



RESTORING OCEAN HEALTH BY SAVING SHARKS

Bonnethead Shark

(Sphyrna tiburo)

One of the smaller species of hammerhead sharks, Bonnetheads are distinguishable by their shovel-shaped heads. Bonnetheads are migratory species and have suffered dramatic loss of habitat. We urge listing with the entire family Sphyrnidae under CITES Appendix II.



STATUS: **ENDANGERED** ↓ Decreasing

- As of 2020, the IUCN has listed Bonnethead sharks as endangered with populations decreasing. The current population numbers are largely depleted with a medium recovery potential.¹
- Bonnethead sharks have experienced a decline of 50- 79% globally within the last three generations.²
- The bonnethead shark is commonly found in continental and insular shelves over mud and sand, seagrass, coral reefs, estuaries, shallow bays and channels in the central and southern atlantic and pacific, from shore to 90m depth.³
- Bonnetheads are vulnerable to habitat loss from coastal development^{4, 5, 6} such as residential and commercial development, disturbance, and pollution as well as agriculture and aquaculture activities.^{4, 5, 6}



Image FAO

- Pressure from fishing, both direct and incidental have had a significant impact on bonnethead sharks.⁵ Bycatch from gillnets, demersal trawls as well as recreational hook and line are most commonly affecting this species.¹
- On average, bonnethead litter sizes range from 4- 14 shark pups, and measure approximately 21.5 - 29.7 cm (0.7-1ft).¹ This makes them an easy target for both demersal trawls in seagrass ecosystems, and larger predators.⁷
- The fins from this shark are similar in shape, and can often be confused with other endangered hammerhead species in the shark fin trade, and are considered a look-alike species.^{8, 9}



Range of Bonnethead Sharks
Image CITES

- Recent studies show that sharks in the Hammerhead family (scalloped, smooth, great hammerhead and bonnethead sharks) are among the top 5 most fished shark species in the Hong Kong shark fin market.^{8, 9, 10, 11}
- If the population of this species is to recover, fisheries and the shark fin trade must be sustainably managed to regulate bonnethead and other hammerhead species from entering the global market.^{1, 12, 13}
- Additionally, coastal development must be better managed in regards to pollution and marine habitat destruction.^{1, 12, 13}



- Due to their endangered status and look alike status in the shark fin trade- bonnethead sharks are recommended for listing with the entire (Sphyrnidae) family under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) at the Coalition of the parties(COP19).

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