

SHARKS: MISUNDERSTOOD



Sharks are fierce but they are misunderstood. Why sharks should fear us.

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You may think that sharks are fierce animals and you should fear them. You may have heard stories of shark attacks or seen movies and TV shows about these dangerous creatures. Are sharks dangerous? Yes. But, in fact, sharks have more to fear from humans, than humans do from sharks.

People are killing sharks, and shark populations are getting smaller. In fact, more people are killing sharks than sharks are killing people. This is important because killing sharks will also harm the oceans' ecosystem. Sharks are top predators, meaning that they are on the top of the food chain, and if they were to go extinct the food chain would break! This would affect many other animals. This would hurt

the ocean. If sharks are not around to eat the dangerous and over populated fish communities, then they populations of dangerous fish and common fish would over run the oceans.

People kill sharks for several reasons. the most common reason is for food. In the Chinese culture, people eat a soup called Shark Fin Soup. How they use the shark is wasteful. They cut a tiny part of the sharks fin off and throw the rest back into the ocean.

Some people think sharks have special healing powers. That is why they eat the soup. The soup is often claimed to have benefits such as increasing your appetite and making your bones and heart stronger. Shark Fin soup is usually served at special

occasions. Shark Fin Soup has been around for a long time. In China, people call sharks "the gold of the sea". It symbolizes wealth, power and harmony .

Another reason people kill sharks is for sport. Many fishermen feel that it is a exciting challenge to tackle and reel in a shark. However, some fishermen don't realize that sharks are valuable to the ocean. Sometimes the fishermen eat the sharks and sometimes they hang it on their wall like a trophy.

Whatever the reason a human chooses to kill a shark, the truth is still that sharks attack humans much less often than TV would make us think. We are a greater danger to them than they are to us.