; weight 200 pounds.

Bat rays prefer to seek prey in kelp beds and rocky sea bottoms where they look for small fish, crustaceans, like this purple shore crab, and mollusks, like these orange and blue sea snails. Its wings are nearly twice the length of its body.

Bat rays range in depths from 3 to 150 feet.

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1)) Illustrations by Michael Cole

Blue Shark

Average length 10 feet; weight 250 pounds.

Blue sharks like to look for small fish and squid in the kelp forest. This shark is interested in nearby Garibaldi and Rainbow surf perch. They can be found in deep water.

Blue sharks range in depths from the surface to 1,150 feet.

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Thresher Shark

Average length 20 feet; 600 pounds.

Thresher sharks use their long whip like tail to disable fish swimming in schools, like these mackerel. Once the fish are stunned, the shark can swim back and easily catch its meal. They have large eyes, and a long tail that can be as large as shark itself.

Thresher sharks range in depths from the surface to 1,800 feet.

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Great White Shark

Illustrations by Michael Cole

Average length 20 feet; weight 5,000 pounds.

White sharks can be found in a variety of coastal habitats as well as in the open ocean. They eat marine mammals, fish, seabirds and can live 70 years.

White sharks range in depths from the surface to 3,900 feet.

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Horn Shark

Average length 3 feet; weight 22 pounds.

Horn sharks can be found searching the kelp beds for mollusks, like these Turban snails, and small fish, like these Senorita wrasse. They are spotted with a blunt head, ridges over their eyes, and 2 large dorsal fins.

Horn sharks range in depths from 6.5 to 660 feet.

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Illustrations by Michael Cole

Sixgill Shark

Average length 26 feet; weight 900 pounds.

Sixgill sharks can find food in the deep ocean. This shark is chasing a Chimaera fish. These sharks prehistoric relatives date back 200 million years. They have a blunt nose, and one dorsal fin at the back.

Sixgill sharks range in depths depths from 300 to 6,000 feet.

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Identify Sharks by Their Fins



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Sharks and Rays in Channel Islands Nation



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Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, located off the coast of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties in California, is one of 14 federally designated marine protected area administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), within the Department of Commerce. The sanctuary encompasses 1,110 square nautical miles (1,470 square miles) of water from mean high tide to six nautical miles offshore of Santa Barbara, Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, and San Miguel islands. The sanctuary is a special place for species close to extinction, sensitive habitats, shipwrecks and maritime heritage artifacts. Many valuable commercial and recreational activities, such as fishing, shipping, and tourism occur in the sanctuary. A comprehensive ecosystem-based management approach is used to promote long term conservation of sanctuary waters, wildlife, habitats, and cultural resources, while allowing compatible human uses. The sanctuary's remote, isolated position at the confluence of two major ocean currents creates remarkable biodiversity. The mingling of cool, nutrient-rich waters from the north with warm currents from the south form a dynamic transition zone that is home to a myriad of sea life from microscopic plankton to blue whales.