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Trends in Shark Abundance from 1974 to 1991 for the Chesapeake Bight Region of the U.S. Mid-Atlantic Coast

John A. Musick, *Virginia Institute of Marine Science*
Steven Branstetter, *Virginia Institute of Marine Science*
James A. Colvocoresses, *Virginia Institute of Marine Science*

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Steven Branstetter

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Abstract

Recent stock assessments indicate that the shark stock of the western North Atlantic is exploited at a rate twice the maximum sustainable yield. This finding is supported by data generated by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science longline program for sharks of the. Chesapeake Bay and adjacent coastal waters. Trends in catch per unit of effort since 1974 indicate 60-80% reductions in population size for the common species - sandbar (Carcharhinus plumbeus) , dusky (C. obscurus) , sand tiger (Odontaspis taurus), and tiger (Galeocerdo cuvier) sharks. Declines include numbers of individuals for all species, size classes within species, and in one case a strong decline in relative abundance. Given the limited ability of sharks to increase their population size, these results suggest that stock recovery will probably require

decades.

Keywords

Shark populations, shark fishery

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The shark will think that it has won and your clever, corpse-imitating idea will have only served to put you on top of the post-fight menu. If possible, move yourself into a position where your back is against a solid structure. By establishing yourself against the side of a boat, drop-off or reef cliff, you will halve the angles from which the shark can strike - and thus double your chances of fending it off. And remember, you are over 3,000 times more likely to drown in the sea than be killed by a shark. Closer to home, it's been reported a Great White is prowling off the coast of Brita... Our journalists strive for accuracy but on occasion we make mistakes. For further details of our complaints policy and to make a complaint please click here. Herein, we report on the patterns of distribution and relative abundance of white sharks in the NWA region based on a comprehensive compilation of historic and recent white shark capture and sighting records. Trends in abundance. Multiple historic and current data sources were examined for the presence of white sharks. The range of white shark occurrence extended from the north coast of Newfoundland (51° N) to as far south as the British Virgin Islands (18° N), as far east as the Grand Banks (50° W) and Bermuda (65° W), to as far west as the coast of Texas in the Gulf of Mexico (97°. The center of distribution was in southern New England and the Mid-Atlantic Bight (between 35° 00' and 42° 00' N), where 66% of white sharks occurred (97% YOY, 54% juvenile, 70% mature). The alert about the latest shark attack came last Friday: a surfer was missing; his board dragged from the waves bearing bite marks. Western Australian authorities have since called off the search for Andrew Sharpe, 52, confirming he was mauled by a shark. Friends who witnessed the attack said he had been knocked off his board and pulled underwater. This is just above the average 20 attacks seen per year for the past decade, said curator Dr Phoebe Meagher. She contrasted this year's numbers with the "noticeable spike" of 2015, when there were 32 attacks - two of which were fatal. Australia would see warm months (and more beachgoers) for the rest of this year, but "just by looking at the data there's no increase in actual reported attacks", she told the BBC last month. The Mid-Atlantic, comprising the Middle Atlantic states or the Mid-Atlantic states, is a region of the United States generally located between New England and the South Atlantic portion of the Southeastern States. Its exact definition differs upon source (with some definitions overlapping parts of the Northeastern and Southeastern States), but the region usually includes New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Washington, D.C., Virginia and West Virginia. When discussing climate