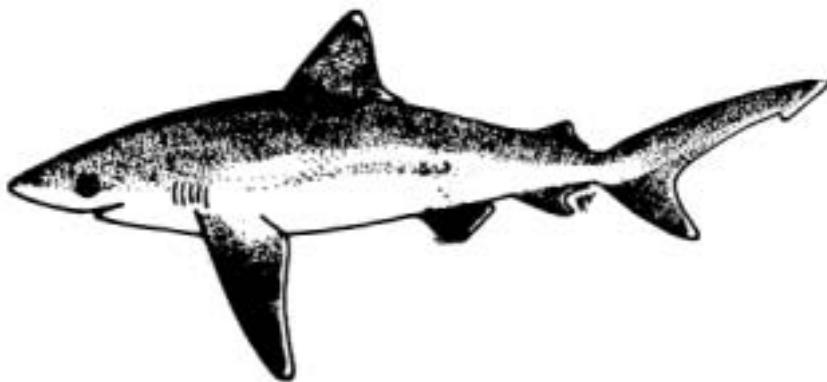


Carcharhinus albimarginatus (Ruppell, 1837)



English Name: Silvertip shark
Local Name: Kattafulhi miyaru
Size: Max, 3 m

Family: CARCHARHINIDAE
Order: Carcarhiniformes
Specimen: MRS/P031 1/88

Distinctive Characters: Snout moderately long and broadly rounded. Upperteeth broadly triangular. Second dorsal fin with a base less than twice height. Ridge between dorsal fins.

Colour: Grey above, pale below. First dorsal, pectoral, pelvic and caudal fins with extremely conspicuous white tips and posterior margins.

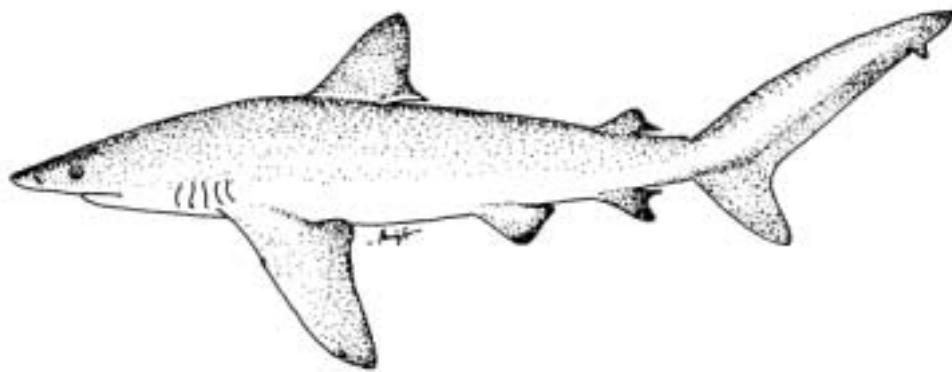
Habitat and Biology: Occurs inshore and offshore from the surface to a depth of 800 m. Feeds on both bottom and pelagic fish, including rays and cephalopods. Viviparous, with a yolk-sac placenta; number of young 1 to 11 per litter, often 5 to 6.

Distribution: Tropical Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: *Carcharhinus albimarginatus* is said to be very aggressive and individuals often have evidence of combat scars. This shark is potentially dangerous to people. Rarely seen by divers in the Maldives, although there have been regular sightings at two sites in An Atoll.

مکتبہ قرآن

Carcharhinus altimus (Springer, 1950)



English Name: Bignose shark
Local Name: Mendhan miyaru
Size: Max. 3 m

Family: CARCHARHINIDAE
Order: Carcharhiniformes
Specimen: MRS/03801/92

Distinctive Characters: A large, fairly slender shark. Snout moderately long and bluntly pointed to rounded. Upper teeth serrated, broadly triangular and **erect in front of mouth**, Lower teeth **narrow and finely serrated**. A distinct skin ridge between dorsal fins. First dorsal fin moderately large and falcate, with origin over inner margins of pectoral fins. Pectoral fins long and not strongly falcate.

Colour: Grey, white below. Fin tips dusky (except pelvic). White markings on flank inconspicuous.

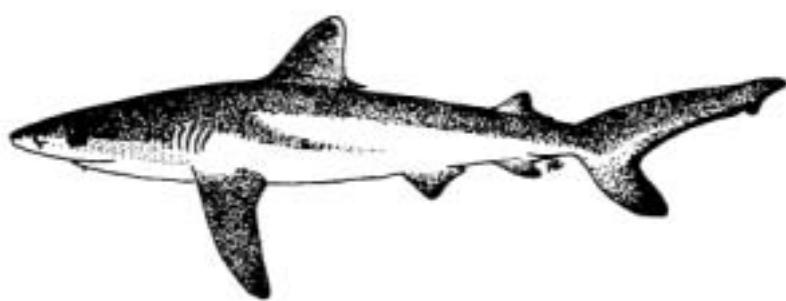
Habitat and Biology: A common offshore, bottom dwelling shark usually found in deeper water near the edge of the continental and insular shelves in depths between 90 to 430 m. Feeds mainly on fishes, other sharks, sting rays and cuttle fish. Viviparous, number of young per litter 3 to 15,

Distribution: Circumtropical.

Remarks: Although *Carcharhinus altimus* is considered to be a bottom dwelling shark, in Maldives it is mainly caught on pelagic longlines. Interestingly it seems to be caught only at night ('*mendhan*' means midnight) over areas such as *A/i horas kandu*' where water depths are within its range, suggesting that this species is a diurnal vertical migrator.

Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos (Bleeker, 1856)

PLATE Ia



English Name: Grey reef shark
Local Name: Vahboa miyaru
Size: Common to 1.6 m; max. 1.9 m

Family: CARCHARHINIDAE
Order: Carcharhiniformes

Distinctive Characters: A moderate-sized fairly stocky shark. Snout broadly rounded. Upper teeth serrate, narrowly triangular. Ridge on back present or absent, 24-28 teeth in jaws. Anterior nasal flaps very low.

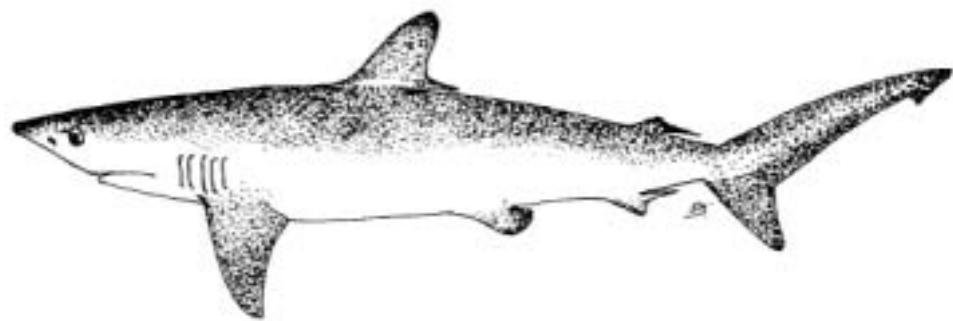
Colour: Grey above, pale below. Trailing edge of caudal fin broadly blackish. Upper part of trailing edge of first dorsal fin narrowly whitish (in Indian Ocean individuals).

Habitat and Biology: Common on upper part of outer reef slopes to depths of about 100 m or more. Feeds mainly on bony fishes, occasionally on cephalopods and crustaceans. Viviparous, with a yolk-sac placenta; number of young per litter 1 to 6.

Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: *Carcharhinus annularis* is one of the commonest reef shark in Maldives, and it is this species that is normally seen by divers at shark feeding stations. Grey reef sharks in the Indian Ocean is far less aggressive than those in the Pacific. This, combined with small differences in colouration and dentition, has led some to suggest that they might be two separate species.

Carcharhinus falciformis (Bibron, 1839)



English Name: Silky shark
Local Name: Oivaali miyaru, Ainu miyaru
Size: Max. 3.3 m

Family: CARCHARHINIDAE
Order: Carcharhiniformes
Specimen: MRS/P0312/88

Distinctive Characters: A large, relatively slender shark. Snout moderately long and pointed. Origin of first dorsal fin behind the rear of pectorals. Second dorsal low with long posterior extension, Pectoral long and pointed. Ridge between dorsals.

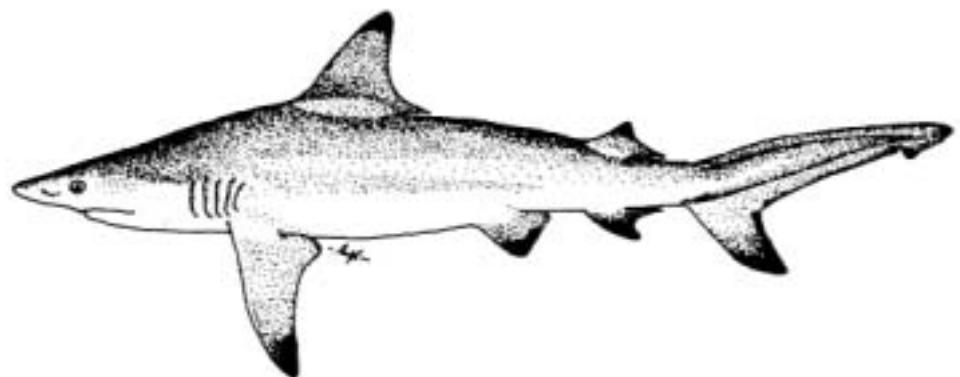
Colour: Grey, pale below.

Habitat and Biology: Inhabits oceanic waters near and beyond continental slopes, but also found in coastal waters. Usually near the surface but also found at depths to 500 m. Feeds mainly on fishes, squids and octopods. Viviparous with a yolk-sac placenta; 2-4 young per litter.

Distribution: Circumtropical.

Remarks: *Carcharhinus falciformis* is the commonest oceanic shark in Maldivian waters. The Dhivehi name ‘Oivaali miyaru’ refers to the habit of small individuals of swimming beneath drifting objects. The name ‘Ainu miyaru’ refers to its habit of swimming with tuna schools.

***Carcharhinus limbatus* (Valenciennes, 1839)**



English Name: Blacktip shark
Local Name: Thun hima miyaru
Size: Common to 1.5 m; max. 2.5 m

Family: CARCHARHINIDAE
Order: Carcarhiniformes

Distinctive Characters: A medium-sized, fairly stocky shark. Long snout, its length about equal to mouth width. Upper and lower teeth nearly symmetrical and similar, with erect narrow cusps and serrated edges. First dorsal fin pointed and with origin roughly level with pectoral insertions.

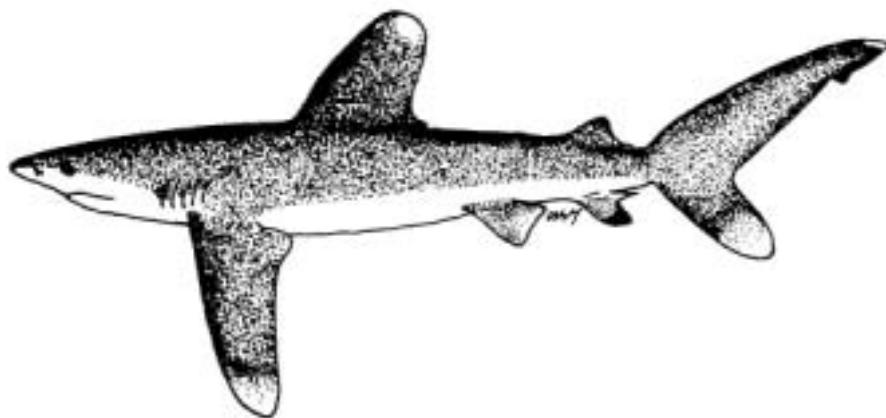
Colour: Grey with brassy sheen; pale below. Black on tips to dorsal fins, paired fins, anal fin, lower caudal lobe and on leading edges of caudal fin.

Habitat and Biology: Occurs in coastal as well as offshore surface waters. Fast moving, sometimes leaping out of water. Feeds mainly on schooling fishes, occasionally on crustaceans and cephalopods. Viviparous, with a yolk-sac placenta: number of young per litter 1-10, commonly 4-7,

Distribution: World-wide in tropical and subtropical waters.

Remarks: *Carcharhinus limbatus* has so far been recorded in Maldives only from Laamu Atoll. Four specimens were taken there by R.V. ‘Farumas’ during the Reef Fish Resources Survey. It would seem to be one of those species that is commonest in the south.

***Carcharhinus longimanus* (Poey, 1861)**



English Name: Oceanic whitetip shark
Local Name: Fee miyaru, Feeboa miyaru
Size: Max. possibly 3.9 m

Family: CARCHARHINIDAE
Order: Carcarhiniformes
Specimen: MRS/P0313/88

Distinctive Characters: A large, stocky shark. Snout short and broadly rounded. Teeth in upper jaw broad, triangular and serrated. First dorsal fin very large and broadly rounded. Pectoral fins very long and rounded. Ridge between dorsals.

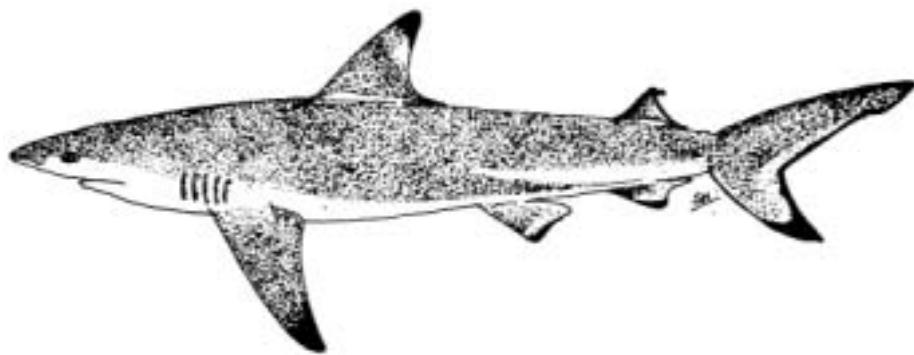
Colour: Grey above, pale below. Tips of first dorsal, pectorals and lower lobe of caudal white. Black markings on posterior fins particularly noticeable in young.

Habitat and Biology: Occurs in oceanic waters but also occasionally in coastal waters. An apparently sluggish species often accompanied by pilot fishes. Feeds mainly on fishes and squids. Viviparous with yolk-sac placenta; number of litter 1 to 15 with larger females having larger litters.

Distribution: Circumtropical.

Remarks: *Carcharhinus longimanus* is a common oceanic shark. It is readily distinguished from other white-tipped sharks by its large rounded fins. A potentially dangerous shark with a few attacks on record, but normally unlikely to come into contact with man.

***Carcharhinus melanopterus* (Quoy and Gaimard, 1824)**



English Name: Blacktip reef shark
Local Name: Uraha kalhu miyaru, Falhu miyaru
Size: Max. 1.8 m

Family: CARCHARHINIDAE
Order: Carcharhiniformes

Distinctive Characters: Snout short and rounded, Teeth in upper jaw serrated, with narrow angled points. Second dorsal fin high, its base less than twice its height. No ridge between dorsal fins.

Colour: Pale yellow brown. Fins with black tips. A conspicuous pale band on flank.

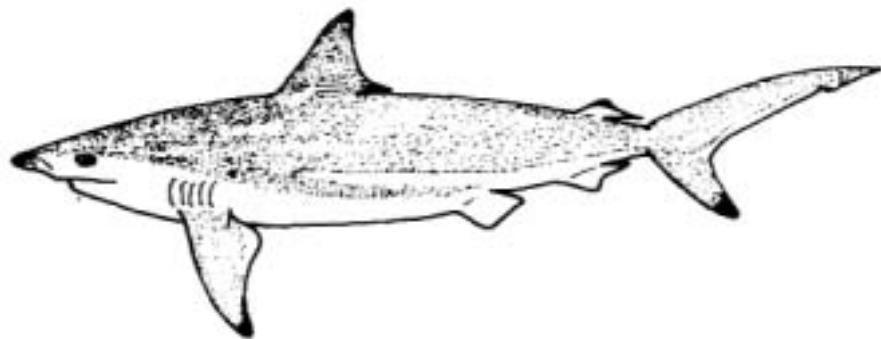
Habitat and Biology: Occurs inshore on continental and insular shelves; prefers shallow water on and around coral reefs to depths of 30 m or less. Feeds on small fishes and cephalopods. Viviparous with yolk-sac placenta; number of young per litter 2 to 4, usually 4.

Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: *Carcharhinus melanopterus* is a shallow water species, and so is seen by snorkellers and beachwalkers more commonly than any other shark. It is also taken more frequently by gill nets set in lagoons than other shark species. In the Pacific there have been some cases of attacks on lower limb of people wading in shallows. One individual was taken by R.V. Farumas' near K. Ihuru.

Carcharhinus sorrah (Valenciennes, 1839)

PLATE Ib



English Name: Spottail shark

Local Name: Dhon miyaru

Size: Max. about 1.6 m or more

Family: CARCHARHINIDAE

Order: Carcharhiniformes

Specimen: MRS/P0318/88

Distinctive Characters: Snout moderately long and pointed. Upper teeth serrated, triangular and angled posteriorly. Anterior nasal flaps with a short slender, narrow lobe. Second dorsal fin low with long free margin; length of base more than twice fin height. Ridge between dorsal fins.

Colour: Pale grey. Black spot on lower caudal lobe, also on second dorsal and pectoral tips. A conspicuous white band on flank.

Habitat and Biology: Occurs in inshore and sometimes offshore waters; often found around coral reefs, at depths up to 140 m. Feeds on small bony fishes and cephalopods. Viviparous, with a yolk-sac placenta; number of young 3 to 6 per litter.

Distribution: Indo-West Pacific.

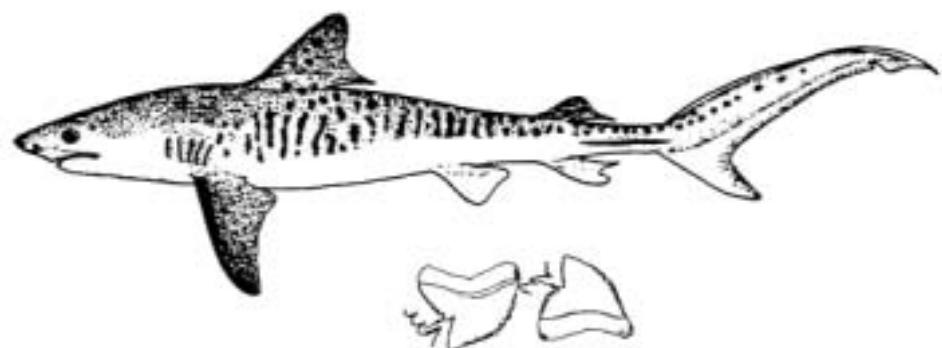
Remarks: *Carcharhinus sorrah* is not seen very often in Maldives. But individuals are occasionally caught in or near the atolls while handlining at night. This species appears to live near the bottom and its noticeably pale colouration may be a useful camouflage on sandy bottoms.

قرش سوتل

قرش سوتل شکری میوه کنندگان، جو شرکهای از جمله گلخانه های ۳۰ تا ۴۵ سانتیمتر
ساقیه های خوش رنگ را می خوردند. جو شرکهای میوه کنندگان بزرگتر از ۱۴۰ سانتیمتر
ساقیه های خوش رنگ را می خوردند. قرش سوتل، جو شرکهای از جمله گلخانه های ۳۰ تا ۶۰ سانتیمتر
ساقیه های خوش رنگ را می خوردند. قرش سوتل جو شرکهای از جمله گلخانه های ۳۰ تا ۶۰ سانتیمتر
ساقیه های خوش رنگ را می خوردند. قرش سوتل جو شرکهای از جمله گلخانه های ۳۰ تا ۶۰ سانتیمتر
ساقیه های خوش رنگ را می خوردند. قرش سوتل جو شرکهای از جمله گلخانه های ۳۰ تا ۶۰ سانتیمتر
ساقیه های خوش رنگ را می خوردند. قرش سوتل جو شرکهای از جمله گلخانه های ۳۰ تا ۶۰ سانتیمتر
ساقیه های خوش رنگ را می خوردند. قرش سوتل جو شرکهای از جمله گلخانه های ۳۰ تا ۶۰ سانتیمتر
ساقیه های خوش رنگ را می خوردند. قرش سوتل جو شرکهای از جمله گلخانه های ۳۰ تا ۶۰ سانتیمتر
ساقیه های خوش رنگ را می خوردند. قرش سوتل جو شرکهای از جمله گلخانه های ۳۰ تا ۶۰ سانتیمتر
ساقیه های خوش رنگ را می خوردند.

Galeocerdo cuvier (Peron and LeSueur, 1822)

PLATE 1c



English Name: Tiger shark
Local Name: Femunu miyaru
Size: Max. 7.4 m or more

Family: CARCHARHINIDAE
Order: Carcharhiniformes
Specimen: MRS/P0314/88

Distinctive Characters: Body large and fairly stout. Short, blunt snout. Foreparts stout, but hindparts more slender, Low keel on either side of caudal peduncle. Distinctive teeth (see illustration). Upper labial furrows very long extending to front of eyes. Spiracle present.

Colour: Grey. Dark spots and stripes on sides which fade with growth.

Habitat and Biology: Occurs in inshore, as well as offshore waters, near the surface and bottom. A voracious indiscriminate predator feeding on all kinds of fish, marine mammals, turtles, sea birds, sea snakes, cephalopods, molluscs and crustaceans, as well as carrion and garbage. Ovoviviparous; size of litters very large, 10 to 82, This species may mature at between 4 to 6 years old.

Distribution: Circumtropical.

Remarks: *Galeocerdo cuvier* is one of the most dangerous sharks. It attacks divers, swimmers and even boats. Certainly the tiger shark has the worst reputation as a man eater amongst tropical sharks.

۲۷۰

Loxodon macrorhinus Muller and Henle, 1839



English Name: Sliteye shark
Local Name: Hikandhi thun miya
Size: Max. about 95 cm

Family: CARCHARHINIDAE
Order: Carcharhiniformes
Specimen: MRS/P0330/88

Distinctive Characters: A small, slender shark. Snout long and fairly pointed. Large eyes with characteristic posterior notch. Origin of second dorsal fin above end of anal fin. Pectorals small. Usually no ridge between dorsals but preanal ridges present.

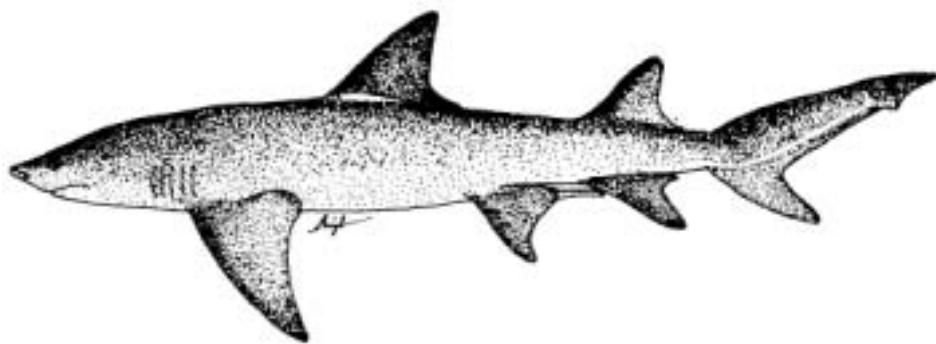
Colour: Greyish to brownish without a prominent colour pattern.

Habitat and Biology: Occurs in tropical, coastal, clear waters, near the surface and bottom; at depths from 7 to 80 m. Feeds on small bony fishes, crustaceans and cephalopods. Viviparous, with a yolk-sac placenta; number of young 2-4 per litter.

Distribution: Indo-West Pacific.

Remarks: *Loxodon macrorhinus* appears to be common in atoll basins. Not used in Maldives. This species is of commercial importance in some other areas as food especially in southern India. Harmless to people.

Negaprion acutidens (Ruppell, 1837)



English Name: Sicklefin lemon shark

Local Name: Falhu femunu

Size: Max. 3.1 m

Family: CARCHARHINIDAE

Order: Carcharhiniformes

Specimen: MRS/0375/92

Distinctive Characters: A large stocky shark with broad short snout, Large, pointed fins; second dorsal nearly as large as first. Teeth narrow and smooth edged, but fine serrations present on upper teeth of large individuals.

Colour: Generally yellowish brown, paler below, with plain fins.

Habitat and Biology: Occurs in shallow inshore and offshore waters near the bottom. Often around coral reefs and sandy plateaus near coral at depths down to at least 30 m. Feeds on bottom dwelling bony fishes including porcupine fishes and sting rays. Viviparous, 1-13 pups per litter.

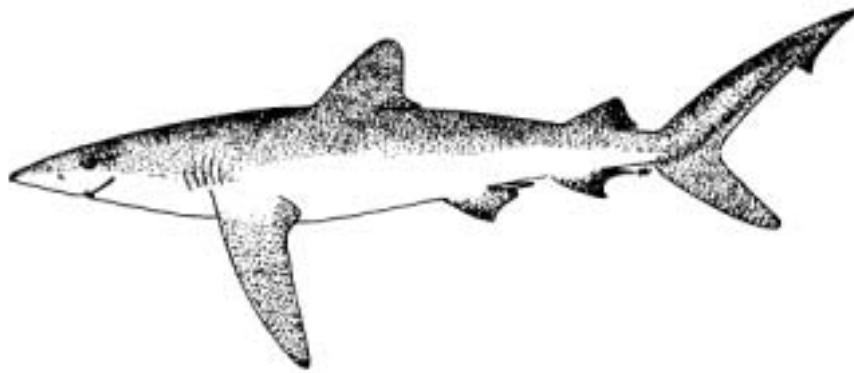
Distribution: Indo-West and central Pacific.

Remarks: *Negaprion acutidens* is not particularly common in the Maldives. It is prized by fishermen as it yield meat, fine looking jaws, and large fins. Potentially aggressive and dangerous if provoked, as the Dhivehi name suggests ('*Falhufemunu*' means lagoon tiger shark).

وَنَذِلَتْ بِهِ الْمُؤْمِنَاتُ مُكَبِّرَاتٍ لِّأَنَّهُنَّ فَيَرَنْهُنَّ وَمَا يَرَنُونَ
وَمَا يَرَنُونَ هُنَّا مُكَبِّرَاتٍ لِّأَنَّهُنَّ مُكَبِّرَاتٍ لِّأَنَّهُنَّ
وَمَا يَرَنُونَ هُنَّا مُكَبِّرَاتٍ لِّأَنَّهُنَّ مُكَبِّرَاتٍ لِّأَنَّهُنَّ

وَرَبِّيَّهُمْ مُّحَمَّدُ وَهُنَّ الظَّالِمُونَ

***Prionace glauca* (Linnaeus, 1758)**



English Name: Blue shark
Local Name: Andhun miyaru
Size: Max. 3.8 m

Family: CARCHARHINIDAE
Order: Carcharhiniformes
Specimen: MRS/P0315/88

Distinctive Characters: A slender shark with long snout and long pointed pectorals. No spiracles. Base of first dorsal closer to pelvic than pectoral origins. Weak keel on either sides of caudal peduncle.

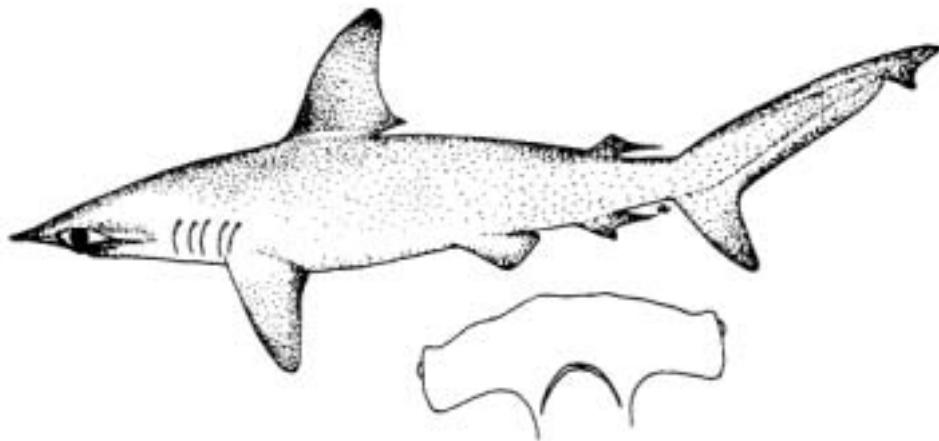
Colour: Deep blue above, pale below.

Habitat and Biology: Oceanic, epipelagic, from the surface to at least 220 m depth. It prefers relatively cool water at 7°C to 16°C, but can tolerate warmer waters. Feeds on bony fishes, small sharks, squids, pelagic crustaceans and occasionally sea birds and carrion. Viviparous, with a yolk-sac placenta; number of young 4 to 135 per litter.

Distribution: Circumglobal in temperate and tropical waters.

Remarks: *Prionace glauca* is probably the widest ranging chondrichthyan, but it is not very common in the Maldives. It is known to undertake long distance of migrations and show some degree of sexual segregation. 95% of blue sharks in Maldivian waters are males. A dangerous shark with several attacks on people and boats on record.

Sphyrna lewini (Griffith and Smith, 1834)



English Name: Scalloped hammerhead
Local Name: Kaaligandu miyaru
Size: Max. 4.2 m

Family: CARCHARHINIDAE
Order: Carcharhiniformes
Specimen: MRS/P0317/88

Distinctive Characters: Head hammer-shaped. Broad 'hammer' head, with median and lateral indentations. First dorsal origin slightly behind pectoral insertion. Posterior margin of eye roughly level with front of mouth. Margin of pelvic fins nearly straight.

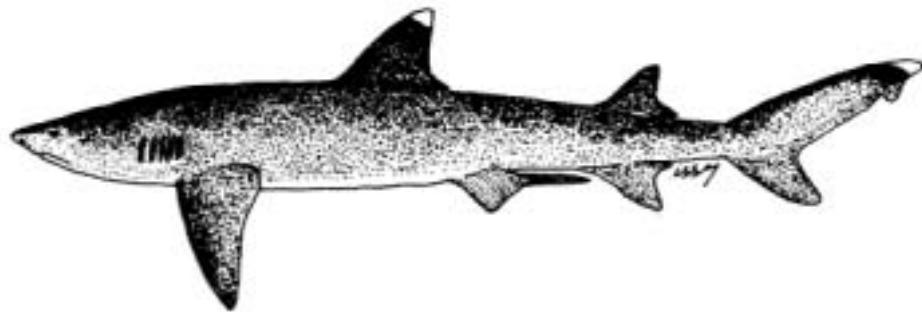
Colour: Grey brown above, white below.

Habitat and Biology: Offshore, oceanic, but comes closer to continental edge and occasionally enters enclosed bays. Young form large true schools but adults mainly solitary or in pairs. Feeds on pelagic fishes, crustaceans and cephalopods. Viviparous; number of young 15 to 31 per litter.

Distribution: Circumtropical.

Remarks: There are possibly three species of hammerheads which occur in the Maldives. But *Sphyrna lewini* is the only one that has been definitely recorded and confirmed from here to date. Large schools observed by divers near A. Rasdhoo and a few other sites. Previously recorded under the family Sphymidae. Potentially dangerous to people.

***Triaenodon obesus* (Ruppell, 1837)**



English Name: Whitetip reef shark
Local Name: Olhufathi miyaru

Local Name: Olhufathi miyaru

Size: Common to 1.6 m; max, 2.1 m

Family: CARCHARHINIDAE

Order: Carcharhiniformes

Distinctive Characters: Body relatively slender. Snout broad and short - shorter than width of mouth. Three pointed teeth. Base of first dorsal fin closer to pelvics than pectorals. Second dorsal fin large, its height over half that of first dorsal fin.

Colour: Greyish brown above, pale below. White tips to first dorsal and upper caudal lobe.

Habitat and Biology: Occurs in coastal clear waters, usually in and around coral reefs at depths down to at least 330 m. Feeds on wide variety of reef fishes, but also cephalopods and large crustaceans. Viviparous, with 1 to 5 young per litter (commonly 2 or 3).

Distribution: Indo-Pacific and Eastern Pacific.

Remarks: *Triaenodon obesus* is one of the most common of Maldivian sharks. It is commonly seen by divers, often resting on bottom. Most active at night. Previously recorded under the family Hemigaleidae. Seven individuals are taken by R.V. 'Farumas' in North Male' Atoll.