



# SHARK STEWARDS

## RESTORING OCEAN HEALTH BY SAVING SHARKS

### Grey Reef Shark (*Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*)

The grey reef shark (*C. amblyrhynchos*) is a medium-sized coastal shark that occurs in coral reef habitats, in tropical waters of the Indian and Pacific Oceans from the surface down to a depth of at least 280 meters. The species has relatively low biological productivity. *C. amblyrhynchos* is assessed as Endangered globally on the IUCN Red List

**Endangered**  
**Population decreasing**

-As of 2020, the IUCN has listed Grey reef sharks as endangered with globally decreasing populations(1). They are listed as near threatened under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as of 2018.

-Grey reef shark declines of over 90% have been recorded in the Indian and Western Central Pacific Oceans(2, 3, 4). Globally, grey reef shark declines have surpassed approximately 30%.

-The Grey Reef Shark has a strong affinity for sites with high coral cover(5), making it sensitive to habitat degradation. Even if fishing is well managed, threats to coral reef ecosystems can have a direct impact on Grey Reef Sharks populations(5).

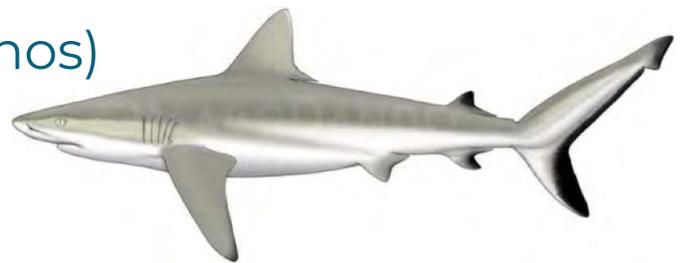


Image CITES

-The Grey Reef Sharks are vulnerable to fishing pressure due to high site fidelity, small litter size and late age at maturity(5). The species is retained for their fins and meat(6).

-In recent studies from 2010-2022 it is evident that grey reef sharks are still present in the shark fin trade, albeit in significantly smaller numbers(11, 12, 13, 14).

-In the 2000's this species was heavily fished in Australia due to the high levels of illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing(6).

-Increasing threats of climate change such as ocean warming and acidification have led to the rapid and significant decline of coral reefs and therefore are the primary cause of reef species decline(5, 7, 8, 9).



Image Florida Museum

