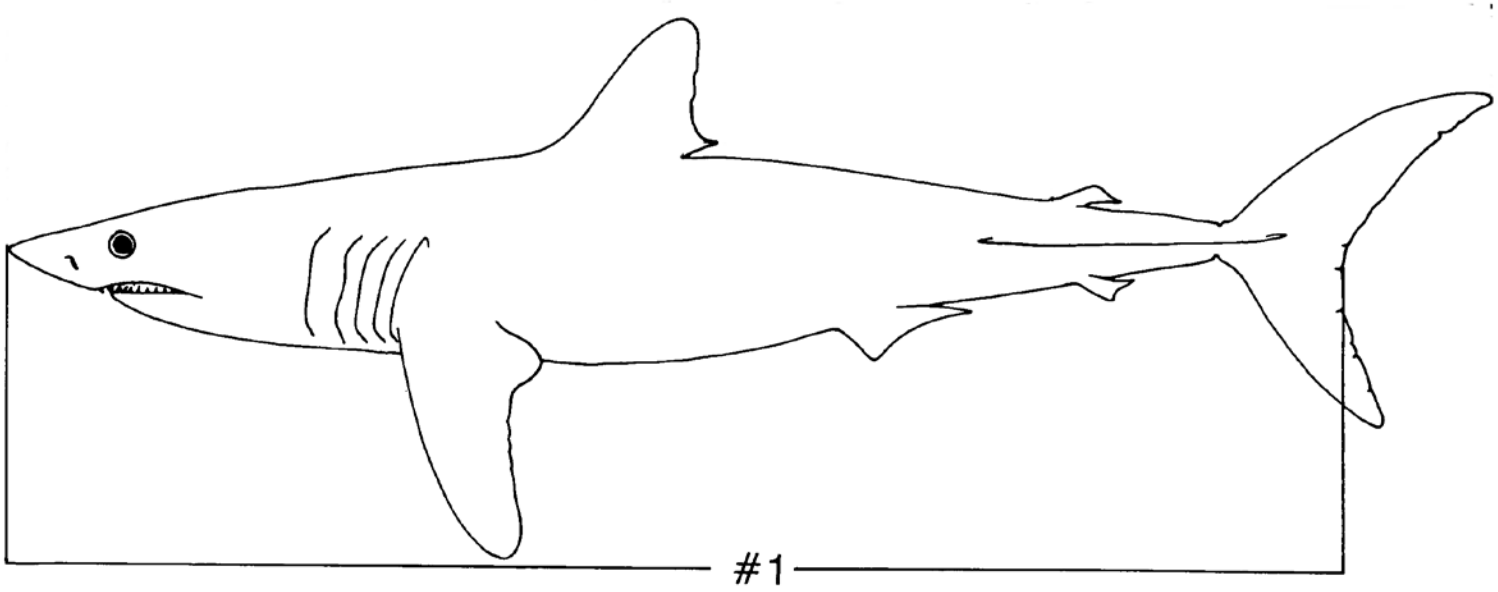
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Pelagic Observer Program

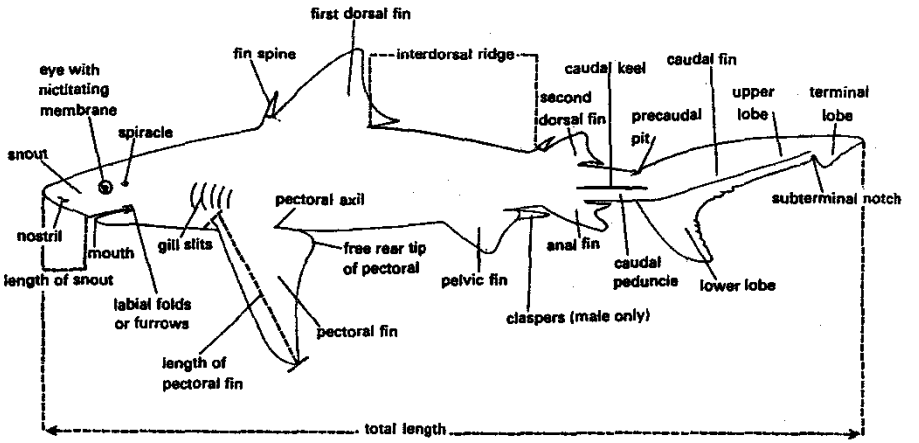
Shark Identification &
Sampling protocol

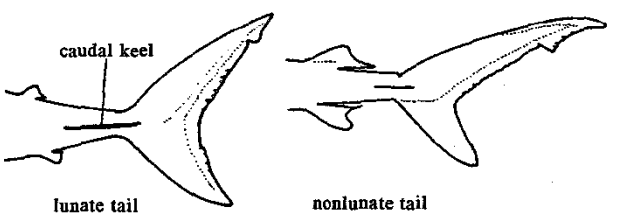
Sharks

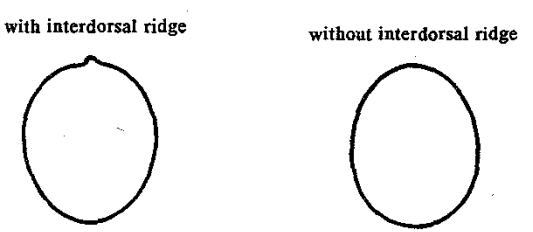


Note: Ray measurement is wingtip-wingtip; straight

SHARK ANATOMY



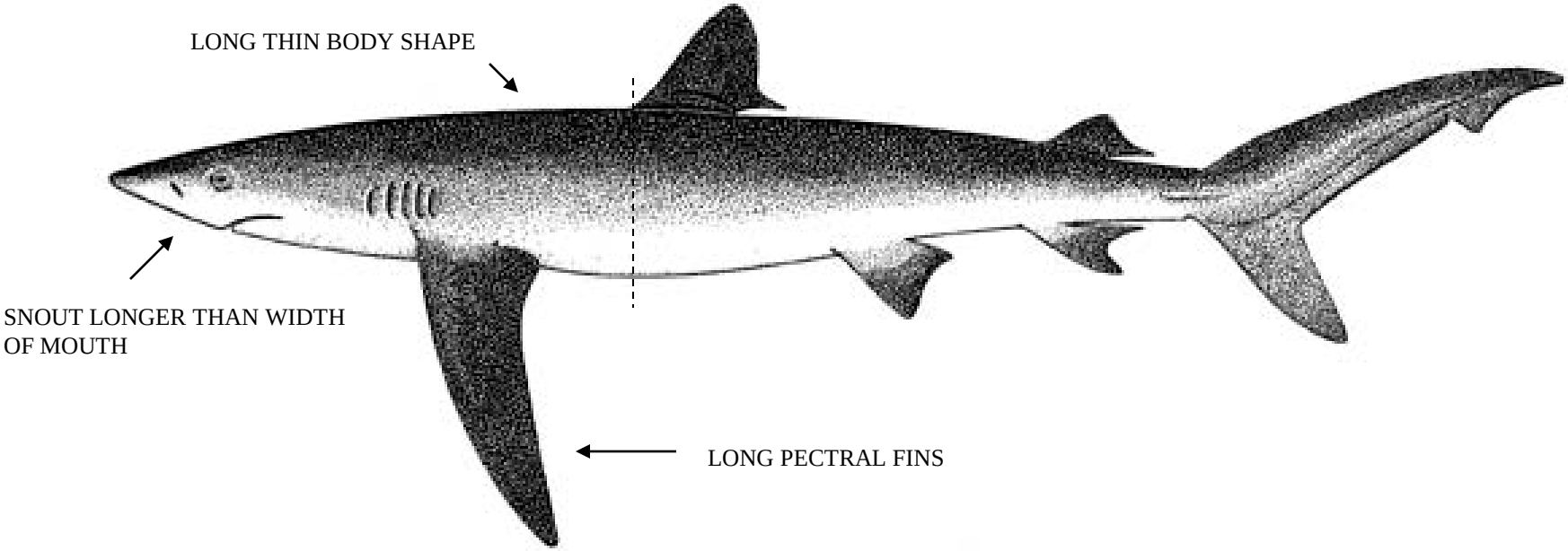




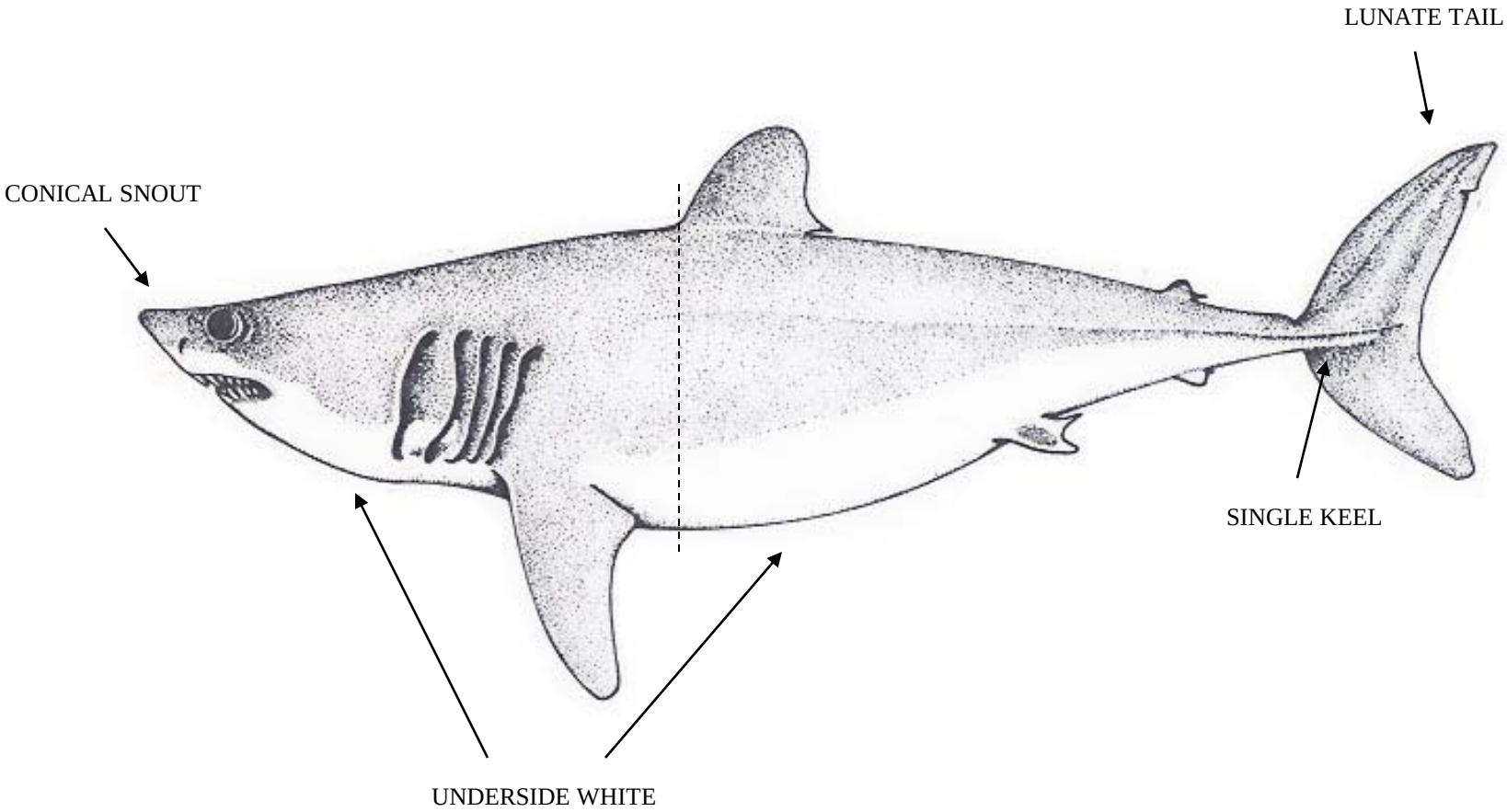
cross section of body betweem dorsal fins

Shark external anatomy (From the book, **The Sharks of North American Waters** © 1983 by J.I. Castro).

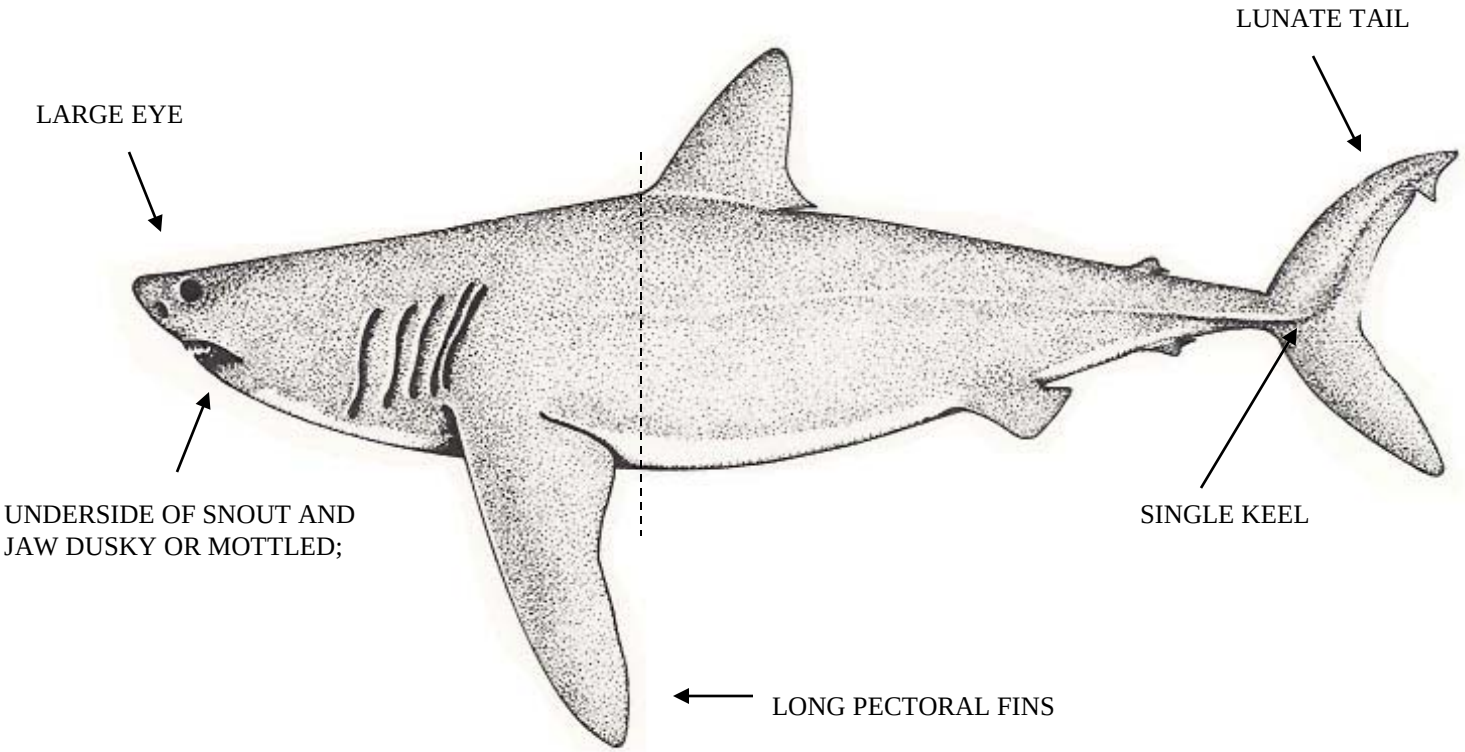
BLUE


LONG THIN BODY SHAPE
SNOUT LONGER THAN WIDTH OF MOUTH
LONG PECTRAL FINS

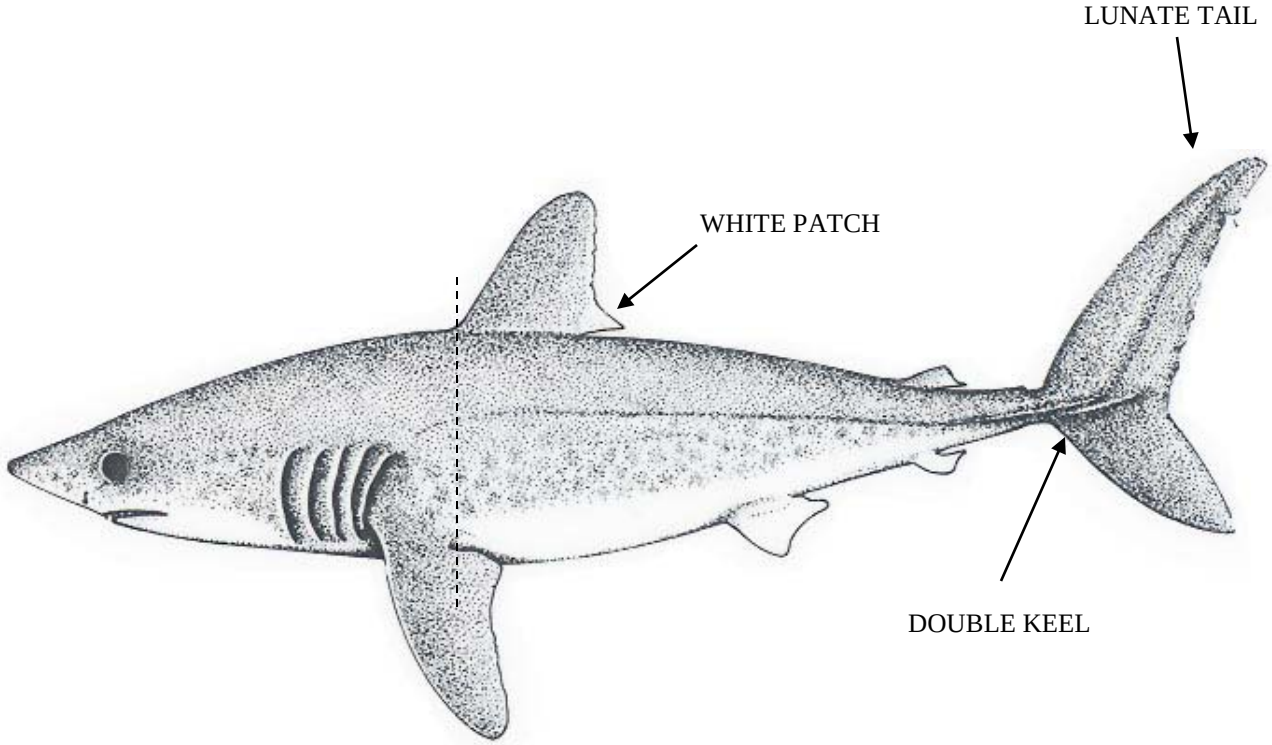
SHORTFIN MAKO



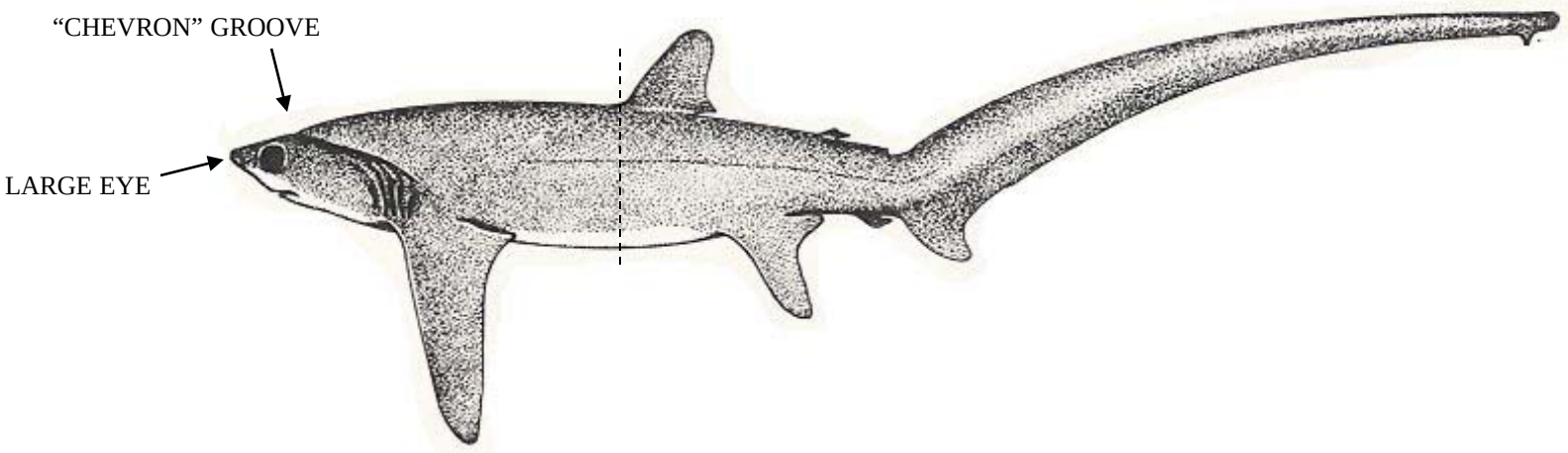
LONGFIN MAKO



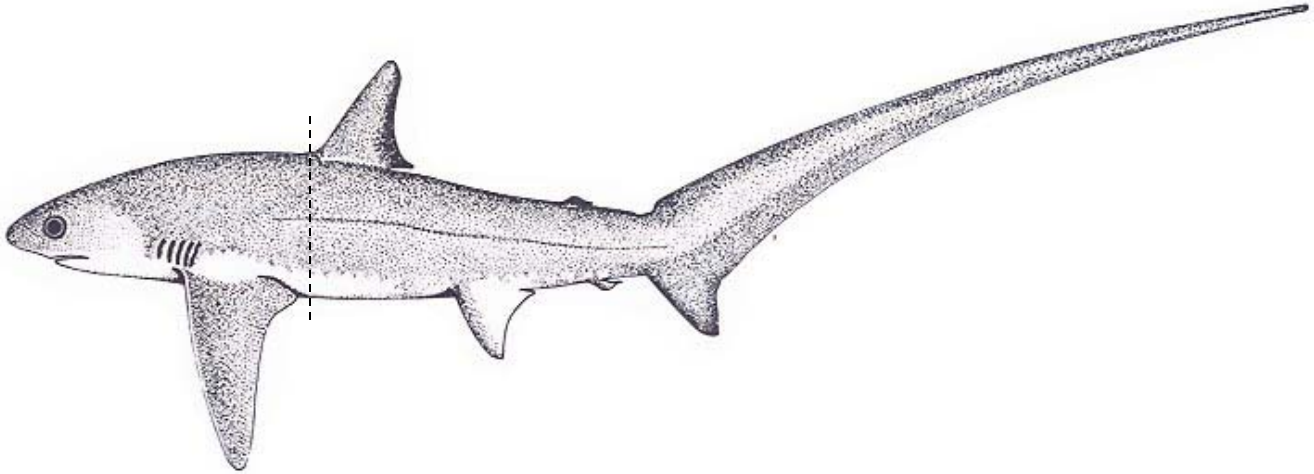
PORBEAGLE



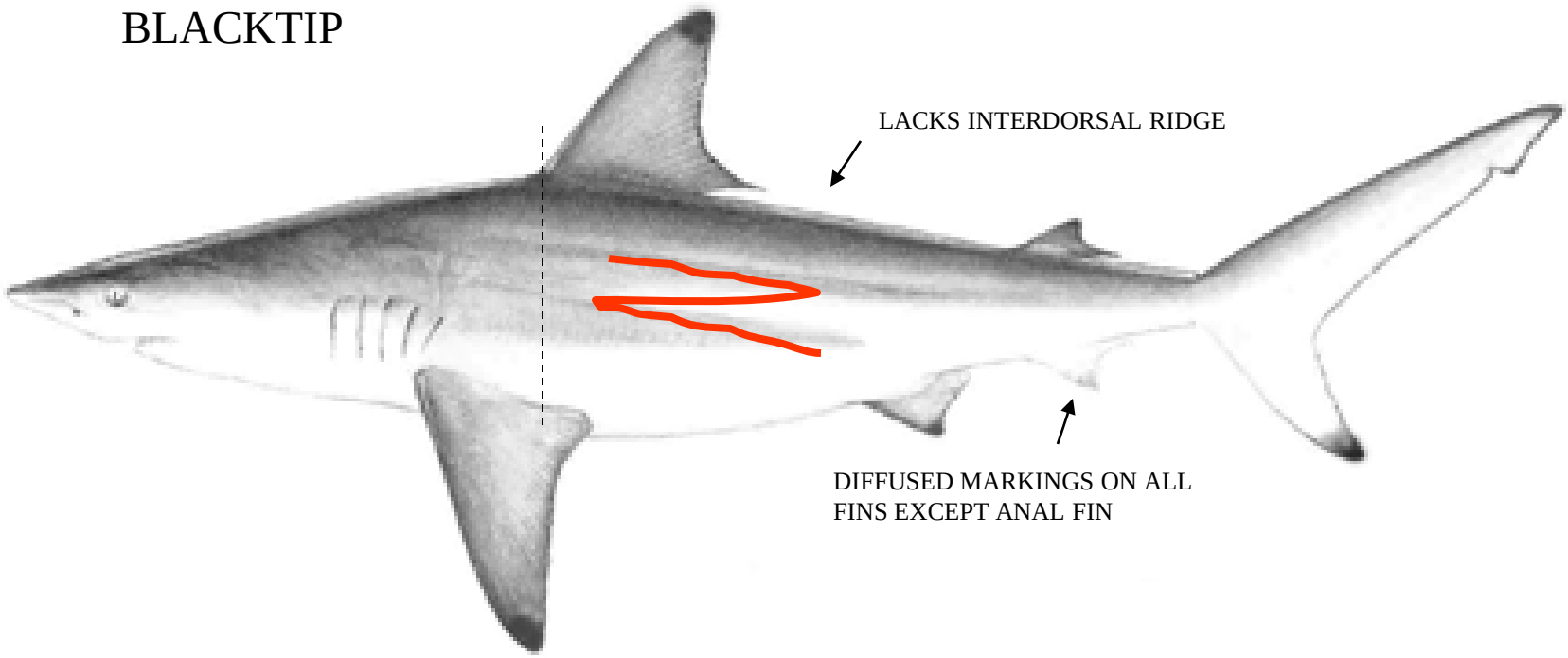
BIGEYE THRESHER



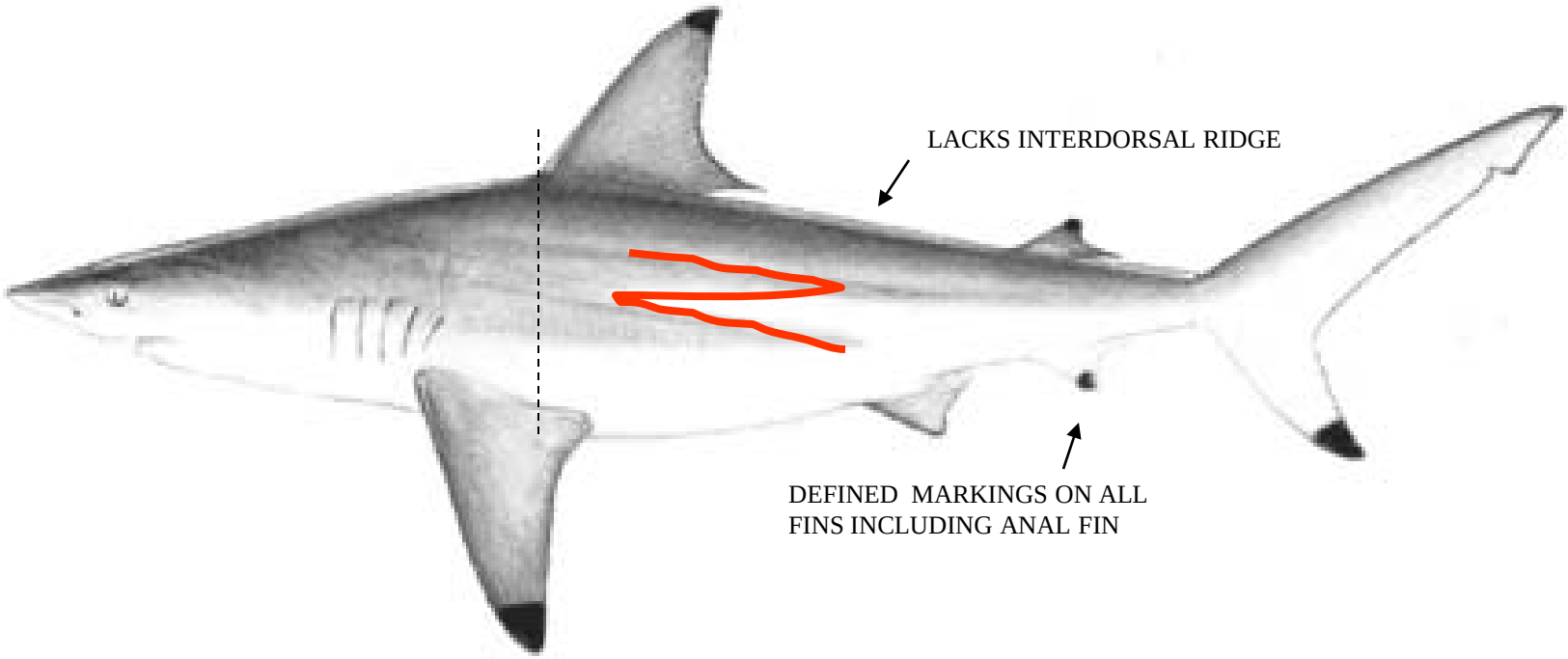
COMMON THRESHER



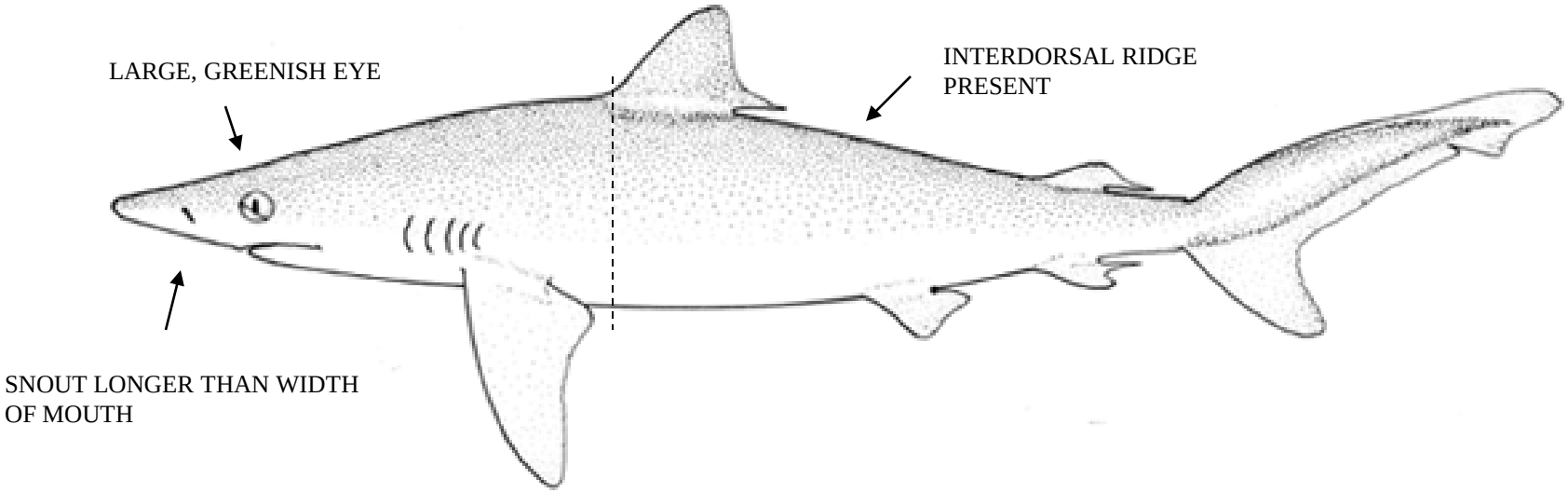
BLACKTIP


LACKS INTERDORSAL RIDGE
DIFFUSED MARKINGS ON ALL
FINS EXCEPT ANAL FIN

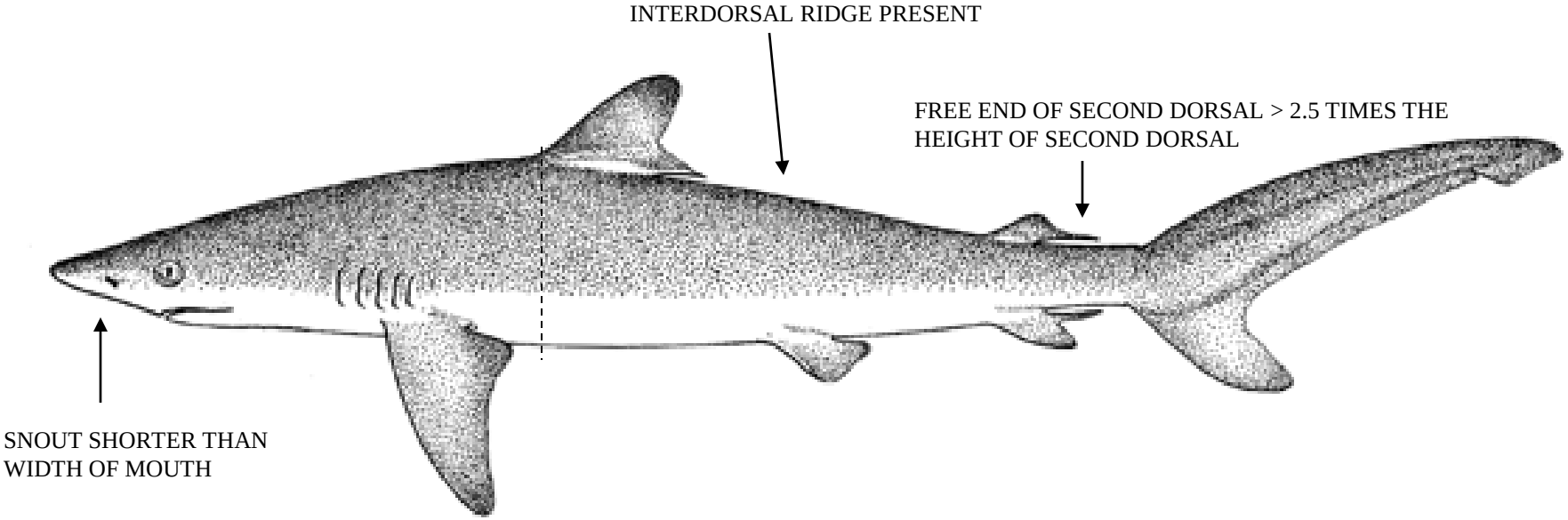
SPINNER


LACKS INTERDORSAL RIDGE
DEFINED MARKINGS ON ALL FINS INCLUDING ANAL FIN

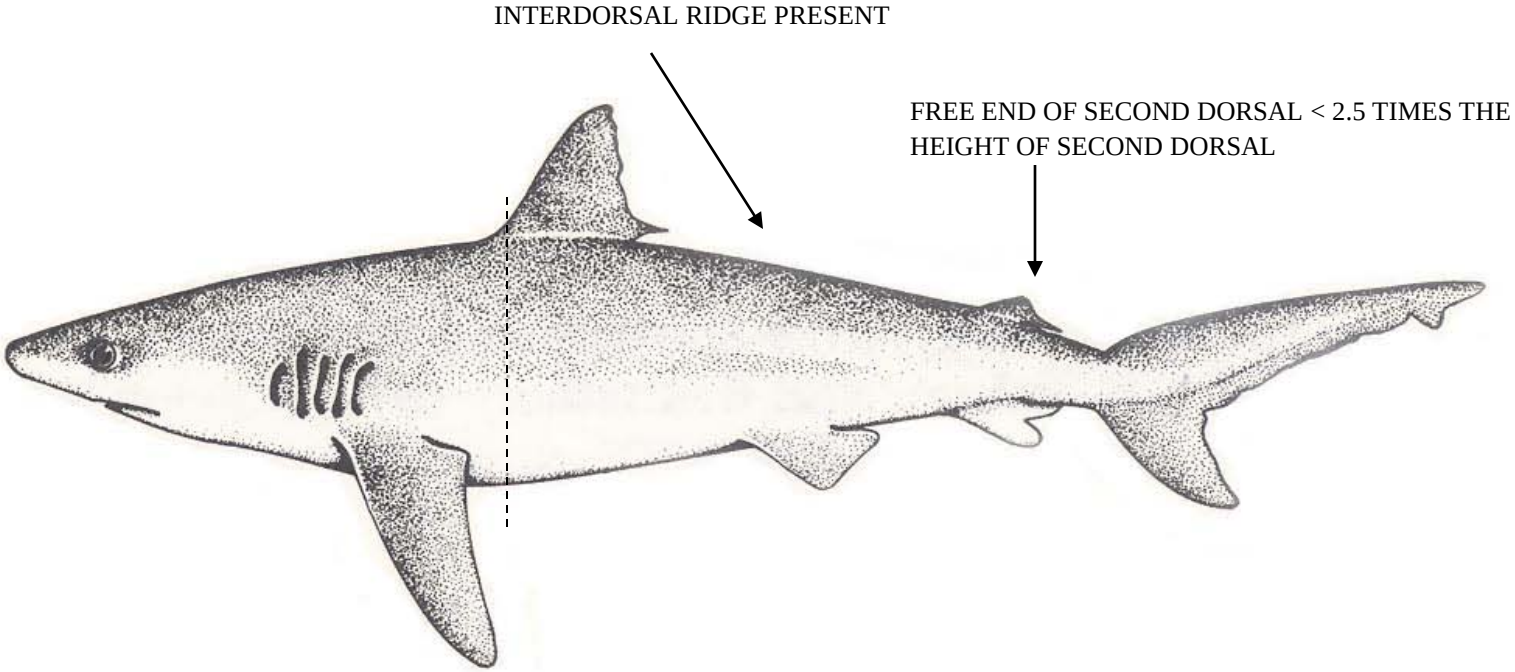
NIGHT


LARGE, GREENISH EYE
INTERDORSAL RIDGE PRESENT
SNOUT LONGER THAN WIDTH OF MOUTH

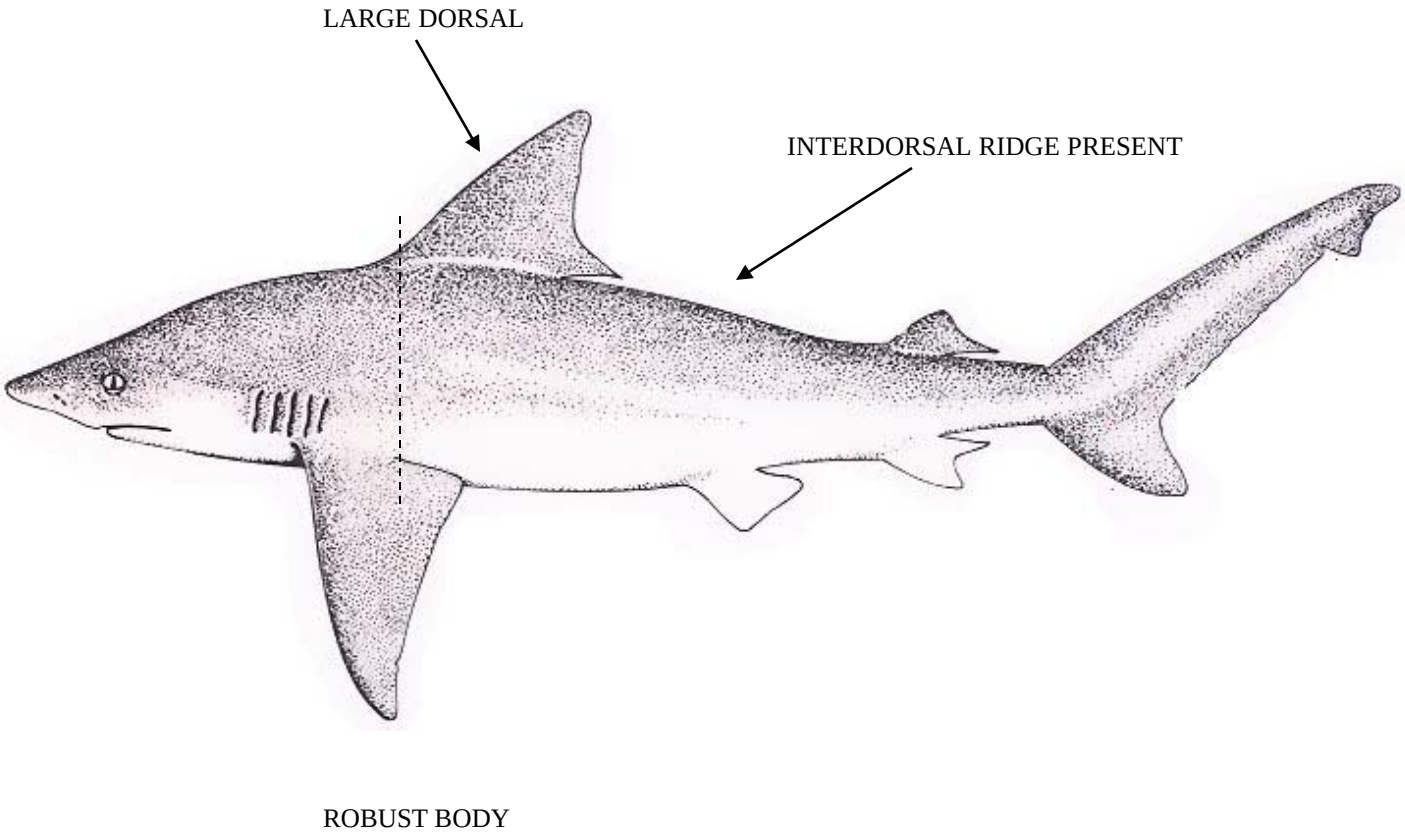
SILKY


INTERDORSAL RIDGE PRESENT
FREE END OF SECOND DORSAL > 2.5 TIMES THE HEIGHT OF SECOND DORSAL
SNOUT SHORTER THAN WIDTH OF MOUTH

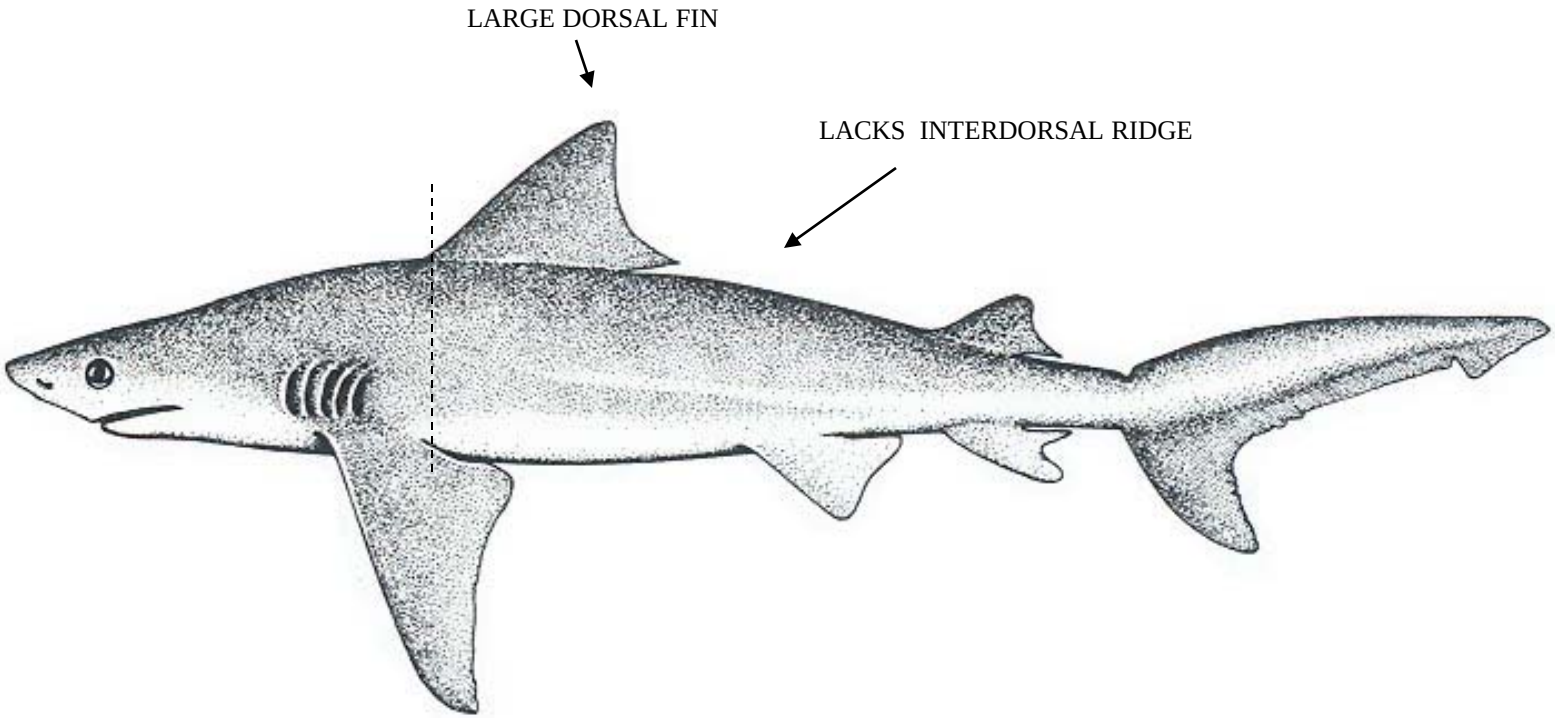
DUSKY


INTERDORSAL RIDGE PRESENT
FREE END OF SECOND DORSAL < 2.5 TIMES THE HEIGHT OF SECOND DORSAL

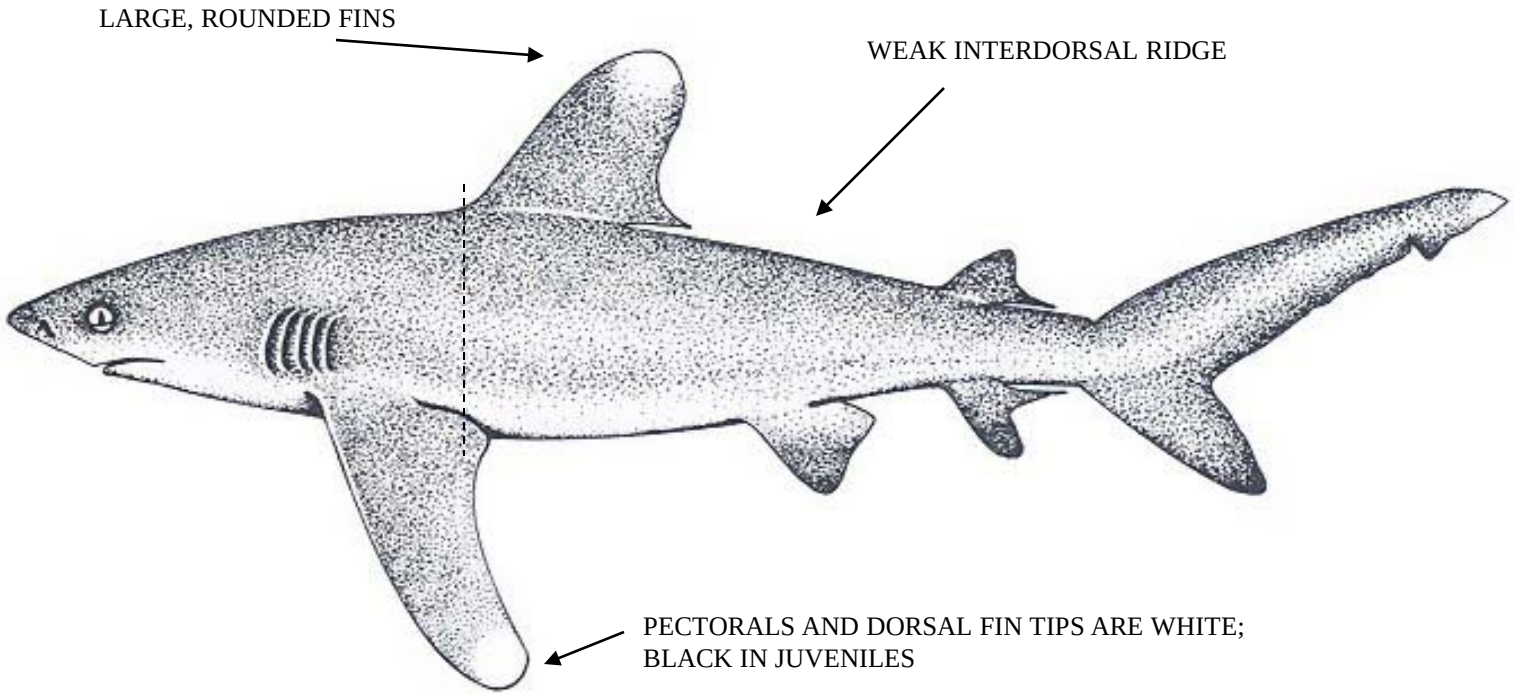
SANDBAR



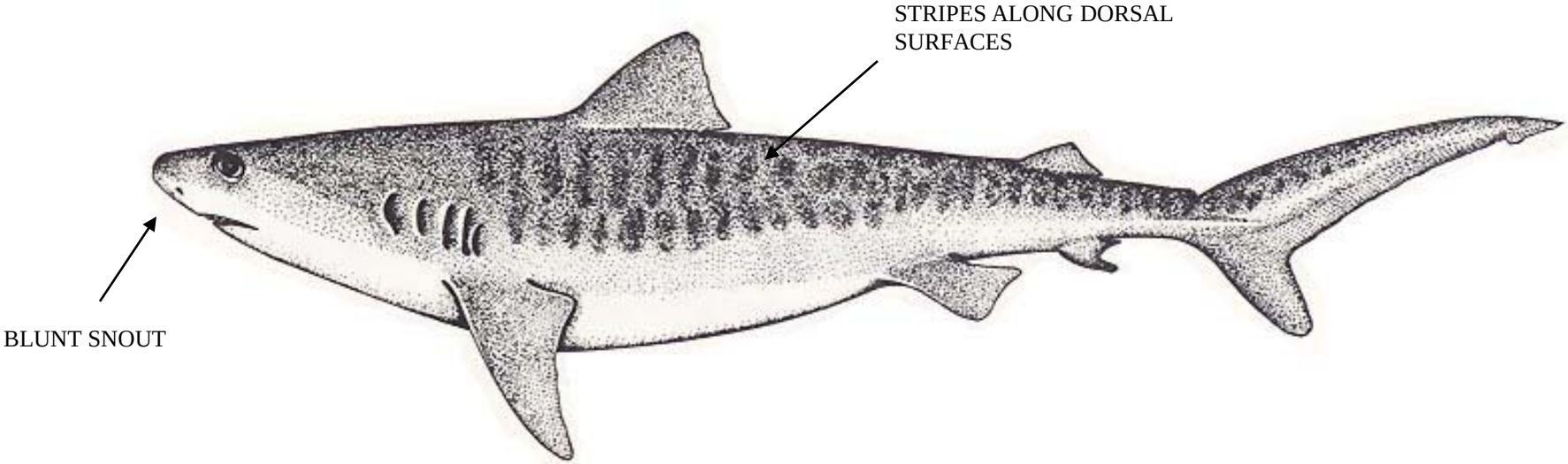
BULL



OCEANIC WHITETIP

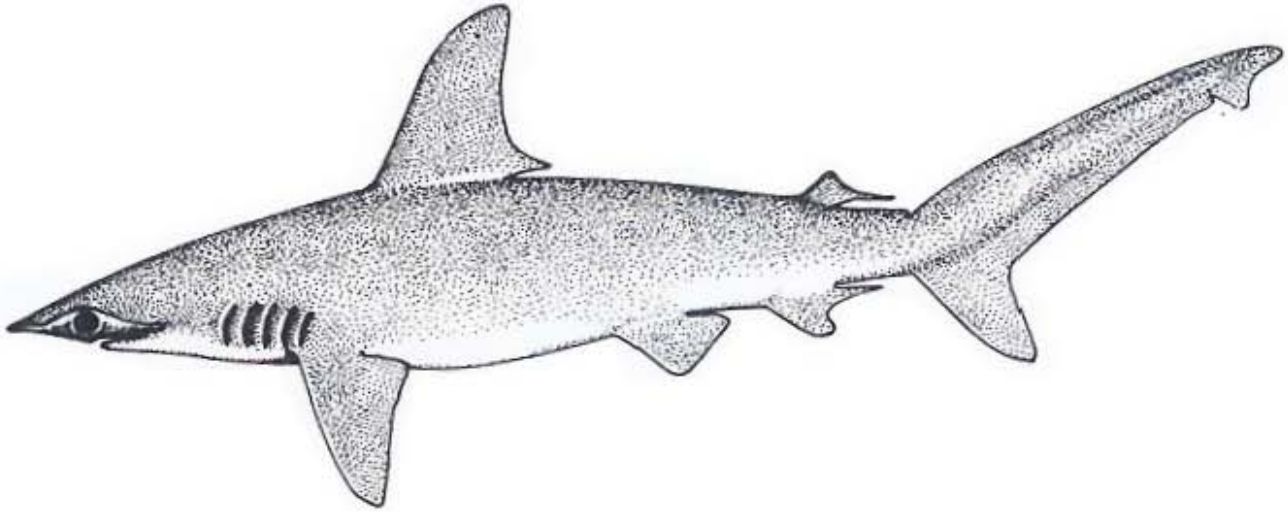


TIGER



HAMMERHEAD

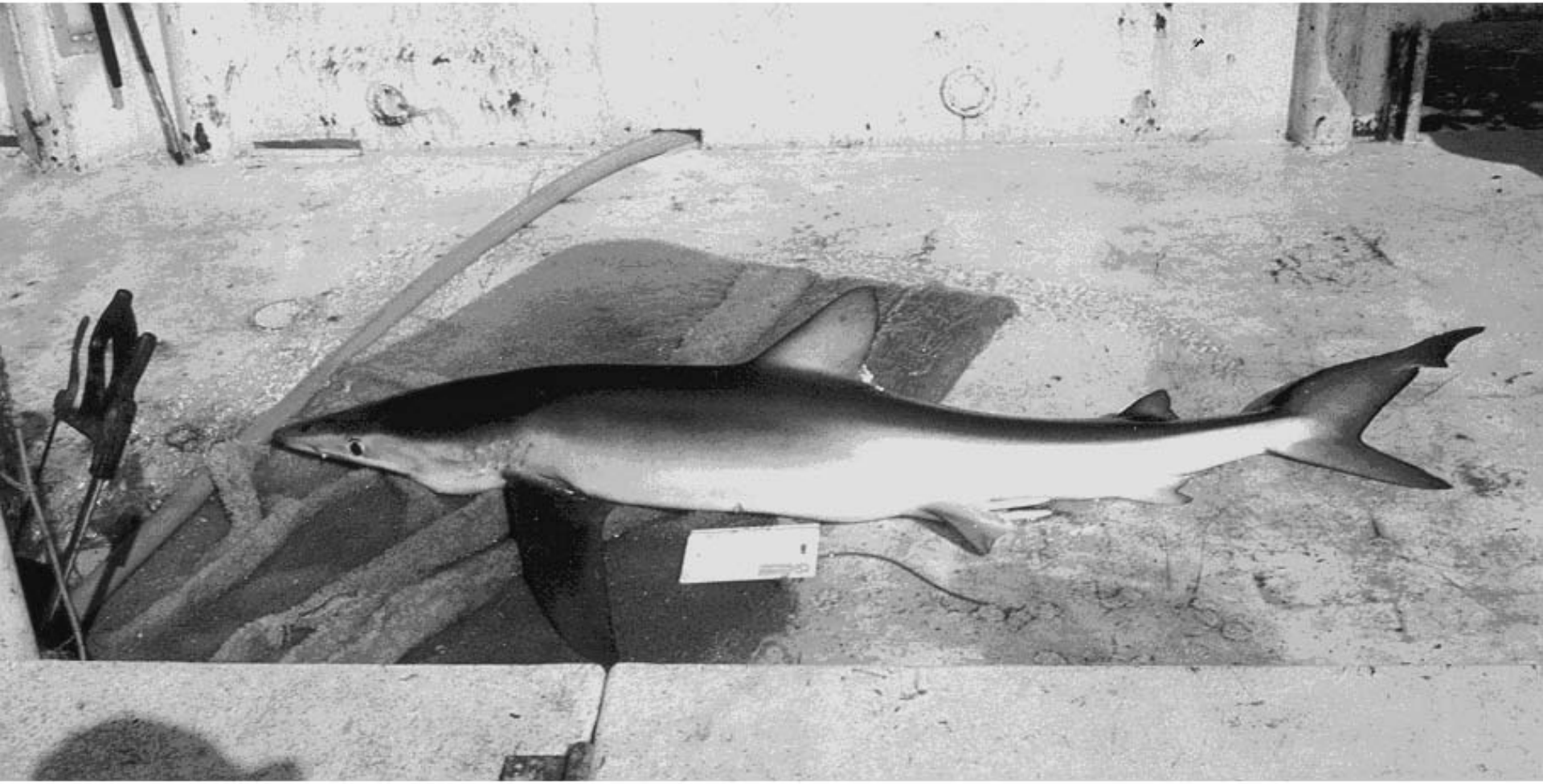
(PICTURED: SCALLOPED)



SCALLOPED

GREAT

SMOOTH



Blue shark

Shortfin mako

Longfin mako

Porbeagle

top: Porbeagle
center: Shortfin mako
bottom: Blue

Bigeye thresher

Common thresher

Dusky

Silky

Blacktip

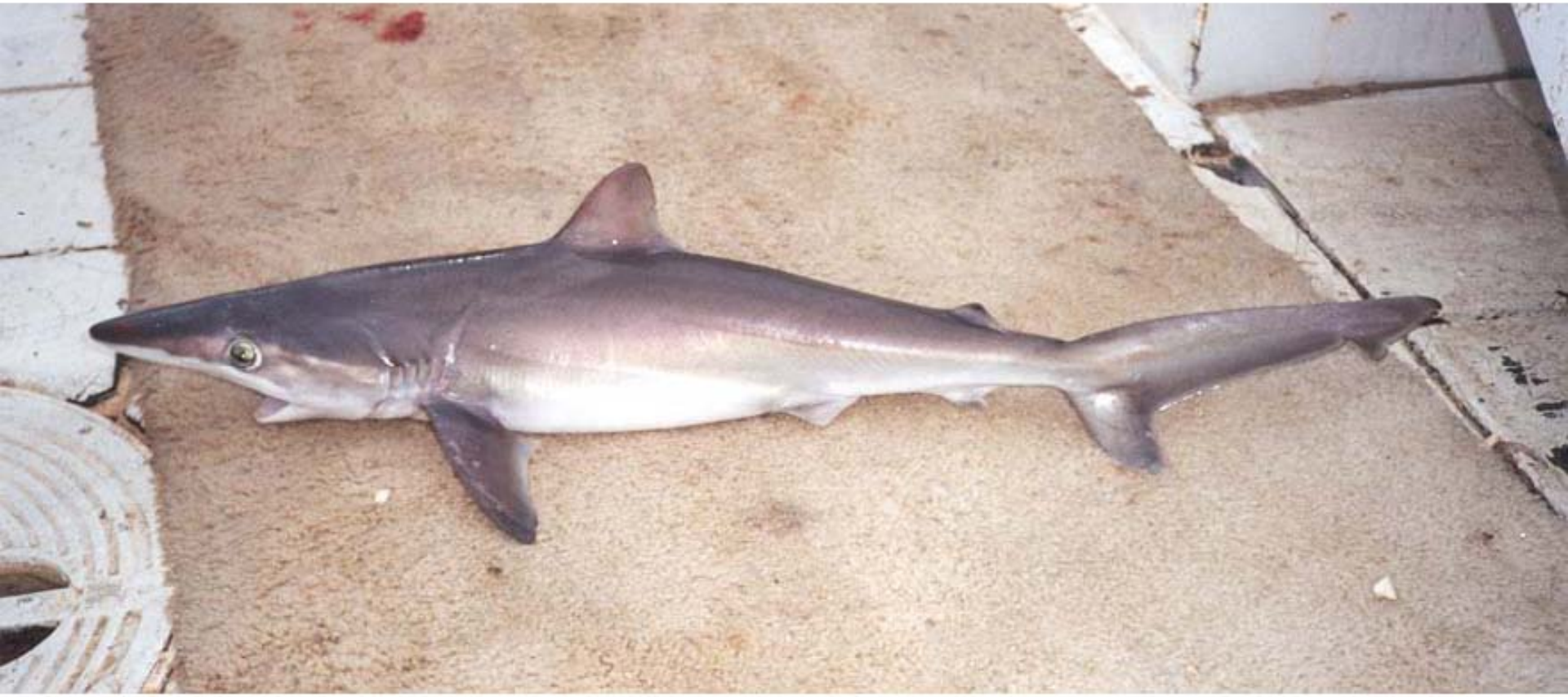
Spinner

top: Spinner
bottom: Blacktip

Bull

Sandbar

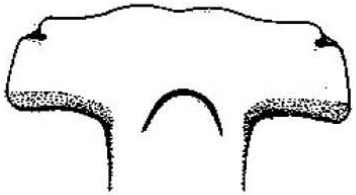
top: Silky
bottom: Night

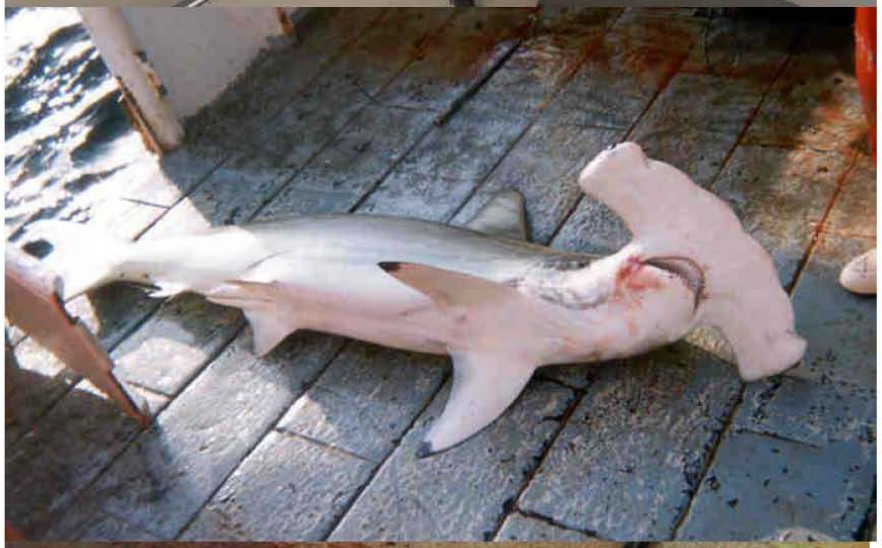


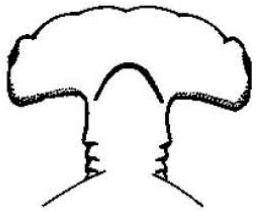
Night

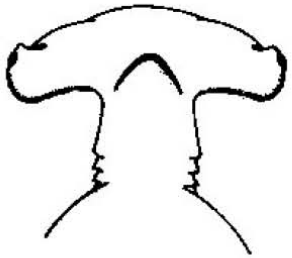
Great hammerhead

Scalloped hammerhead





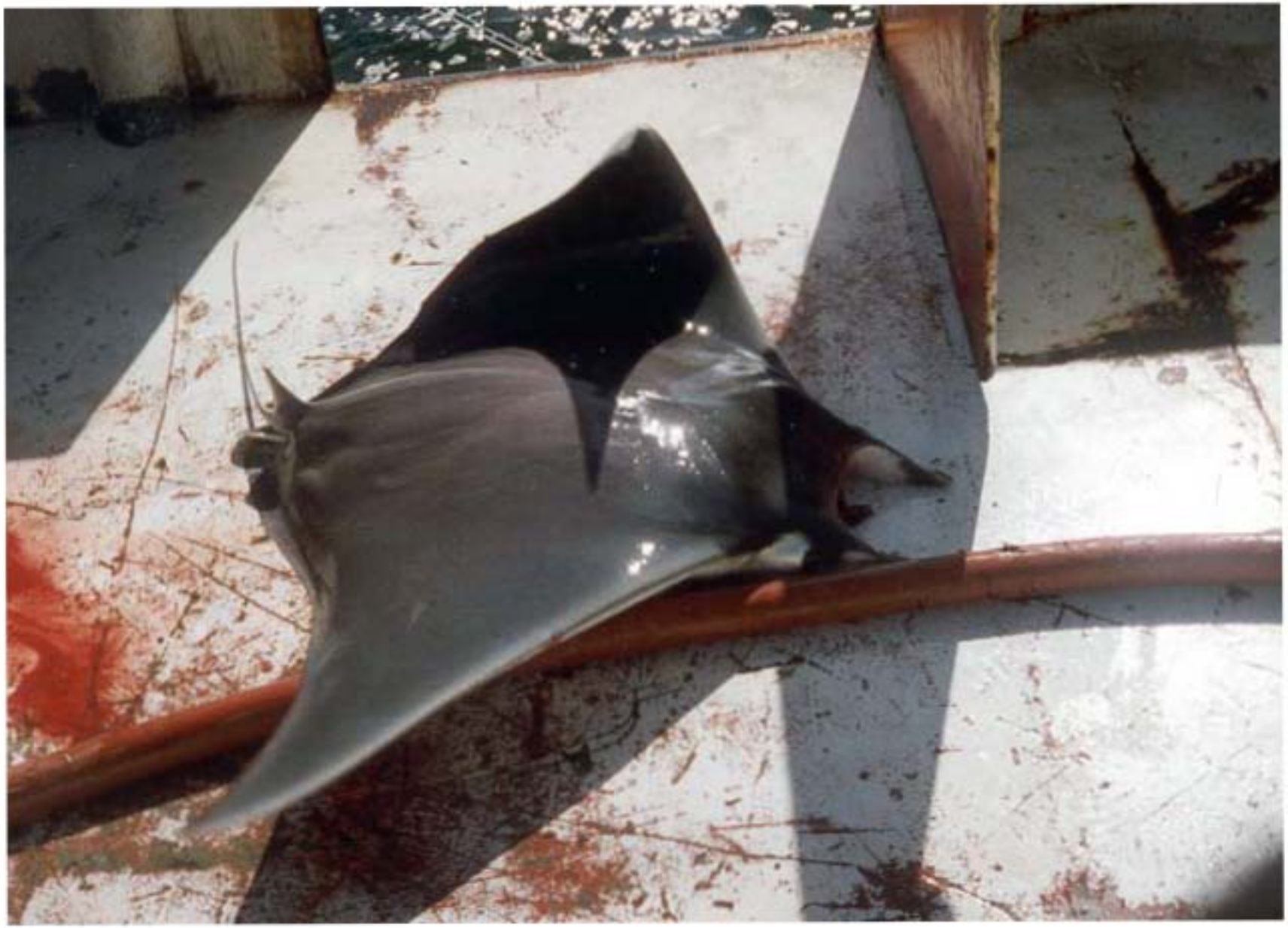




Oceanic whitetip

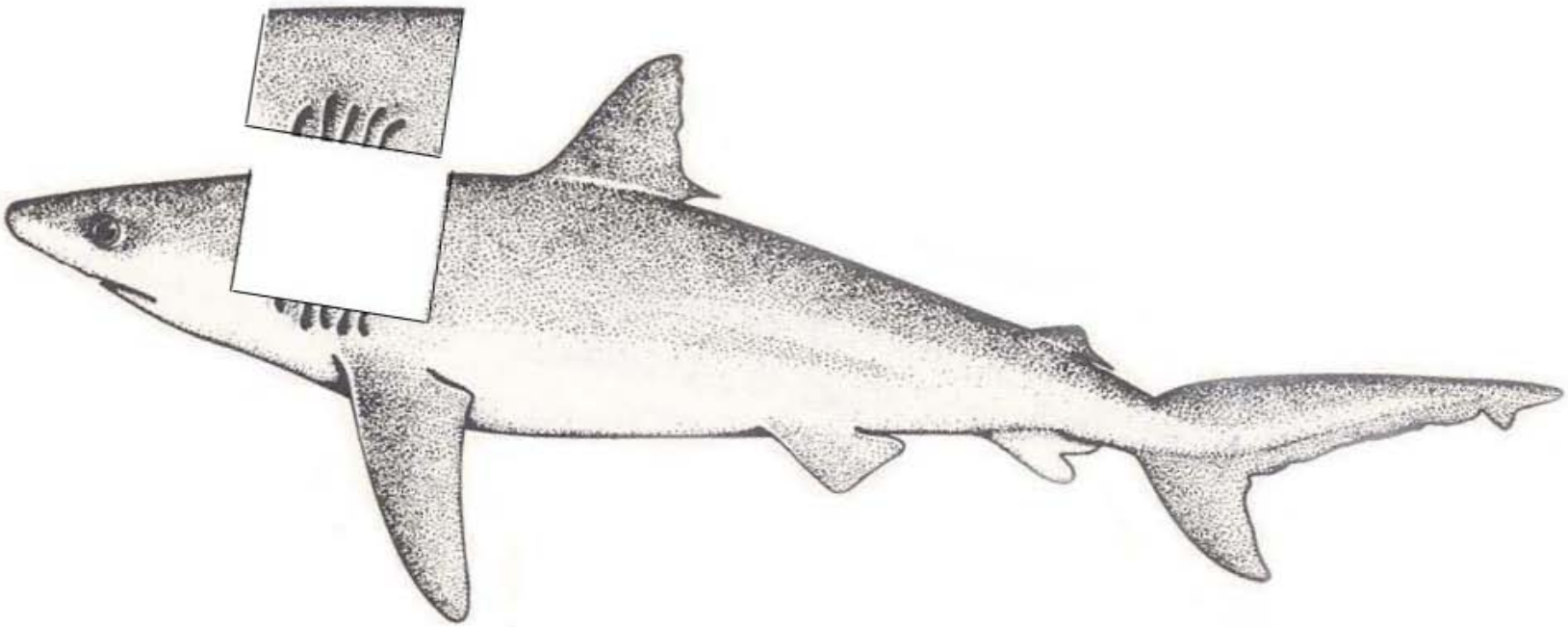
Tiger

Pelagic ray



Manta ray

Centra (Vertebrae) Collection



ID PHOTOGRAPHS ETC.

- One side view shot showing relationship of pectoral and dorsal fins
- Flip shark onto it’s back and take one photo showing the relationship between mouth width and snout length
- Photograph any other species-specific characteristics
- Note presence or absence of interdorsal ridge
- Collect portion of upper jaw for teeth/genetic ID

Regulations

- Sharks are split into management units subject to quota opening and closing (rare except for LCS)
- Minimum size regulations suspended until further notice
- Prohibited species includes dusky, longfin mako, and bigeye thresher sharks.