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TIGER SHARK

Order - Carcharhiniformes

Family - Carcharhinidae

Genus - *Galeocerdo*

Species - *cuvier*

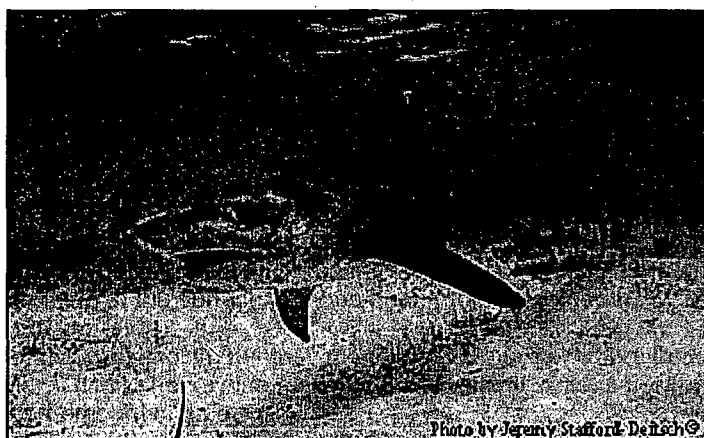


Photo by Jeremy Stafford-Deitch©

Taxonomy

First described by Peron and Lessueur in Lessueur (1822), the tiger shark was given the name *Squalus cuvier*. Later, Muller and Henle (1837) designated *Squalus arcticus* (Faber, 1829) as the type species and suggested the name *Galeocerdo tigrinus*. Various synonyms have been used since including: *Galeus cepedianus* Agassiz 1838, *Galeus maculatus* Ranzani 1840, *Carcharias fasciatus* Bleeker 1852, *Galeocerdo rayneri* McDonald & Barron 1868, *Galeocerdo obtusus* Klunzinger 1871, and *Carcharias hemprichii* Klunzinger 1871. The genus name *Galeocerdo* is derived from the Greek, galeos = "shark" and the Latin, "cerdus" = the hard hairs of pigs.

Common Names

Tiger shark, leopard shark, maneater shark, and spotted shark are English language common names that refer to this shark. Other names include alecrin (Spanish), amarillo (Spanish), amzani (Swahili), bhoavar (Gujarati), cabron (Spanish), cação cabeça-chata (Portuguese), carcharias (Greek), cucut macan (Malay), itachizame (Japanese), jaguara (Portuguese), jarjur (Arabic), jarjur knaza (Arabic), kethulam (Telugu), ma'o patapata (Rapa), mangeur d'hommes (French), mano pa'ele (Hawaiian), ma'o tore tore (Tahitian), marracho tigre (Portuguese), naiufi (Samoan), ngutukao (Maori), pating (Tagalog), pilithatte (Kannada), pulli sravu (Malayalam), qio saga (Fijian), requin demoiselle (French), requin tigre (Creole), requin tigre commun (French), requin-demoiselle (French), requin-tigre (French), squalo tigre (Italian), te babatababa (Kiribati), tiburón tigre (Spanish), tierhaai (Afrikaans), tigerhai (German), tigre (Portuguese), tigrisháfur (Icelandic), tiikerihai (Finnish), tijgerhaai (Dutch), tintorera (Spanish), tintureira (Portuguese), wulluven sorrah (Tamil), and zarlacz tygrysi (Polish).

Geographical Distribution

The tiger shark is found throughout the world's temperate and tropical waters, with the exception of the Mediterranean Sea. It is a wide-ranging species that is at home both in the open ocean as well as shallow coastal waters. Reports of

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