

Reef Sharks

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About Reef Sharks:

- They play a major role in shaping **Caribbean reef communities**.
- As the top predators of the reef and **indicator species** for marine ecosystems, they help maintain the delicate balance of marine life in reef environments.
- **Habitat:** Tropical waters near coral reefs, sea grass beds and mangroves.
- **Species of reef sharks:** The Caribbean reef shark, nurse shark, grey reef shark, blacktip reef shark and whitetip reef shark
- **Threats:**
 - They are **highly valued for their meat**, leather, liver oil, and fishmeal, which make them prone to overfishing and targeting.
 - They are threatened by the **degradation and destruction of their coral reef** habitat due to coastal development and resulting pollution.

- They are often **unintentionally caught by unregulated** and illegal fishing practices that cannot distinguish the reef shark from the fishers' targeted species.
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Q1) What is Indicator species?

Indicator species are organisms that can provide information about the environmental conditions of a particular ecosystem. These species are selected based on their sensitivity to specific environmental changes, such as pollution, habitat loss, or climate change.

Source: [Reef sharks 'pushed to extinction by overfishing', up to '73% decline' in 5 common species globally](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/reef-sharks/>

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