**Isurus oxyrinchus** Rafinesque, 1809

**English Name:** Shortfin mako  
**Family:** LAMNIDAE  
**Local Name:** Woshimas miyaru  
**Order:** Lamniformes  
**Size:** Common to 2 m; max. 4 m  
**Specimen:** MRS/P03 10/88

**Distinctive Characters:** Body moderately slender. Conical pointed snout. Caudal fin lunate. Caudal peduncle extremely broad and well developed. Pectoral fins distinctly shorter than head.

Colour: Dark blue-grey above, white below.

**Habitat and Biology:** Oceanic and coastal, usually in surface waters down to 152 m. Feeds on schooling fish, using its slender and sharply pointed teeth. Also attacks sharks and billfishes. Oovoviviparous without yolk-sac placenta, number of pups per litter 2 to 16.

Distribution: Temperate and tropical waters.

Remarks: *Isurus oxyrinchus* is an extremely fast and powerful shark, as its noticeably broad caudal peduncle suggests. It is a potentially dangerous shark. The longfin mako (*I. paucus* Guitar Manday, 1966) is very similar in appearance but has a blunter snout and pectoral fins longer than the head; it probably occurs in Maldivian waters but has not yet been recorded.