PHILIPPINE PROTECTED SHARKS & RAYS

IDENTIFICATION GUIDE TO SHARK FINS & OTHER DERIVATIVES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

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Cover photo:
Participants handling samples of dried shark fins during the ASEAN CITES Shark Fin ID Training in Metro Manila, March 2018.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Participants of the Philippine Protected Shark and Ray Identification Guide to Shark Fins and other Derivatives for Law Enforcement pilot training on 30 September:

Editors:
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Design:

INTRODUCTION

Sharks are amongst the oldest surviving marine vertebrates on the planet. Due to their life history and biological characteristics, they are particularly vulnerable to overexploitation and population declines. Sharks mature late, have few young, and are long-lived.

Sharks as defined under the Food and Agriculture Organization includes all Sharks, Batoids, and Chimaeras.

Despite the limited understanding of the various roles of sharks in ecosystems, it is clear that they are key players in structuring food webs, whether they are at the top of the food chain or at lower trophic levels. The removal of sharks from an ecosystem has the potential to create significant negative changes to predator-prey interactions. Aside from ecological benefits, sharks have also been proven to boost local economies through non-extractive tourism activities.

Several international treaties such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), and regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) have been used to conserve targeted populations that have declined, many of which are still threatened due to illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing.

CITES is considered as one of the best tools to ensure that global trade does not threaten the survival of species. It operates through the listing of species on the respective Appendices. CITES regulates international trade in listed species through a system of permits and certificates in order to ensure that such trade is legal, sustainable, and traceable. As of 2019, CITES has enacted trade regulations for forty-six (46) of the commercially valuable and vulnerable shark and ray species.

The Philippines, a signatory to this convention, has a law that are anchored with the species listings in the CITES Appendices. As stipulated in the Philippine Fisheries Code, Republic Act (RA) 8550, as amended by RA 10654, species listed in the three CITES appendices are protected nationally unless a positive non-detriment finding (NDF) of trade/harvests to its population is provided.

As of August 2019, there are 25 species of sharks and rays present in the Philippines that are listed in the CITES Appendices. The occurrence of the species is based on *Pating Ka Ba?* An Identification Guide to Sharks, Batoids, and Chimaeras of the Philippines published in 2014 and updated based on current taxonomic nomenclature.

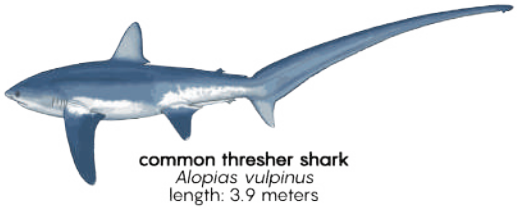
PHILIPPINE PROTECTED SHARKS

whale shark
Rhincodon typus
length: 20 meters

great white shark
Carcharodon carcharias
length: 7.2 meters

silky shark
Carcharhinus falciformis
length: 3.5 meters

oceanic whitetip shark
Carcharhinus longimanus
length: 3.5 meters

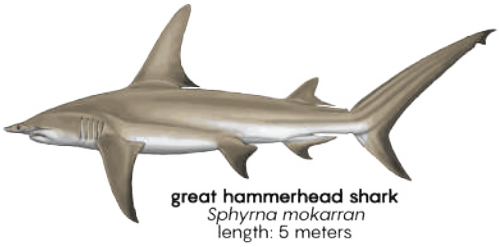


common thresher shark
Alopias vulpinus
length: 3.9 meters

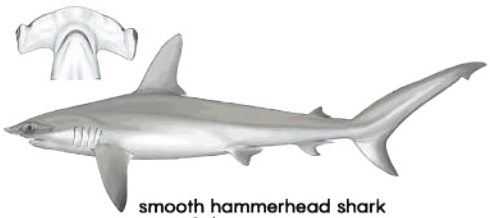
big-eye thresher shark
Alopias superciliosus
length: 4.8 meters

pelagic thresher shark
Alopias pelagicus
length: 3.9 meters

scalloped hammerhead shark
Sphyrna lewini
length: 4.2 meters



great hammerhead shark
Sphyrna mokarran
length: 5 meters



smooth hammerhead shark
Sphyrna zygaena
length: 5 meters

shortfin mako shark
Isurus oxyrinchus
length: 4.45 meters

longfin mako shark
Isurus paucus
length: 4.27 meters

Illustrations are not drawn to scale.

PHILIPPINE PROTECTED RAYS

Illustrations are not drawn to scale.

[1] Synonymous with *Manta alfredi* and *Manta birostris*.

[2] *Mobula mobular* and *Mobula japanica* are conspecific, with *Mobula mobular* being the valid name.

[3] *Mobula kuhlii* and *Mobula eregoodootenkee* are conspecific, with *Mobula kuhlii* being the valid name.

RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES

The Philippine Protected Sharks and Rays: Identification Guide to Shark Fins and other derivatives ("ID guide") is intended to help enforcement personnel identify the dried and wet fins, rostrum and gill rakers of traded CITES-listed shark species found in trade **based on their unprocessed morphological characteristics**. Once processed, these characteristics will be difficult to use and other identification methods, such as DNA testing, will be more appropriate.

The ID guide may be used by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the Bureau of Customs, members of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and the Philippine National Police (PNP , deputized fish wardens or *Bantay Dagat* and other enforcement agencies.

This ID guide may also be used by citizen scientists, people's organizations (POs), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in identifying commonly traded shark fins and other derivatives in their locality.

The preliminary visual identification of shark fins and other derivatives will establish probable cause to detain shipments and other enforcement settings so that expert opinion can be sought or genetic testing can confirm the visual identification.

The aim of this ID guide is to **aid the Philippine Government in supporting the implementation and enforcement of the CITES shark listings**, as well as the amended Philippine Fisheries Code, in promoting legal and sustainable trade.

SHARKS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Shark Utilization, Trade, and Catch Information

Shark products and by-products are historically of low economic value, but have increasingly become valuable fisheries resources.

Shark meat in domestic production is directly utilized in the local market as part of the local cuisine, or as minced fish products (i.e., fishballs) which are more difficult to trace. Anecdotal evidence suggests that there is generally no preference for species or size, and thus all may be utilized.

The shark fin trade is a major driver of shark overexploitation in the global trade. Shark fins are one of the most expensive seafood commodities in the market, estimated to be worth USD400-550 million annually. Nearly all species of sharks and rays are considered commercially valuable for their fins, but their value varies according to color, size, thickness and fin needle content (ceratotrichia).

Preferred species are the hammerheads, mako and blue sharks, followed by requiem sharks, great white, threshers, tiger and tope sharks. Wedgefishes and giant guitarfishes are considered as some of the most superior in quality, containing more fin needles than other species, fetching about USD 964/kg of dried fins.

The Philippine National Statistics Office listed at least eight countries importing dried, unsalted shark fins from the Philippines in 1990-1994, namely Australia, Brunei, PR China, Japan, Korea, Singapore ,Taiwan, and Hong Kong SAR. Hong Kong SAR was the top importer then, receiving about 90% (86.7 mt) of the total traded shark fins from the Philippines.

From 2006-2015, Hong Kong SAR imported a total of about 500 mt originating from the Philippines.

Shark Utilization and Responsible Management

Sustainable utilization of shark resources require responsible management, trade, and consumption. Each of these elements require adequate governance, transparency, and monitoring to provide confidence that traded shark products are from sustainable sources.

There is a need for a concerted effort to ensure that shark utilization in the country is sustainable.

RELEVANT POLICIES

In the Philippines, the laws to conserve sharks are limited and varied. The first shark-related policy was enacted in 1998 to protect whale sharks and manta rays through a Fisheries Administrative Order. Nationally, only CITES-listed species are protected through the Philippine Fisheries Code. Only Cebu (the province and chartered cities within the island) has afforded full protection of all shark species. The province of Palawan affords full protection to shark species listed in the IUCN Red List that are classified under Critically Endangered, Endangered, and Vulnerable. Some Local Government Units have municipal ordinances protecting specific shark species of interest in the locality, such as Batangas, Panglao and Daanbantayan.

RELEVANT AGENCIES

CITES Management Authority

The CITES Management Authority (MA) has two of the most basic roles: granting permits and certificates under the terms of the Convention communicating with the CITES Secretariat and other PartieS

The CITES MA also prepares and circulates official information on CITES, especially newly listed species on the Appendices and the dates wherein these regulations will enter into force.

Apart from those mentioned, the other tasks of the CITES MA include providing education and information materials and training to aid enforcement, as the CITES MA is also the lead enforcement agency

Philippine CITES Management Authority for Aquatic/Marine Species

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
Fisheries Inspection and Quarantine Division
Officer-in-Charge, Edwyn Alesna
Tel: +63 (2) 455 28 87 Fax: +63 (2) 426 65 32
Email: edwyn_alesna@yahoo.com; fqwrs_bfar@gmail.com

For Aquatic/Marine Species found in the Province of Palawan
Palawan Council for Sustainable Development
Executive Director, Nelson Devanadera
Telefax: +63 (48) 434 42 34
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+63 (2) 376 27 75 (Manila Liaison Office)
Email: oed@pcsd.gov.ph; nelson_devanadera@yahoo.com

CITES and Traceability

Traceability systems for trade are used to ensure the quality of fish and associated products, and as a tool to demonstrate their legality and origin from a sustainably managed fishery.

These systems provide a mechanism to store and exchange information throughout the supply chain, enabling the product to be traced no matter what process or transformation (processing) the product may undergo. This provides a mechanism to verify the integrity of chains of custody.

Traceability is fundamental to the effective operation and implementation of CITES, to support the system of permits and certificates required for listed species.

Parties to the convention are required to maintain records of international trade in listed species, and provide the CITES Secretariat with annual trade reports. An exporting State issues permits only after determining that the trade is not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild (sustainable) through a Non-detriment Finding (NDF) and declaring that the specimens were lawfully acquired.

The declarations of legality made by National CITES Management authorities generally require information about the specimen's origin and any processing stages the specimen has undergone.

Fisheries Law Enforcement: Standard Operating Procedures

1. Information collection / Planning
2. Operational Planning
3. Operation
    a. Land-based
    b. Sea-based
4. Detection and Apprehension
5. Investigation, Elements of Violations and Handling of Evidence
    a. Secure the crime scene
    b. Evidence tagging and labeling
    c. Collection and packaging
    d. Seizure and custody of evidence
    e Documentation and reporting
6. Administrative and criminal procedures

Philippine Aquatic Red List Committee (PARLC)
Subcommittee on Cartilaginous Fishes

The Philippine Aquatic Red List Committee (PARLC) for aquatic wildlife was created by the BFAR to develop the criteria for the determination of threatened aquatic wildlife in the Philippines and their classification as Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable or other internationally accepted categories. The PARLC is also in charge of developing the criteria for the determination and identification of critical habitats.

For species identification

Chair, Francisco Torres Jr (francisco_torresjr@yahoo.com)

Co-Chair, Moonyeen Alava (mnralava@gmail.com)

Committee Members:
Jean Asuncion Utzurrum (jeanutz@gmail.com)
Joe Pres Gaudiano (adon.gaudiano@gmail.com)
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Ma. Theresa Aquino (dugongdoc@gmail.com)

National Fisheries Research and Development Institute

The National Fisheries Research and Development Institute was created to to recognize the important role of fisheries research in the development, management, conservation and protection of the country's fisheries and aquatic resources.

For species identification

National Fisheries Research and Development Institute
http://nfrdi.da.gov.ph/
Tel: (+632) 376-5133
Fax: (+632) 372-5063

NFRDI Genetic Fingerprinting Laboratory (GFL)
http://nfrdigfl.weebly.com
Tel: (+632) 376-1178
Email: nfrdi.gfl@gmail.com

Non Government Organizations (NGOs)

The Save Sharks Network Philippines (SSNP) is a coalition of organizations and institutions in the Philippines' scientific, NGO, and tourism communities working on shark and ray research and conservation.

It was co-founded in 2014 by Save Philippine Seas (SPS), Marine Wildlife Watch of the Philippines (MWWP), and Greenpeace Philippines. SSNP organizes a series of activities and creates campaigns to raise the public's awareness on sharks, and identify issues and ways forward for the conservation, management, and utilization of sharks.

Among its projects were the 1st Shark Summit in 2014 in Cebu, 2nd Shark Summit in Dumaguete in 2016, 3rd Shark Summit in Bohol in 2018 and national campaigns to support the protection of sharks and rays in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS).

The SSNP also launched several publications relating to the conservation of shark resources in the Philippines, including the *"Pating, Saan Ka Pararating?" 2020 Conservation Roadmap for Sharks and Rays in the Philippines*; and the *Shark Conservation Legislation: A Toolkit for Policymakers*.

For trainings and other resources

Save Sharks Network Philippines
Co-founder, Marine Wildlife Watch of the Philippines
Executive Director, Arnel Yaptinchay
Tel. No.: +63(2) 889-0733
Email: info@mwwphilippines.org
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PRACTICAL PROTOCOL TO IDENTIFICATION

For the identification of Philippine protected species of sharks and rays, be aware of any chain of custody procedure that needs to be adhered to for the evidence to be admissible in a court of law.

Guidelines for the identification of one shark fin
Scenario: The investigator only has one single fin and would like to know if the shark species it belongs to is protected in the Philippines. No associated data are available.

Steps:
1. Identify the type of fin (dorsal, pectoral or others?)
   - Go to page 17 of this ID guide
2. Have a preliminary look at the pictures and descriptions of the characteristics of the different protected species in the Philippines based on this manual.
   - Based on physical characteristics of the fins, make a hypothesis on the species identification.

If some doubts remain and/or further verification of the identification of species is required:

3. Contact the PARLC-BFAR, NFRDI, or MWWP for species validation with photos.
4. Collect genetic sample from the shark fin.

Guidelines for the identification of multiple fins
Scenario: The investigator is presented with multiple fins.

Steps
1. Record as much associated data as possible.
   NSAP Shark and Ray Form 7 (Next page)
2. Identify the type of fins, then manually separate into piles of fin types (i.e., dorsal, left and right pectorals)
3. Within each pile (e.g. dorsal), further sort into groups of visually similar fins.
   - See if the number of visually similar dorsal fins, matches the number of visually similar pectoral fins, and so on.
   - If yes, this will indicate if the fins can be matched to a whole animal and will help in the identification process.
4. Using this manual, visually identify the fins based on the physical characteristics.

If some doubts remain and/or further verification of the identification of species is required:
5. Contact the PARLC-BFAR, NFRDI, or MWWP for species validation.
6, Collect genetic sample from each of the visually similar fin groups.

National Stock Assessment Program

NSAP FORM 7

SHEET NO. _____

REGION _____

SHARK AND RAY DATA SHEET

ENUMERATOR/S:			
LANDING CENTER:			**DATE:**
BOAT NAME:			
FISHING GEAR:			**FISHING DEPTH (m):**
FISHING TIME	**DEPARTURE**	**ARRIVAL**	**LOCATION CODE:**

SAMPLE CODE

E N U – M M

D D Y Y Y Y –

R __ __ – X X

TOT (CM)

WEIGHT (KG)

SEX

☐ M ☐ F ☐ U

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

1 ☐ WHOLE BODY (DORSAL SIDE)
2 ☐ HEAD (CLOSE-UP)
3 ☐ CENTER OF DISC
4 ☐ WHOLE BODY (SIDE VIEW)
5 ☐ HEAD SIDE (CLOSE-UP)
6 ☐ BASE OF TAIL & END OF TAIL
7 ☐ WHOLE BODY (VENTRAL SIDE)
8 ☐ MOUTH (CLOSE-UP)
9 ☐ W/ or W/O CLASPERS

SAMPLE COLLECTED (ONLY FOR WEDGEFISH)

1 ☐ WHOLE FISH
2 ☐ WHOLE FISH W/O FINS
3 ☐ MUSCLE
4 ☐ PECTORAL FIN CLIP
5 ☐ OTHER/S

REMARKS:

IF SPECIMEN IS PREGNANT

Total no. of Pups | No. of Pups collected

NOTE: Please note down TOT and weight of each pup under remarks or at the back of the sheet with the corresponding mother's sample code.

SAMPLE CODE
E N U – M M
D D Y Y Y Y –
R __ __ – X X
TOT (CM)
WEIGHT (KG)
SEX
☐ M ☐ F ☐ U
PHOTO DOCUMENTATION
1 ☐ WHOLE BODY (DORSAL SIDE)
2 ☐ HEAD (CLOSE-UP)
3 ☐ CENTER OF DISC
4 ☐ WHOLE BODY (SIDE VIEW)
5 ☐ HEAD SIDE (CLOSE-UP)
6 ☐ BASE OF TAIL & END OF TAIL
7 ☐ WHOLE BODY (VENTRAL SIDE)
8 ☐ MOUTH (CLOSE-UP)
9 ☐ W/ or W/O CLASPERS
SAMPLE COLLECTED (ONLY FOR WEDGEFISH)
1 ☐ WHOLE FISH
2 ☐ WHOLE FISH W/O FINS
3 ☐ MUSCLE
4 ☐ PECTORAL FIN CLIP
5 ☐ OTHER/S
REMARKS:
IF SPECIMEN IS PREGNANT
Total no. of Pups | No. of Pups collected
NOTE: Please note down TOT and weight of each pup under remarks or at the back of the sheet with the corresponding mother's sample code.

SAMPLE CODE
E N U – M M
D D Y Y Y Y –
R __ __ – X X
TOT (CM)
WEIGHT (KG)
SEX
☐ M ☐ F ☐ U
PHOTO DOCUMENTATION
1 ☐ WHOLE BODY (DORSAL SIDE)
2 ☐ HEAD (CLOSE-UP)
3 ☐ CENTER OF DISC
4 ☐ WHOLE BODY (SIDE VIEW)
5 ☐ HEAD SIDE (CLOSE-UP)
6 ☐ BASE OF TAIL & END OF TAIL
7 ☐ WHOLE BODY (VENTRAL SIDE)
8 ☐ MOUTH (CLOSE-UP)
9 ☐ W/ or W/O CLASPERS
SAMPLE COLLECTED (ONLY FOR WEDGEFISH)
1 ☐ WHOLE FISH
2 ☐ WHOLE FISH W/O FINS
3 ☐ MUSCLE
4 ☐ PECTORAL FIN CLIP
5 ☐ OTHER/S
REMARKS:
IF SPECIMEN IS PREGNANT
Total no. of Pups | No. of Pups collected
NOTE: Please note down TOT and weight of each pup under remarks or at the back of the sheet with the corresponding mother's sample code.

LEGEND:

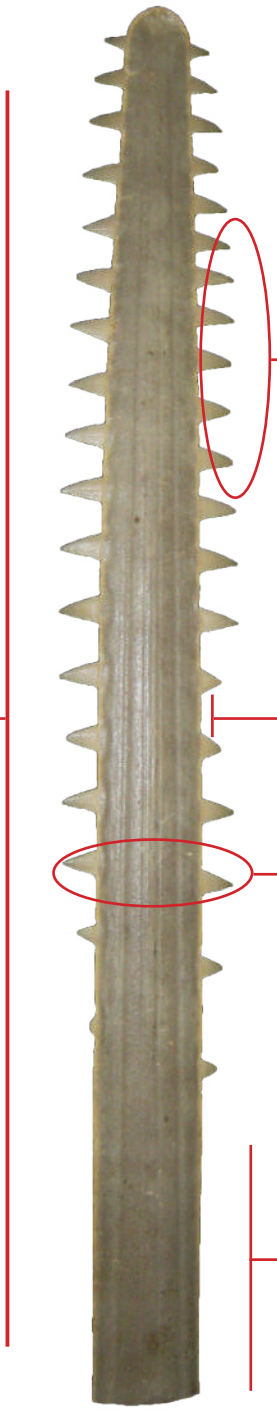
ENU - Enumerator MM - Month DD- Day YYYY-Year R- Region XX- Specimen No. TOT- Total length

IDENTIFICATION GUIDE TO SHARK FINS & OTHER DERIVATIVES

SAWFISHES
Family *Pristidae*

Knifetooth sawfish
Anoxypristis cuspidata

CITES	CMS	IUCN Red List Status
Appendix I (2007)	Appendices I and II (2014)	ENDANGERED



Teeth are blade-like: flat and broad similar to a triangle

Rostrum is long and slender, barely tapering

Color is uniformly slate-grey with bluish tinge

Rostral teeth are widely separated

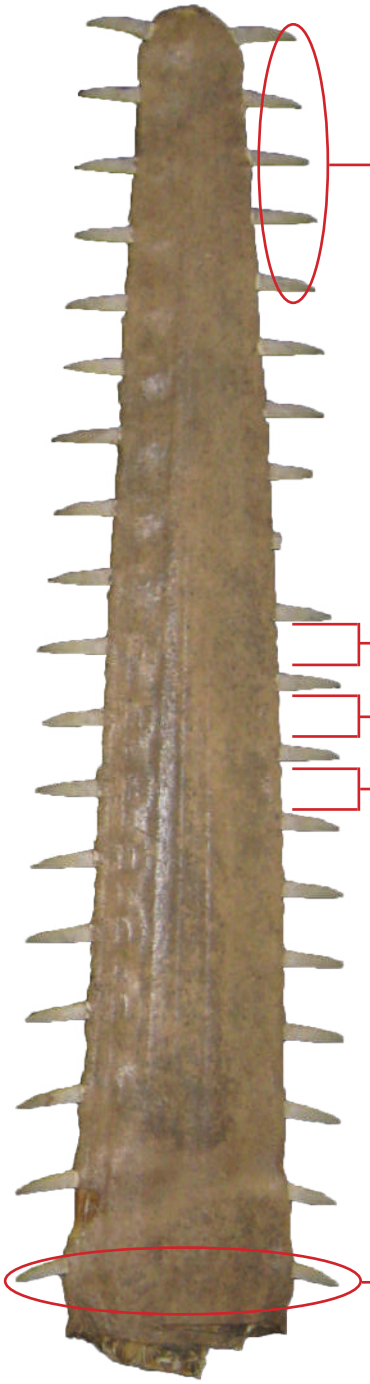
Usually has 16-33 pairs of rostral teeth

No rostral teeth on posterior quarter

SAWFISHES
Family *Pristidae*

Largetooth sawfish
Pristis pristis

CITES	CMS	IUCN Red List Status
Appendix I (2007)	Appendices I and II (2014)	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED



Teeth are peg or awl-like: flat and long

Rostrum is broad through out its length, converging distally

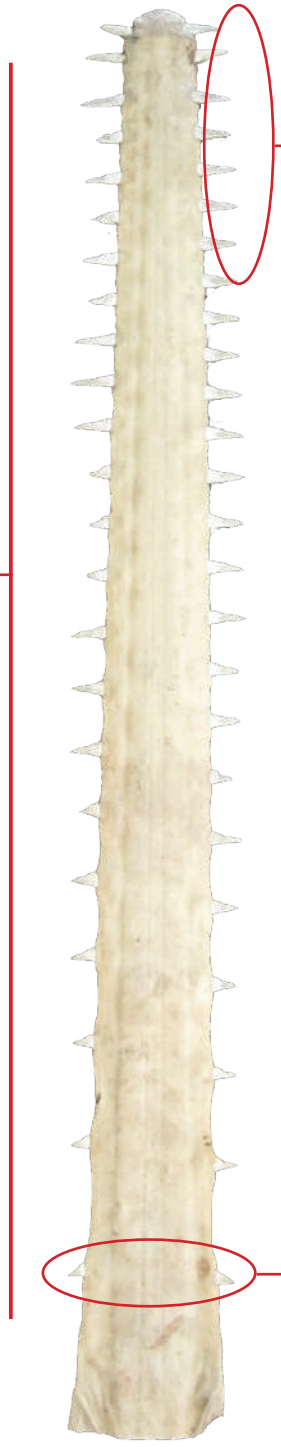
Color is yellowish to grayish

Teeth are equally spaced

Usually has 14-23 pairs of rostral teeth, starting near base

Green sawfish
Pristis zijsron

CITES	CMS	IUCN Red List Status
Appendix I (2007)	Appendices I and II (2014)	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED



Teeth are peg or awl-like: flat and long

Rostrum is narrow

Color is uniformly olive to greenish brown

Usually has 24-31 pairs of rostral teeth, starting near base

MANTAS AND DEVILRAYS
Genus *Mobula*

Distribution:

- Mobulid rays are found worldwide in tropical and temperate waters and caught in targeted fisheries as well as incidental catch in a variety of gear types.

Trade:

- Mobulids were traditionally utilised for their meat, but the largest species are now targeted specifically for their gill plates which are marketed as a medicinal product in Asian communities.

The two *Manta* species (reclassified as *Mobula* in 2017) and the other species of *Mobula* rays are difficult to identify and distinguish without an identification guide.

Reef manta ray
Mobula alfredi

CITES	CMS	IUCN Red List Status
Appendix II (2014)	Appendix I (2014)	VULNERABLE

Giant manta ray
Mobula alfredi

CITES	CMS	IUCN Red List Status
Appendix II (2014)	Appendix I (2014)	VULNERABLE

Gill Plate Identification

Large size, longer than 30 cm

Color is uniformly brown or black

MANTAS AND DEVILRAYS
Genus *Mobula*

Giant devil ray
Mobula mobular, includes *M. japanica*

CITES	CMS	IUCN Red List Status
Appendix II (2017)	Appendix I (2014)	ENDANGERED

Shortfin devil ray
Mobula kuhlii, includes *M. eregoodootenkee*

CITES	CMS	IUCN Red List Status
Appendix II (2017)	Appendix I (2014)	DATA DEFICIENT

Chilean devil ray
Mobula tarapacana

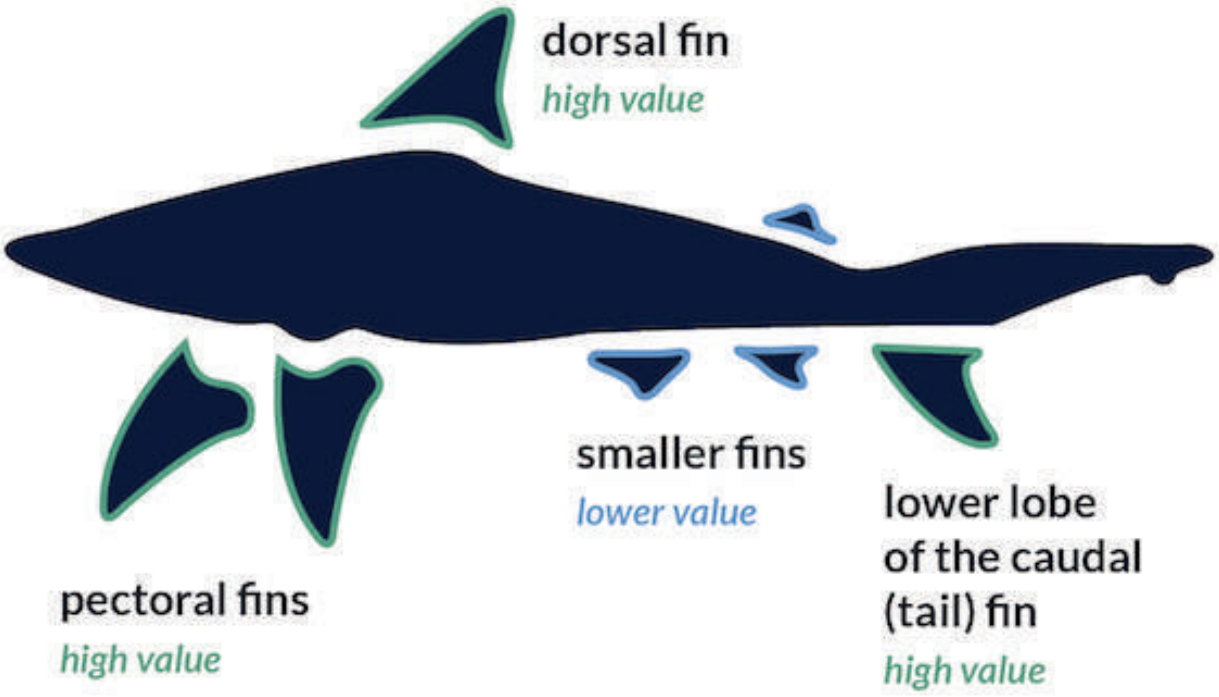
CITES	CMS	IUCN Red List Status
Appendix II (2017)	Appendix I (2014)	VULNERABLE

Bentfin devil ray
Mobula thurstoni

CITES	CMS	IUCN Red List Status
Appendix II (2017)	Appendix I (2014)	NEAR THREATENED

Gill Plate Identification

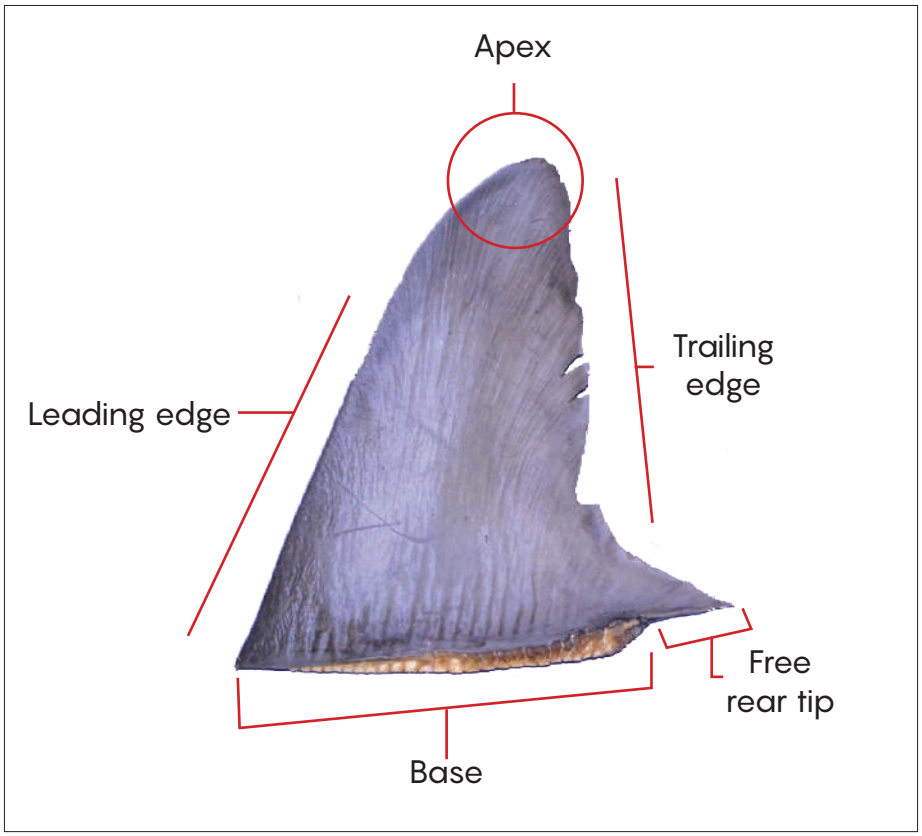
PARTS OF A SHARK



PARTS OF A SHARK FIN

Dorsal Fin

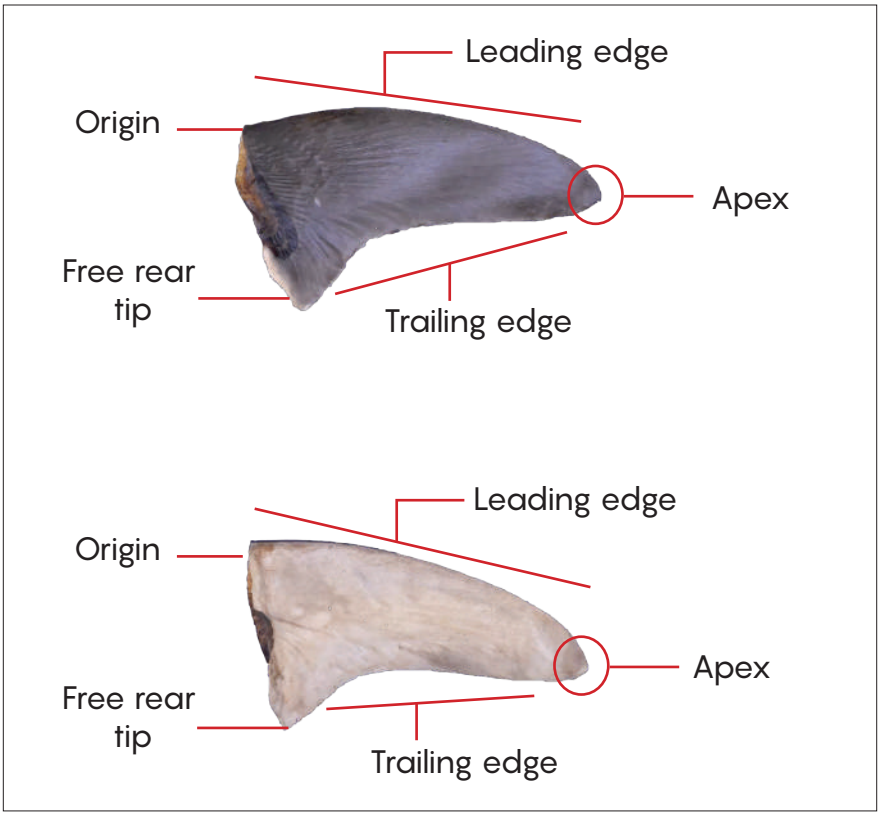
Color
Same color for both sides



Pectoral Fins

Dorsal Side (Top view)
Darker color

Ventral Side (Bottom view)
Lighter color



THRESHER SHARKS
Genus *Alopias*

Distribution:
- *A. supercilosus* and *A. vulpinus* have a circumglobal distribution
- *A. pelagicus* is only found in the Indo-Pacific

Trade:
- All three species are traded primarily for their highly valuable fins, and fetch high prices in market destinations such as Indonesia, Singapore and Japan.

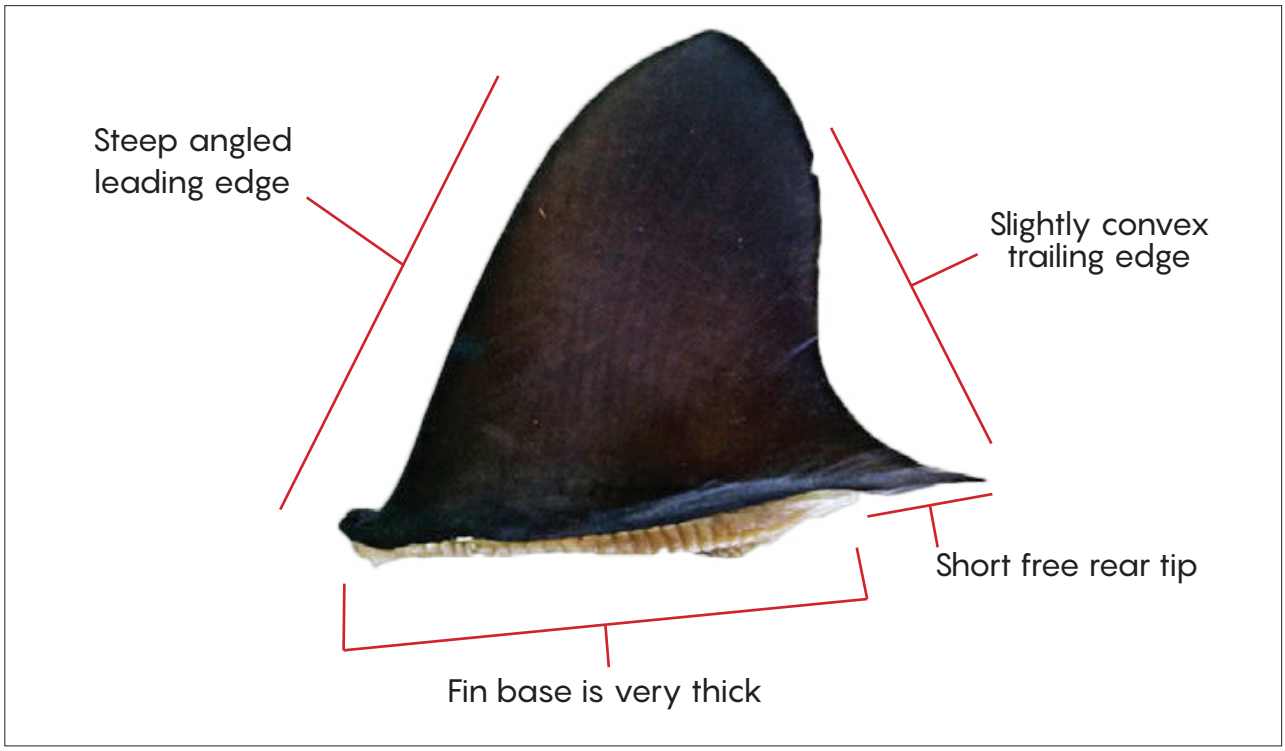
Philippines:
- There were records of long-line fisheries in Donsol Sorsogon specifically targeting thresher sharks.
- There are records of thresher shark meat in Cebu being used in fishballs.

Pelagic thresher shark
Alopias pelagicus

CITES	CMS	IUCN Red List Status
Appendix II (2017)	Appendix II (2015)	VULNERABLE

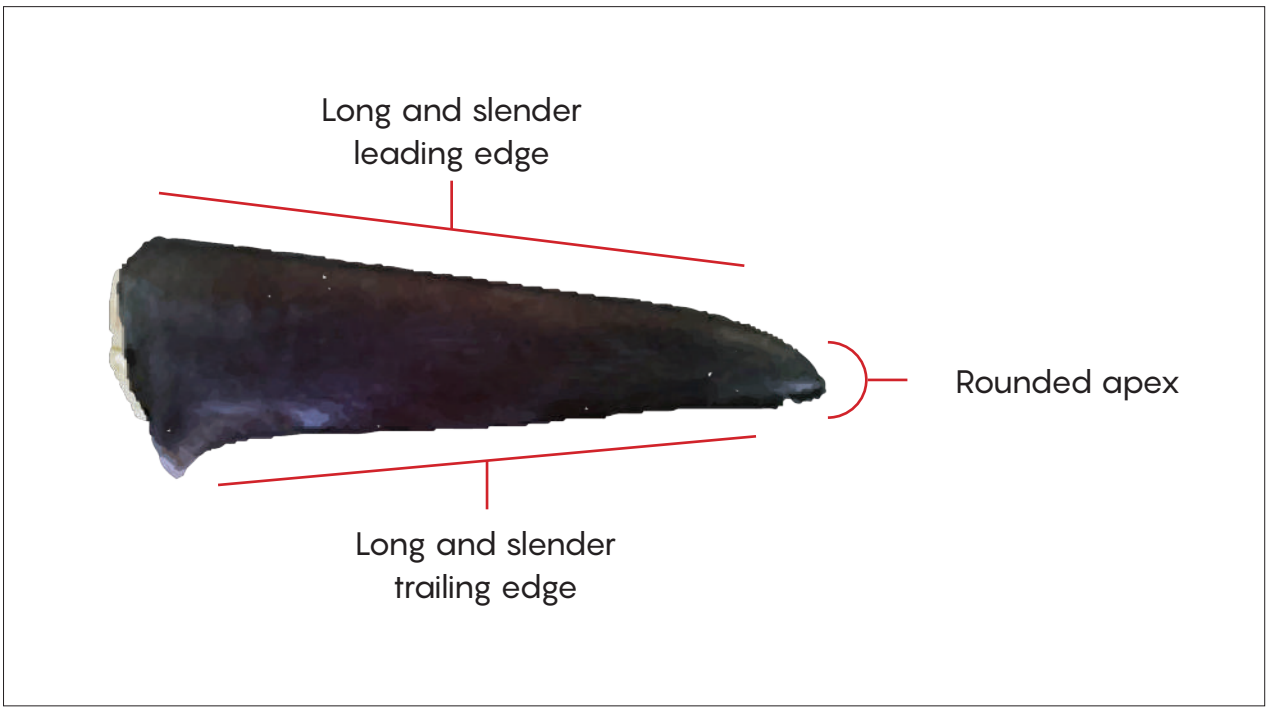
1st Dorsal Fin

Shape	Color
Broad & upright	Dark grey to dark grey-brown

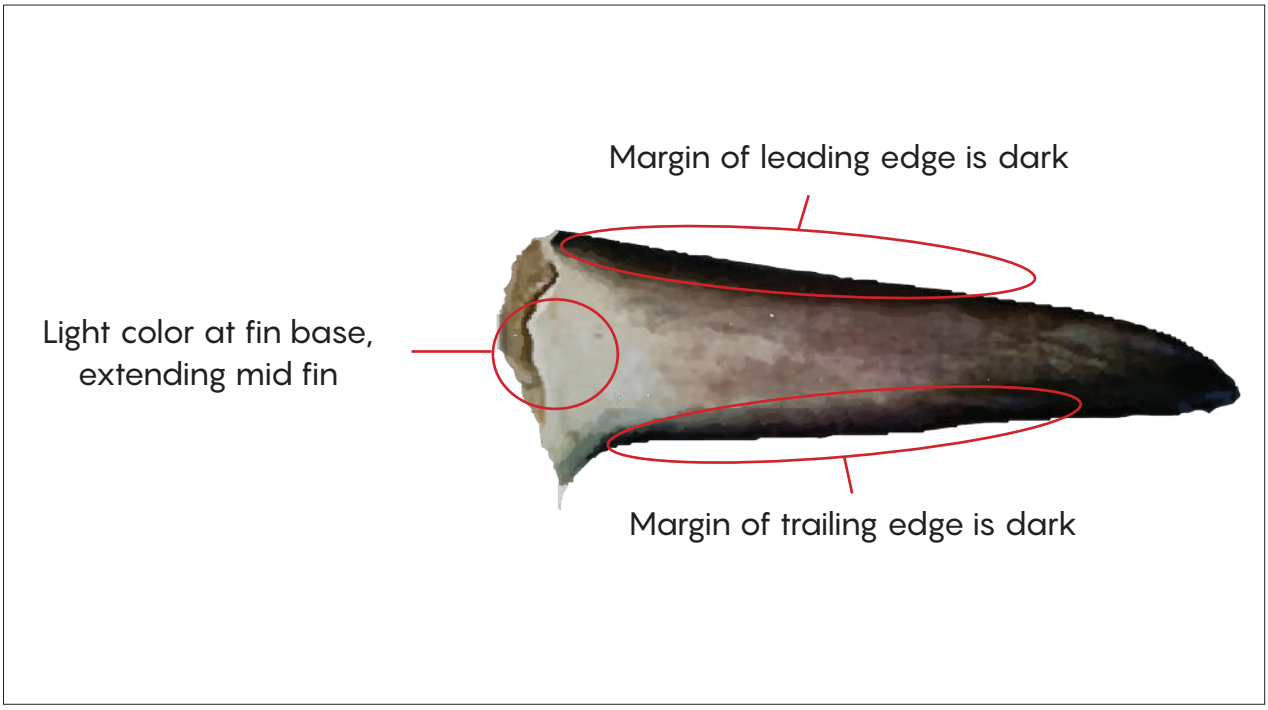


Pelagic thresher shark
Alopias pelagicus

Pectoral Fin
Dorsal (Top) View



Pectoral Fin
Ventral (Bottom) View



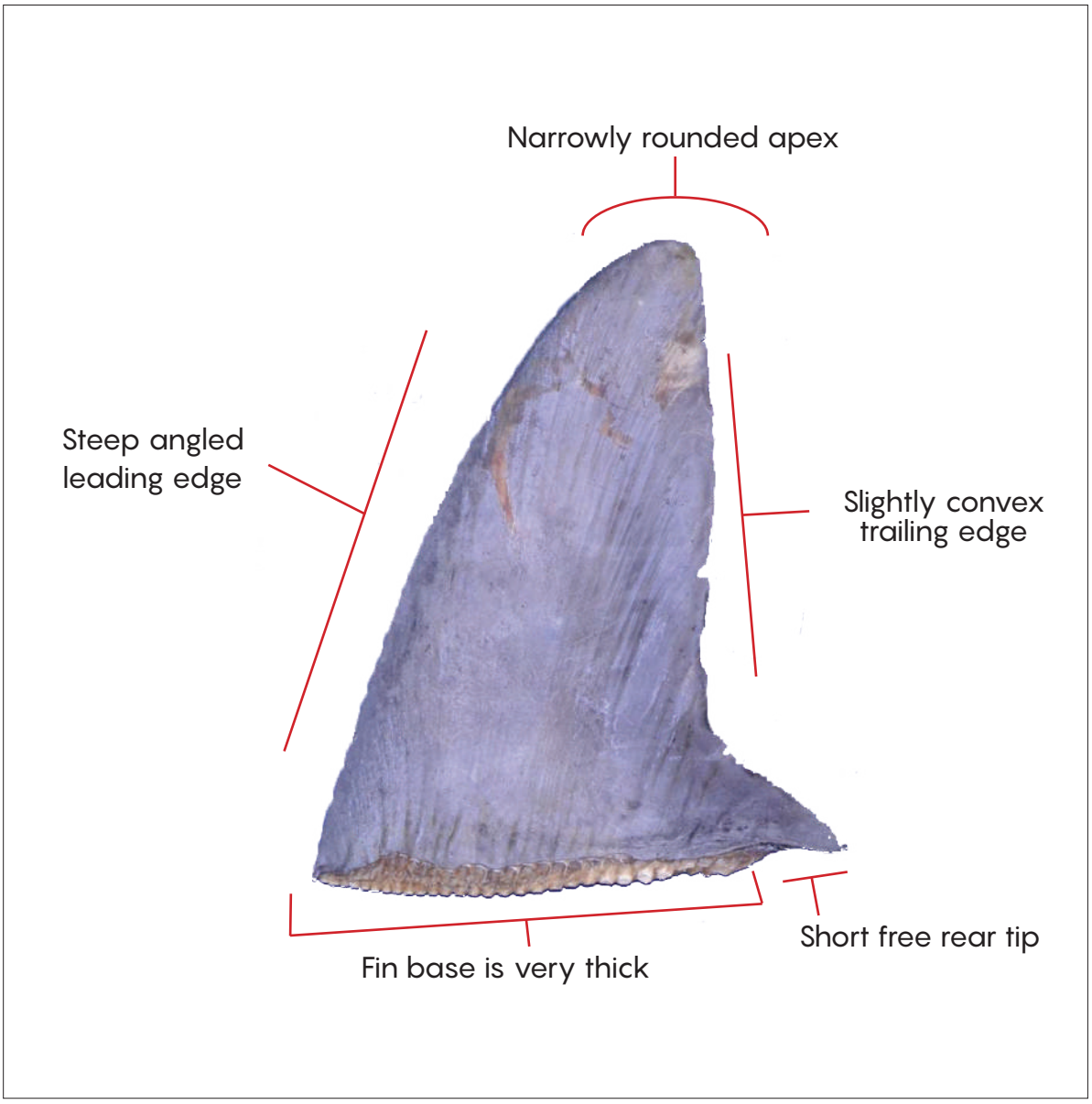
THRESHER SHARKS
Genus *Alopias*

Common thresher shark
Alopias vulpinus

CITES	CMS	IUCN Red List Status
Appendix II (2017)	Appendix II (2015)	VULNERABLE

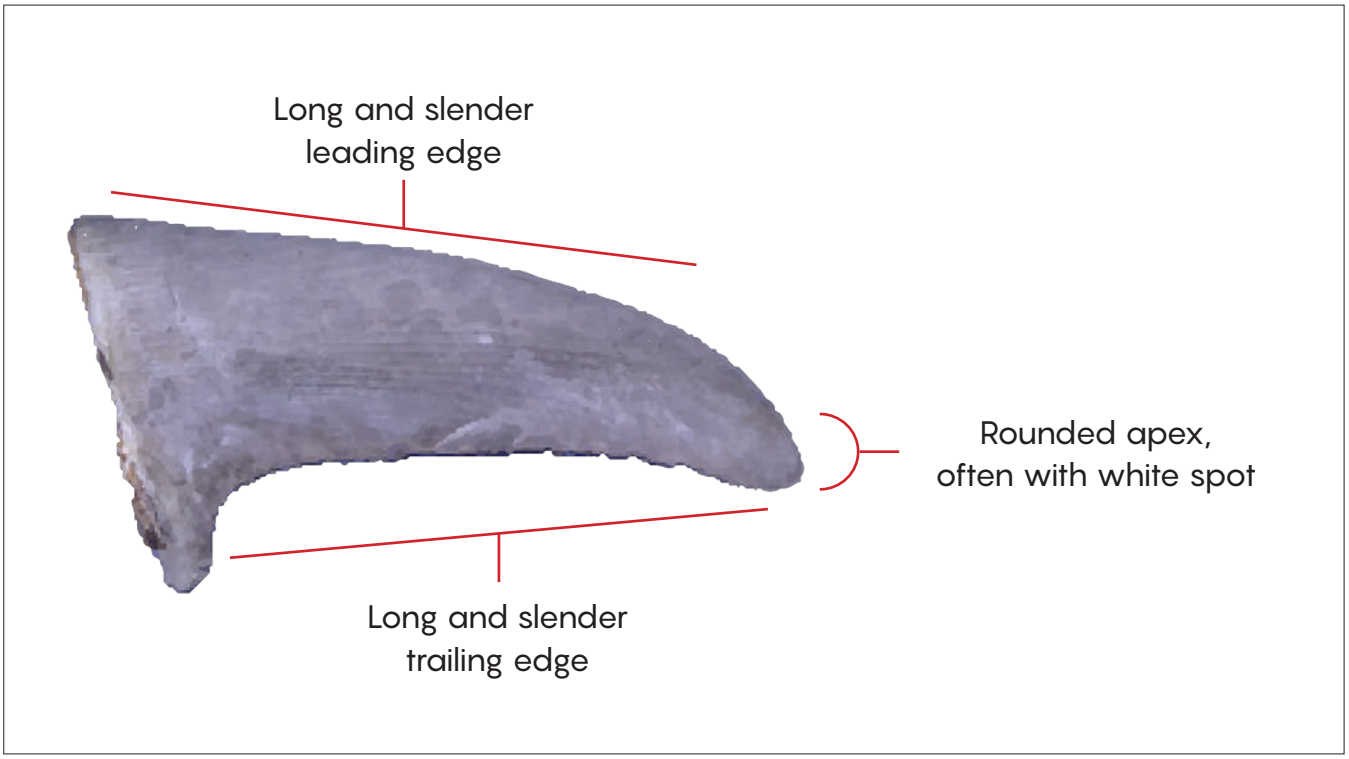
1st Dorsal Fin

Shape	Color
Tall & erect	Dark grey to dark grey-brown

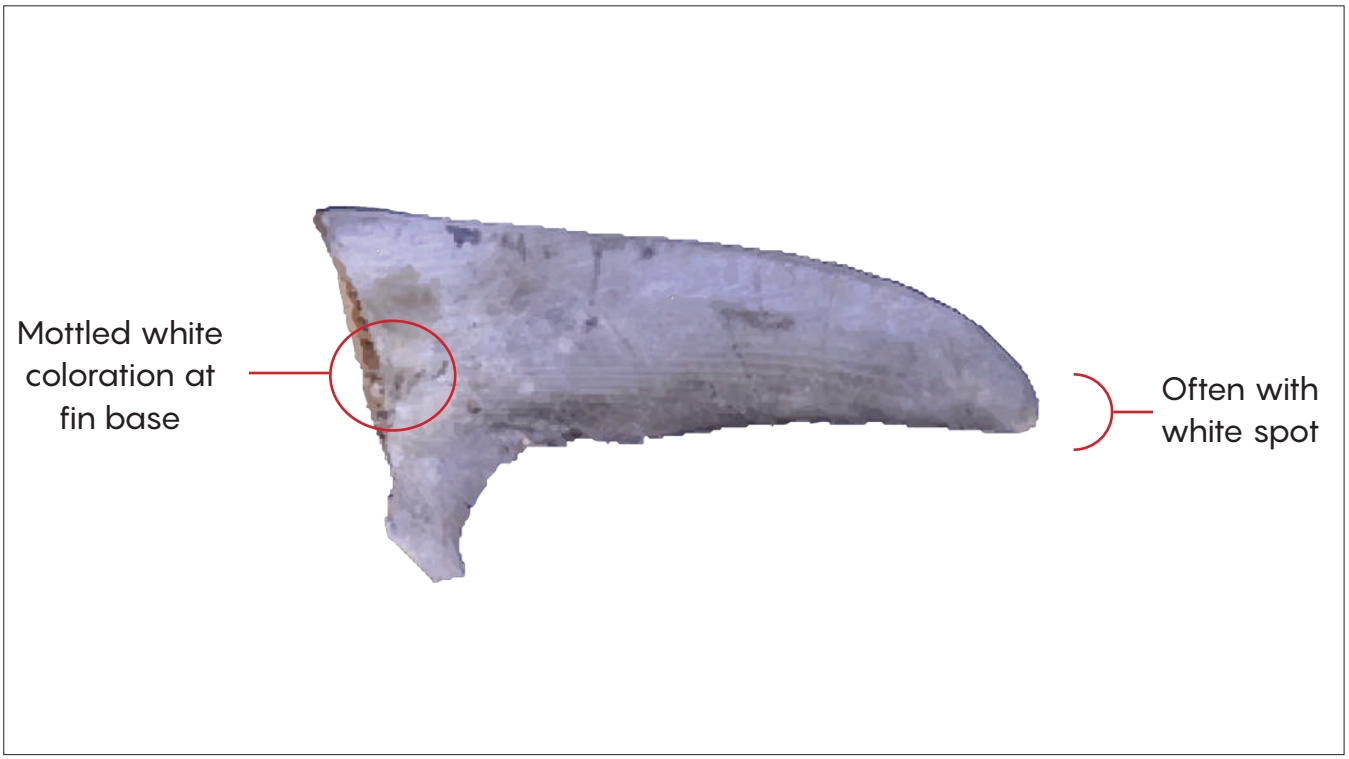


Common thresher shark
Alopias vulpinus

Pectoral Fin
Dorsal (Top) View



Pectoral Fin
Ventral (Bottom) View



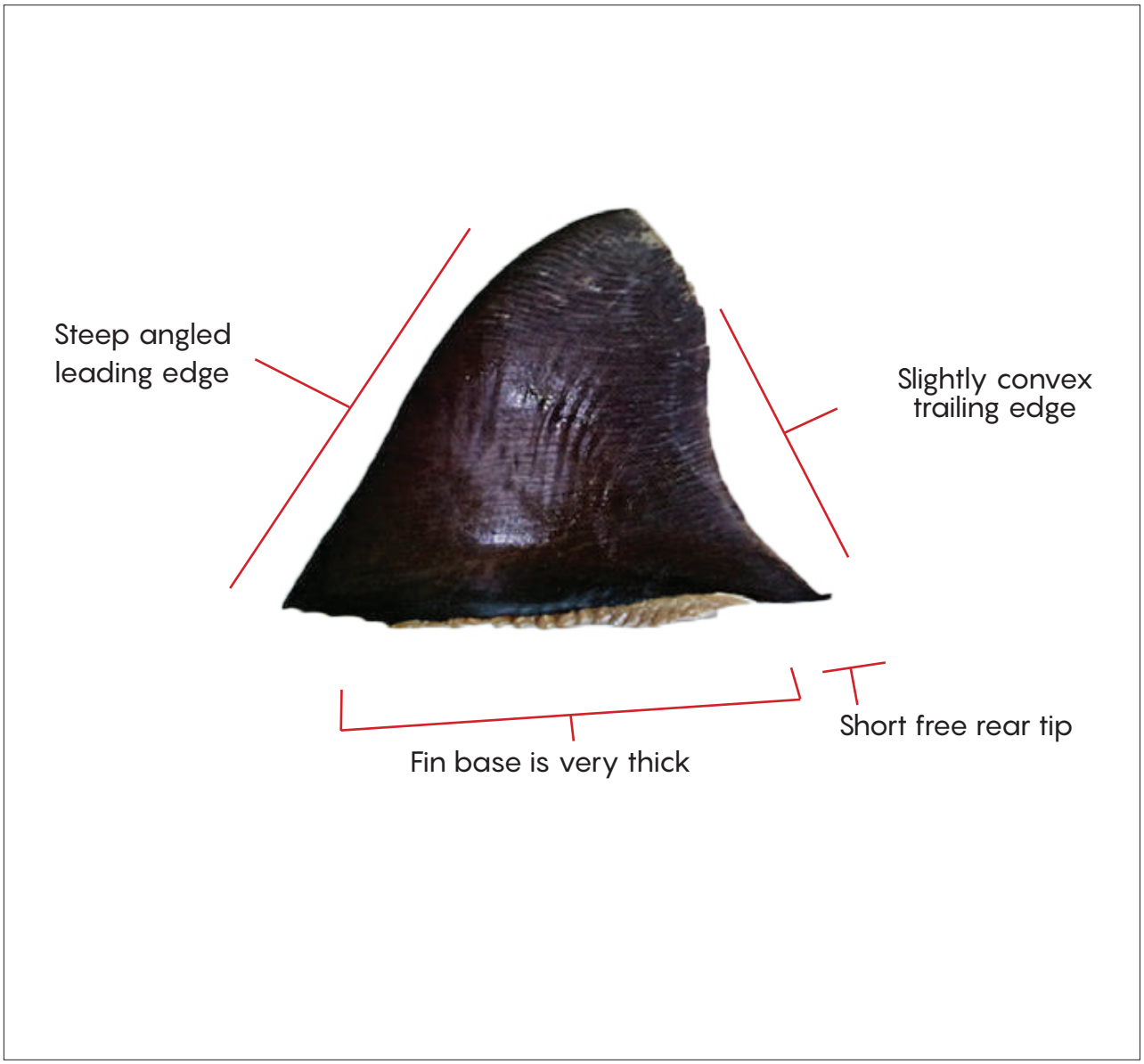
THRESHER SHARKS
Genus *Alopias*

Big-eye thresher shark
Alopias superciliosus

CITES	CMS	IUCN Red List Status
Appendix II (2017)	Appendix II (2015)	VULNERABLE

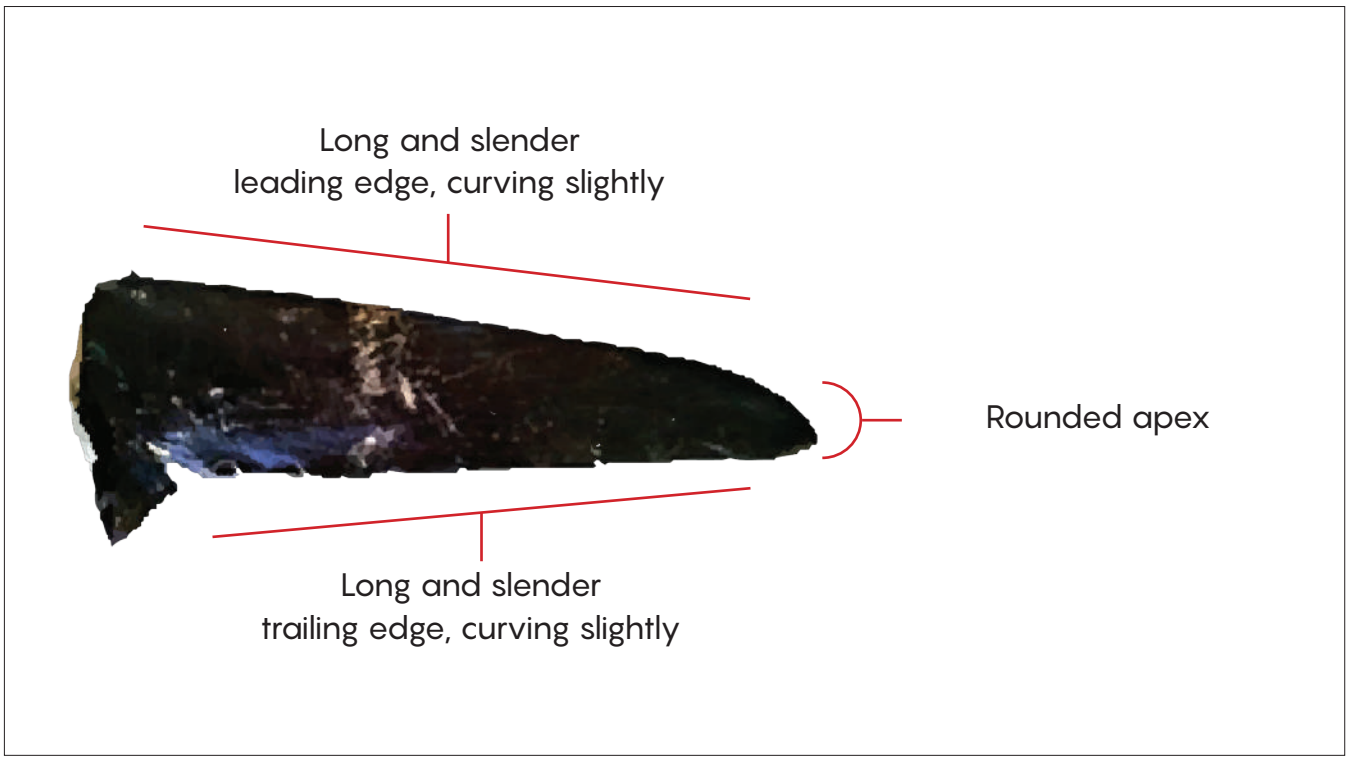
1st Dorsal Fin

Shape	Color
Broad & Erect	Dark grey to dark grey-brown

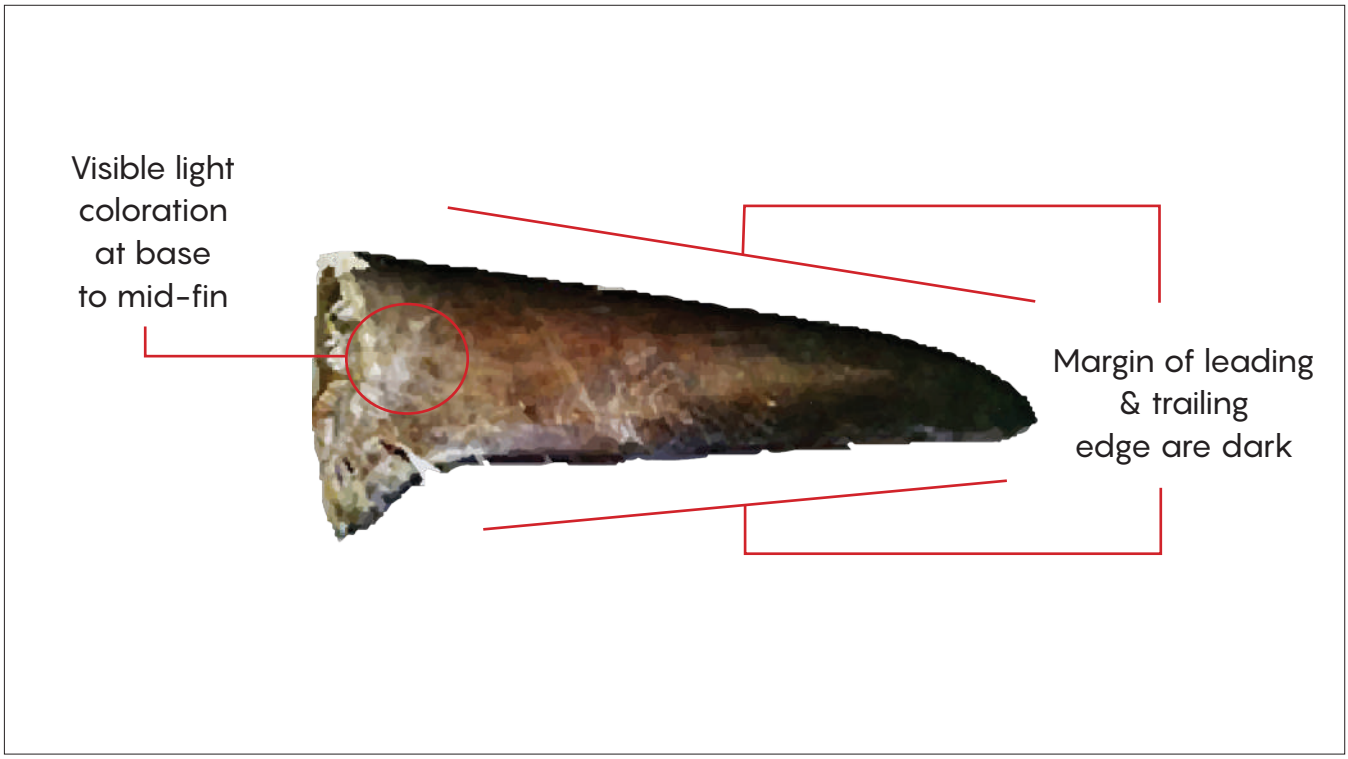


Big-eye thresher shark
Alopias superciliosus

Pectoral Fin
Dorsal (Top) View



Pectoral Fin
Ventral (Bottom) View



SILKY SHARK
Carcharhinus falciformis

Trade:

- Both its meat and fins are traded, but its fins are considered high-value and is the second most commonly traded in the global fin trade.

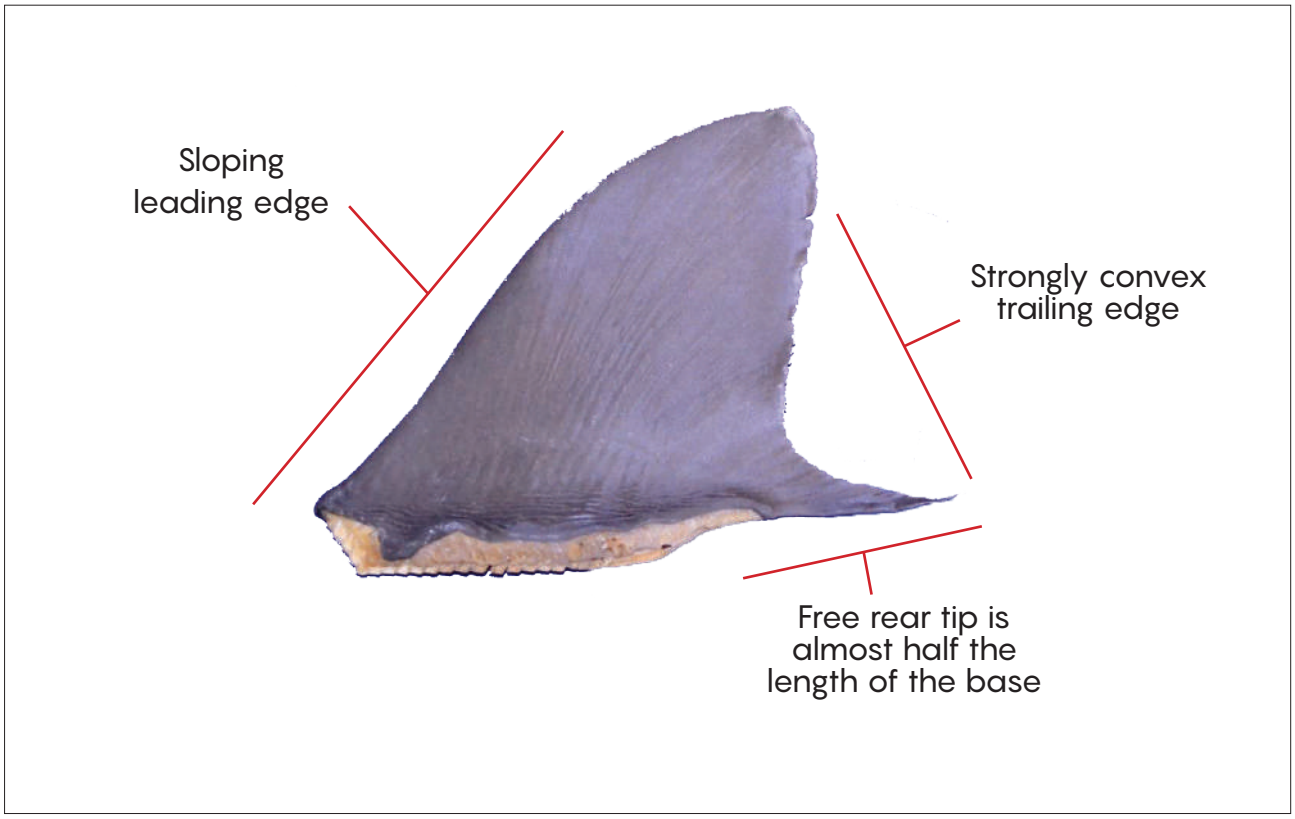
Philippines:

- Retention of silky shark is prohibited in many oceanic pelagic fisheries outside of the Indian Ocean, including the Pacific Ocean under the WCPFC, which the Philippines is a member of.

CITES	CMS	IUCN Red List Status
Appendix II (2017)	Appendix II (2015)	VULNERABLE

1st Dorsal Fin

Shape	Color	Texture
Sloping	Uniform grey to grey-brown	Dull when dry, smooth with small dentricles

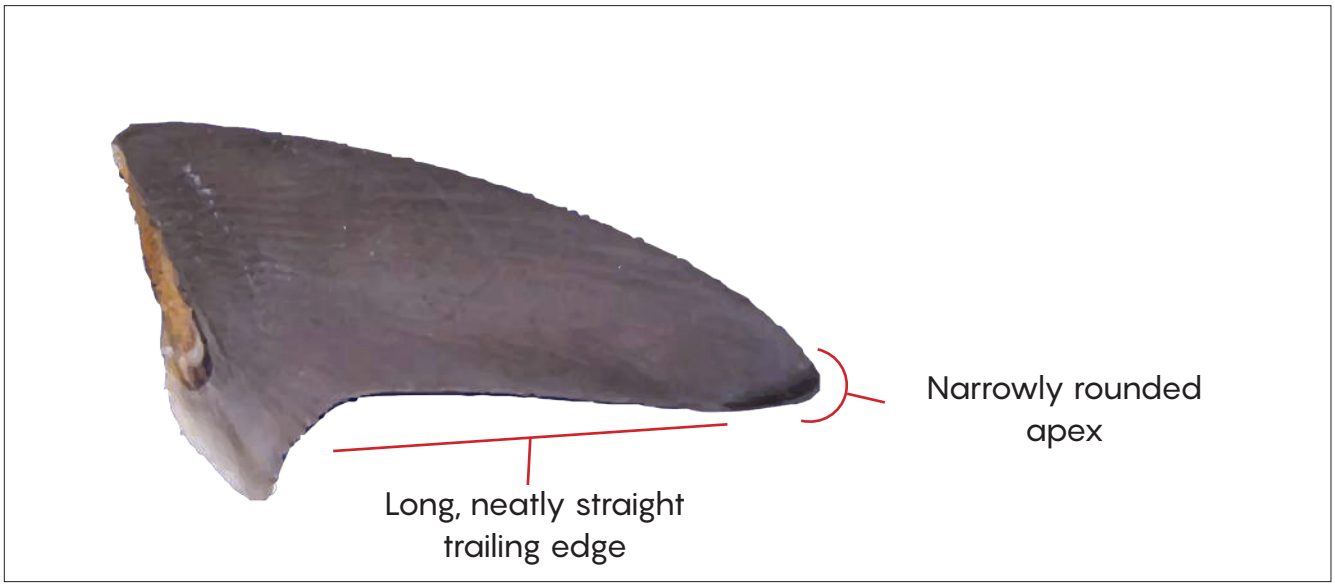


Silky shark
Carcharhinus falciformis

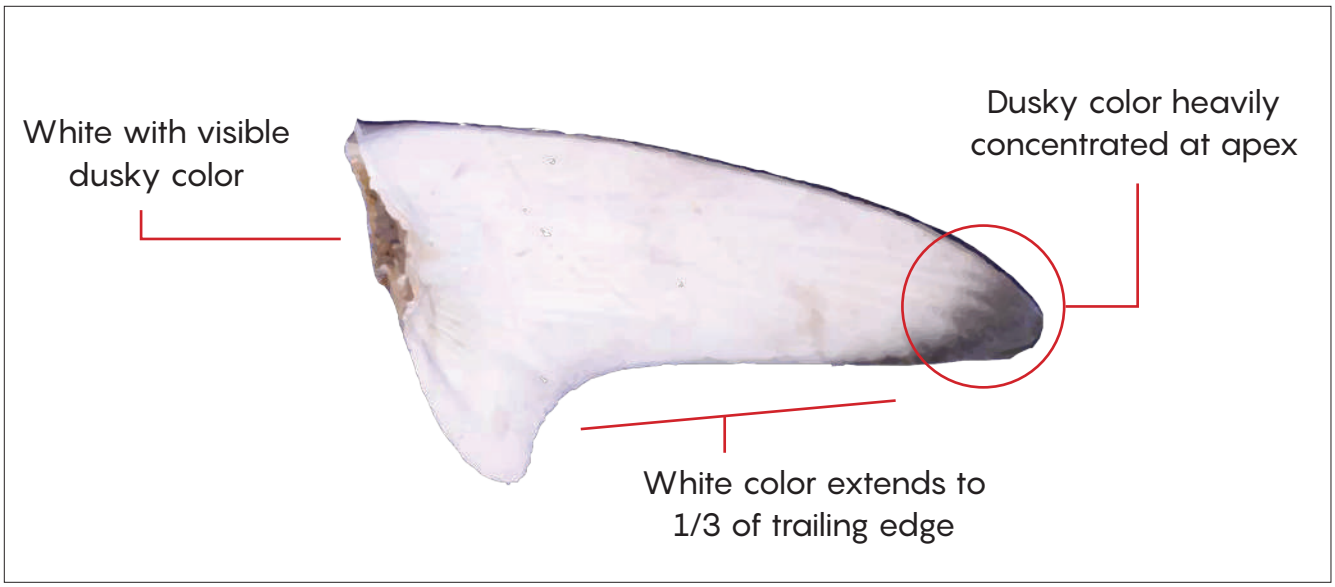
Pectoral Fins

Shape	Color	Texture
Long	Uniform grey to grey-brown	Dull when dry, smooth with small dentricles

Pectoral Fin
Dorsal (Top) View



Pectoral Fin
Ventral (Bottom) View



OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK
Carcharhinus longimanus

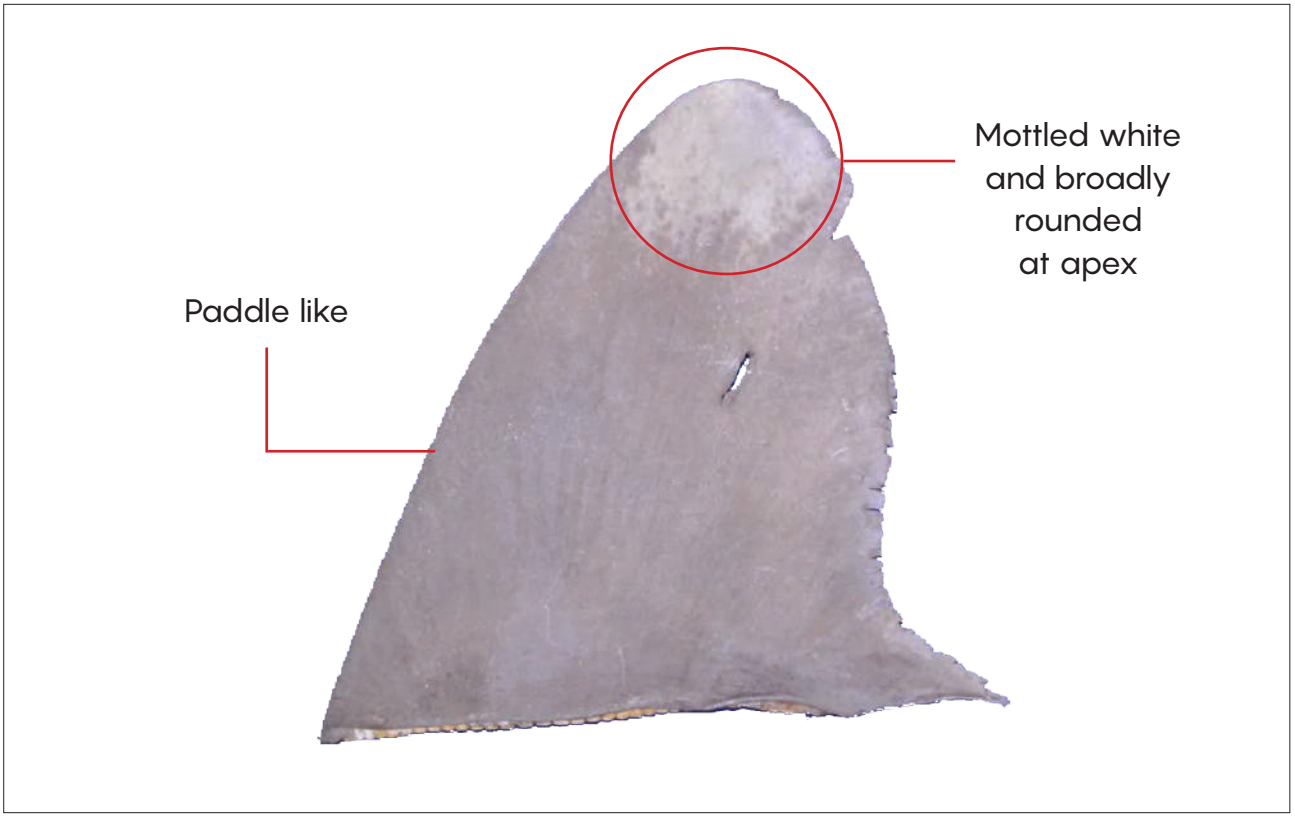
Philippines:

- Retention of Oceanic whitetip sharks is prohibited by all the tuna RFMOs, including the WCPFC in 2011 which the Philippines is a member of.

CITES	IUCN Red List Status
Appendix II (2014)	VULNERABLE

Pectoral Fins

Size & Shape	Color	Texture
Long and paddle-like	Grey to white	Not shiny when dry, smooth

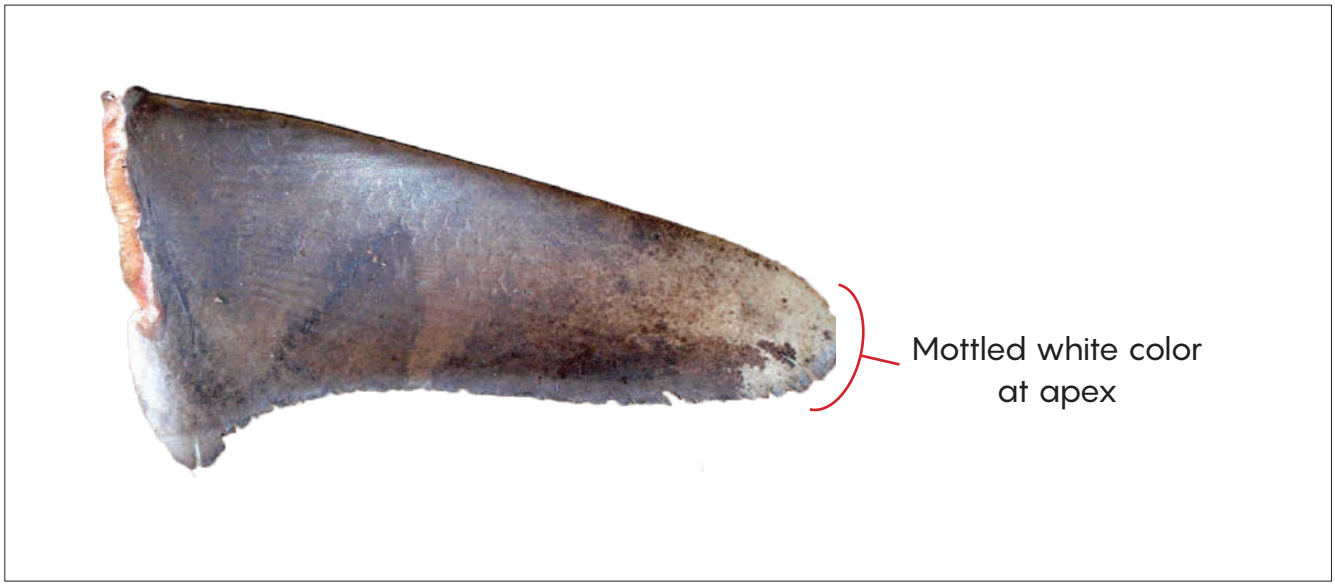


Oceanic whitetip shark
Carcharhinus longimanus

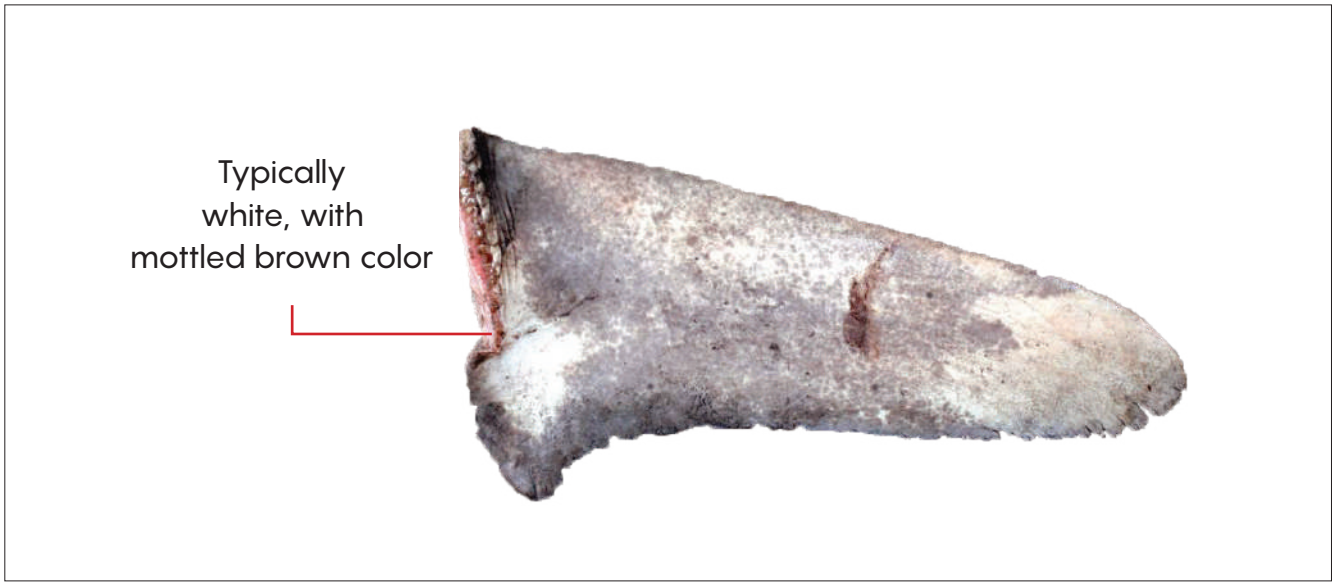
Pectoral Fins

Size & Shape	Color	Texture
Long, broadly rounded at apex	Grey to white	Not shiny when dry, smooth

Pectoral Fin
Dorsal (Top) View



Pectoral Fin
Ventral (Bottom) View

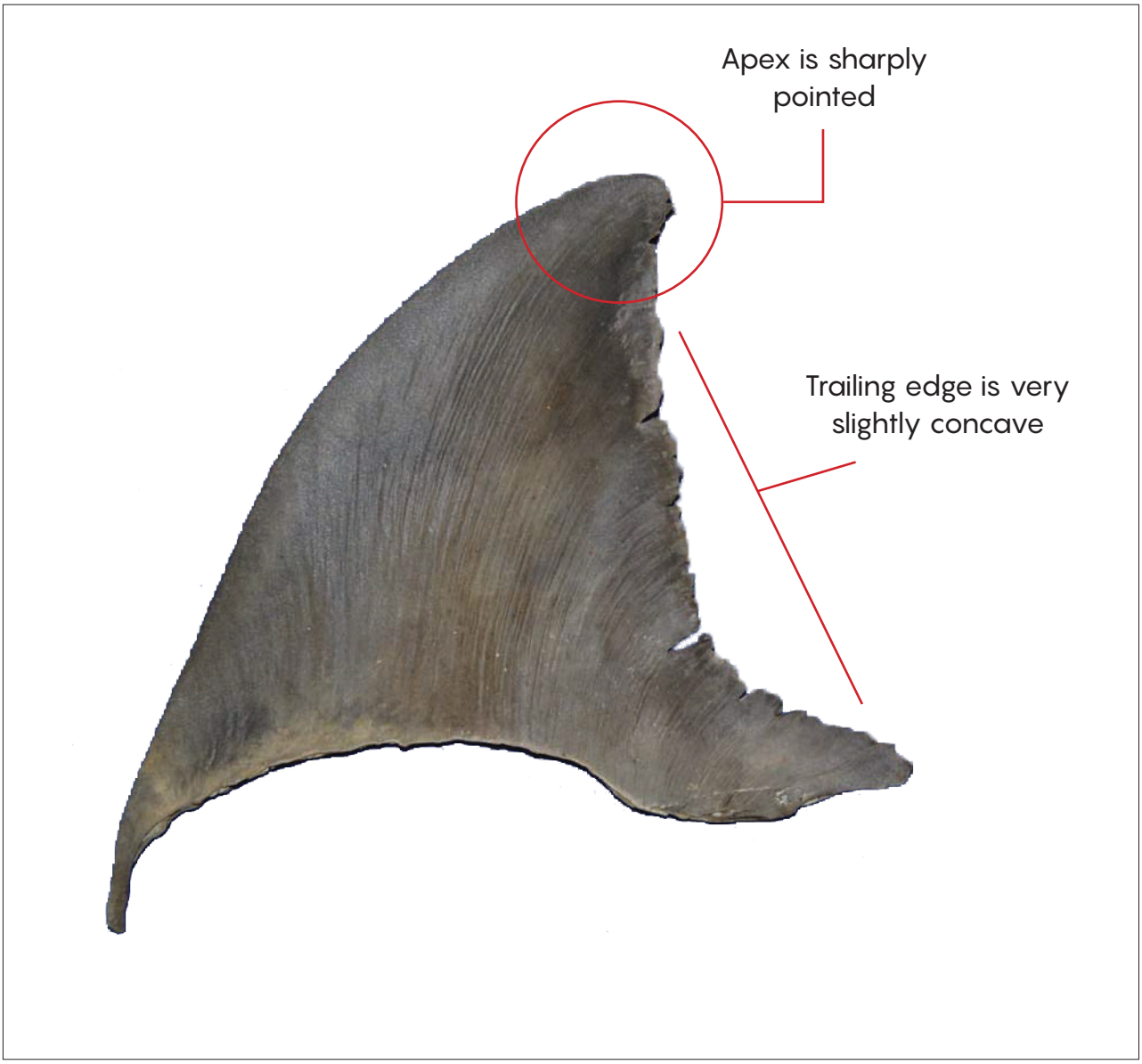


WHITE SHARK
Carcharodon carcharias

CITES	CMS	IUCN Red List Status
Appendix II (2003)	Appendix II (2014)	VULNERABLE

1st Dorsal Fin

Size & Shape	Color
Medium to large, tall and upright	Blue-grey to grey brown

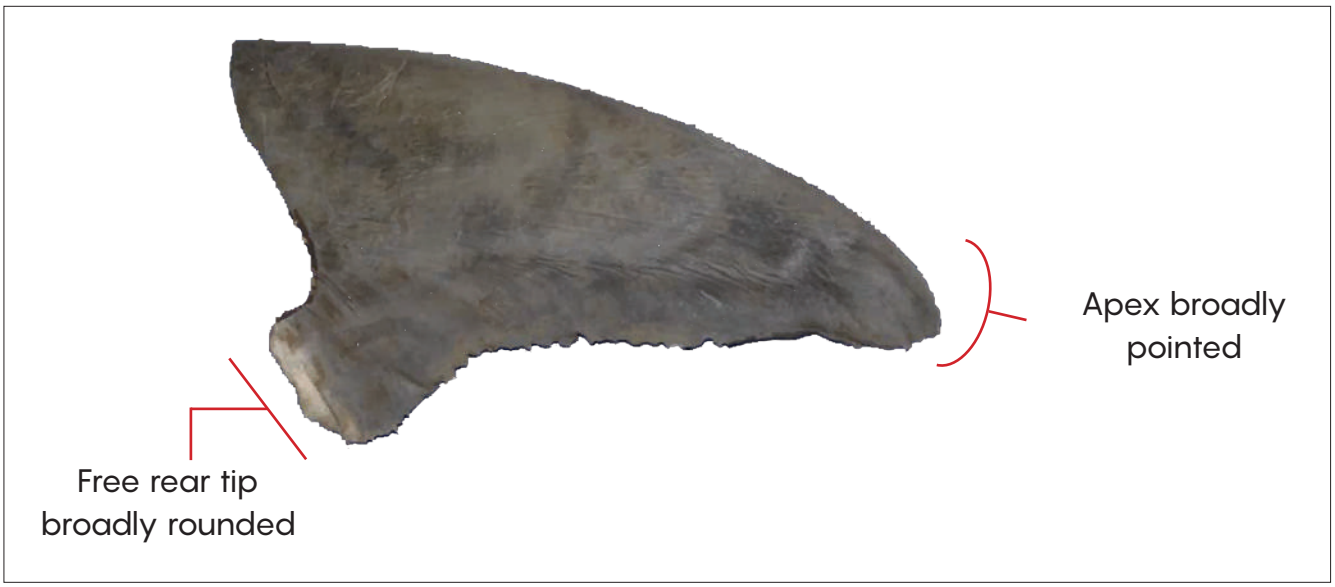


White shark
Carcharodon carcharias

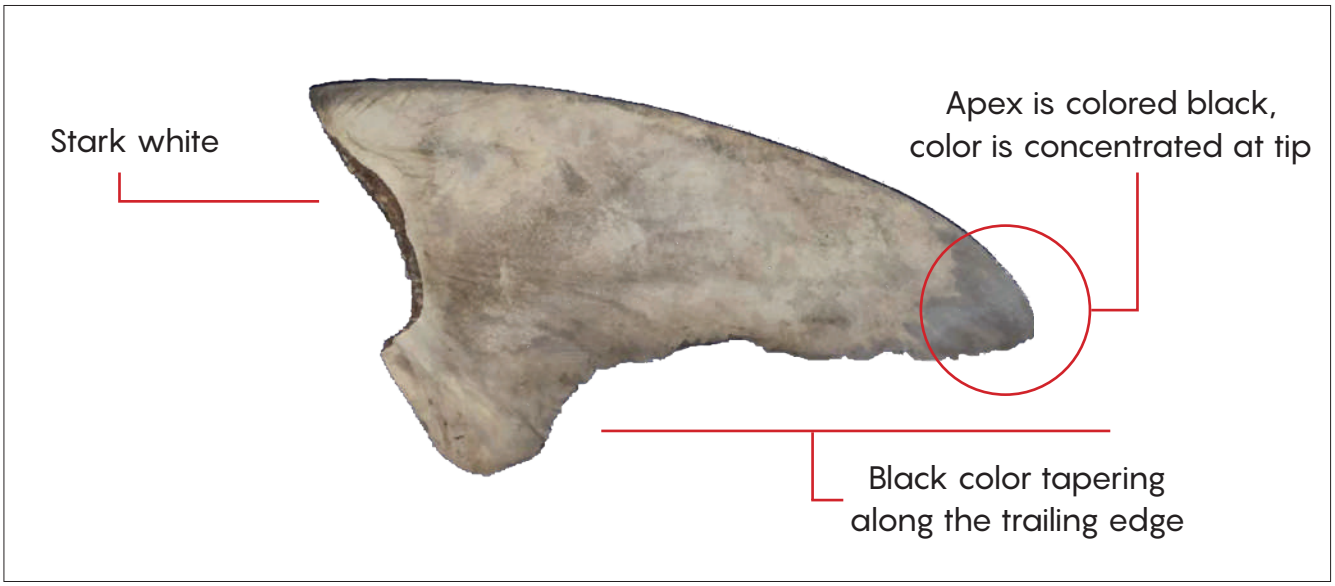
Pectoral Fins

Size & Shape	Color
Large, straight & upright	Blue-grey-brown

Pectoral Fin
Dorsal (Top) View



Pectoral Fin
Ventral (Bottom) View

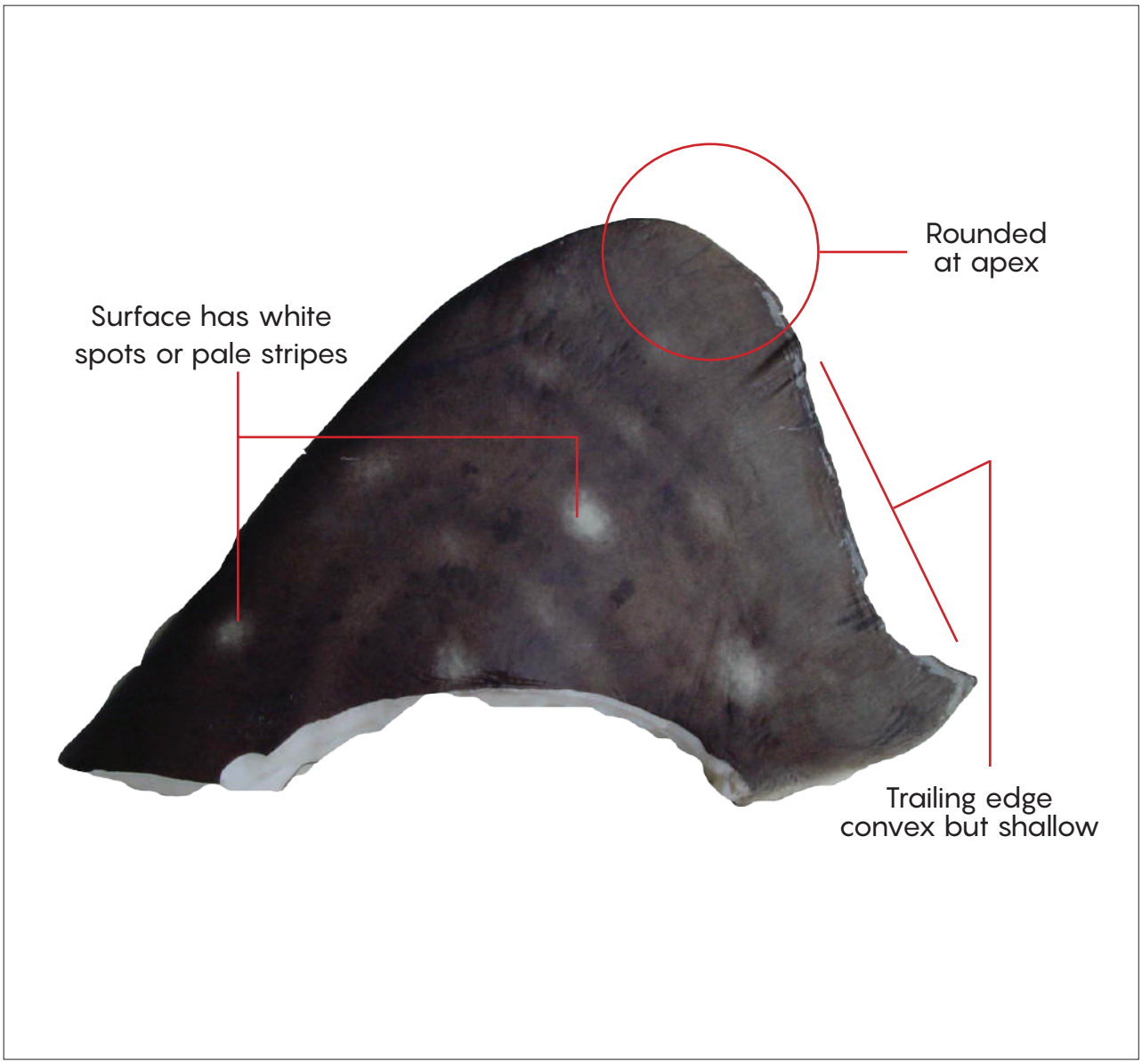


WHALE SHARK
Rhincodon typus

CITES	CMS	IUCN Red List Status
Appendix II (2005)	Appendix II (2017)	ENDANGERED

1st Dorsal Fin

Size & Shape	Color
Very large, broadly rounded	Grey, blue or brown

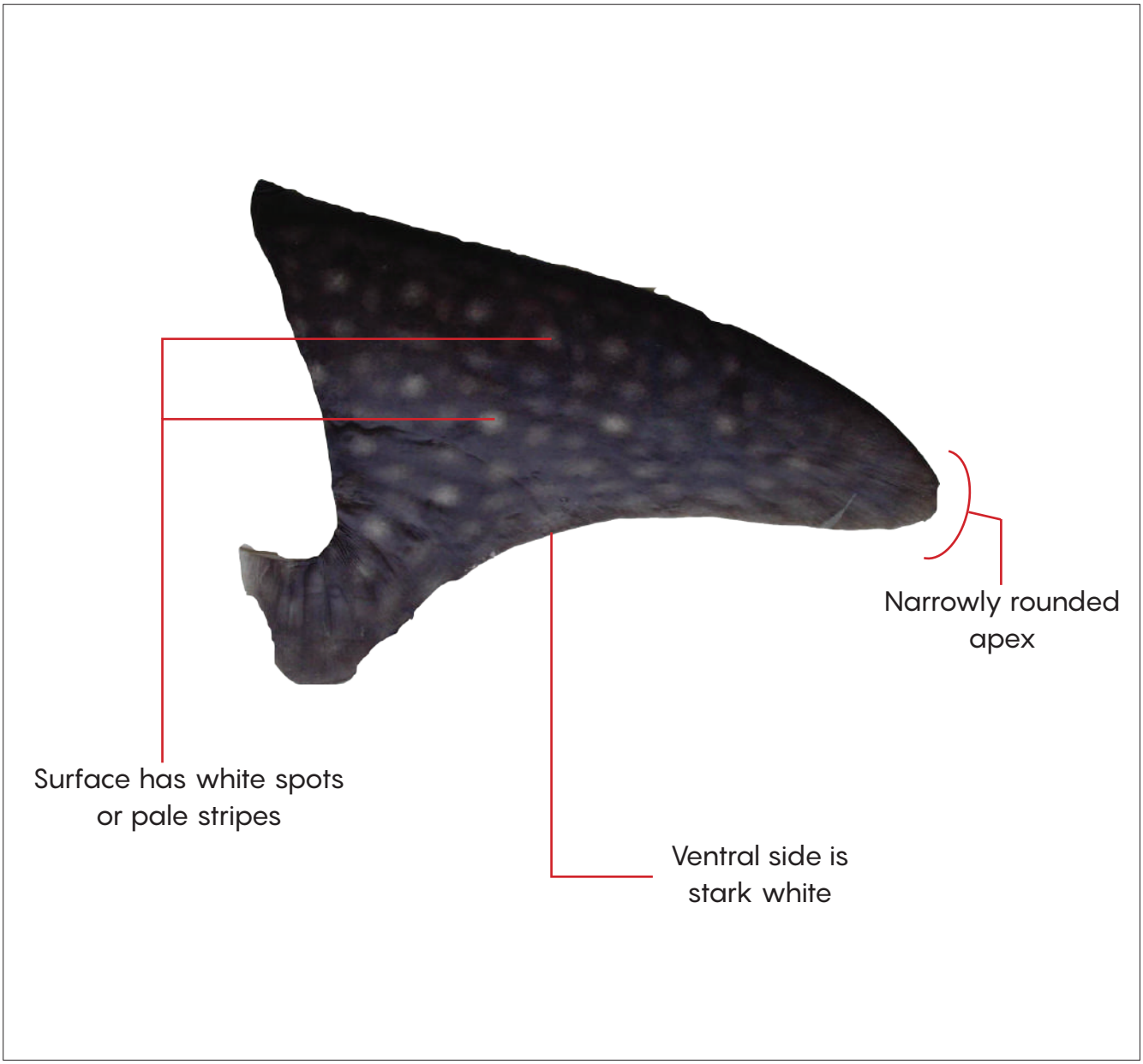


Whale shark
Rhincodon typus

Pectoral Fins

Size & Shape	Color
Very large, narrowly rounded	Grey, blue or brown

Pectoral Fin
Dorsal (Top) View



HAMMERHEAD SHARKS
Genus *Sphyrna*

Distribution:

- *S. lewini* and *S. mokarran* are found worldwide in coastal temperate and tropical waters.
- *S zygaena* is found in similar coastal and open ocean temperate and tropical waters, but has a wider range extending into higher latitudes.

Trade:

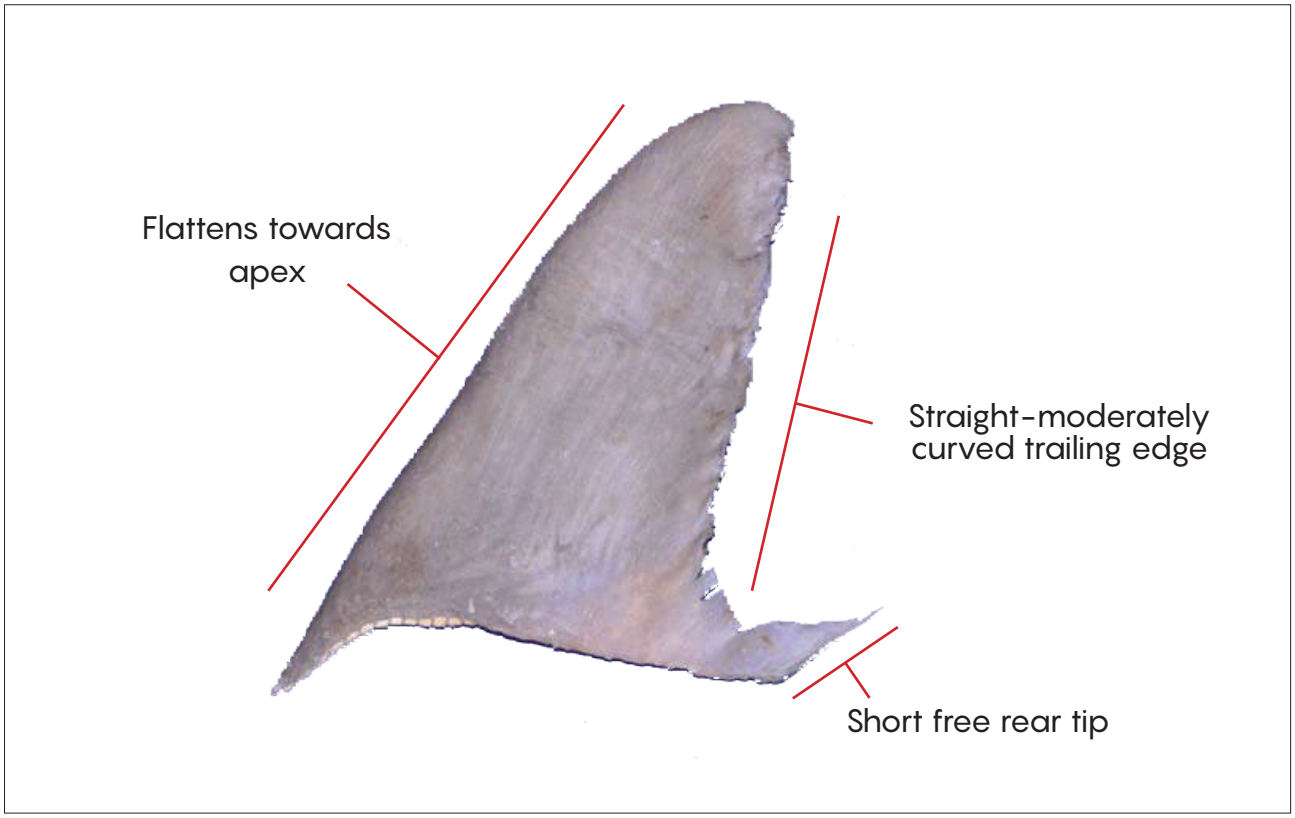
- Primarily traded for their fins and are amongst the preferred species for shark fin soup.

Scalloped hammerhead shark
Sphyrna lewini

CITES	CMS	IUCN Red List Status
Appendix II (2014)	Appendix II (2015)	ENDANGERED

1st Dorsal Fin

Shape	Color	Texture
Tall	Dull brown to light grey	Dull when dry, smooth with small dentricles

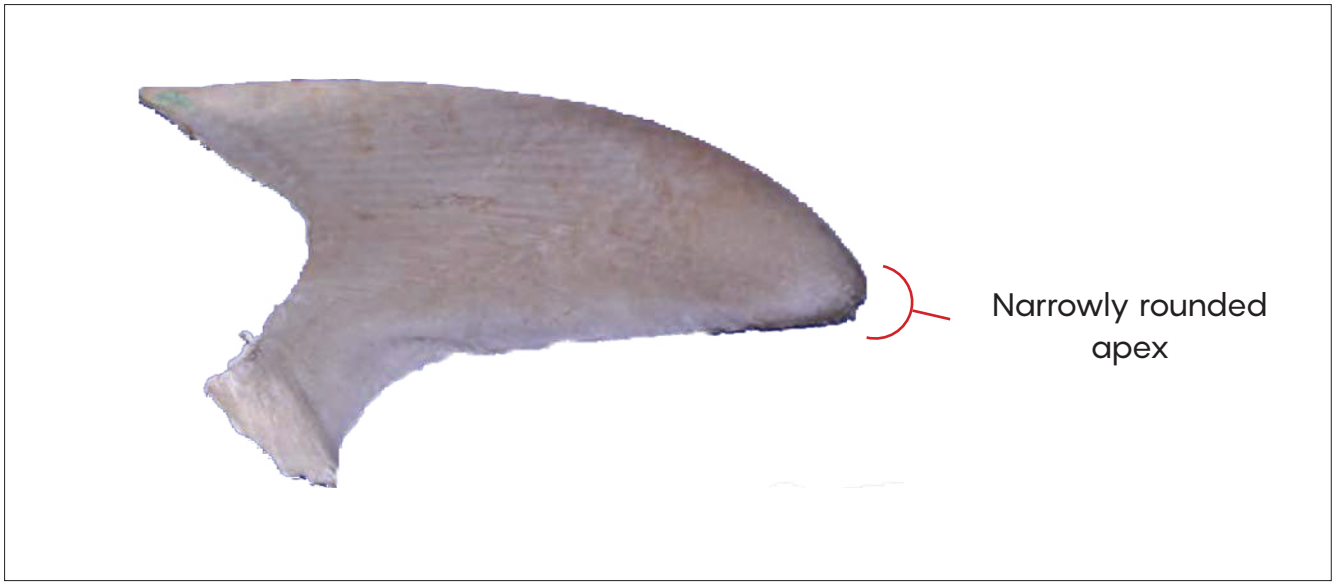


Scalloped hammerhead shark
Sphyrna lewini

Pectoral Fins

Shape	Color	Texture
Short & broad	Dull brown to light grey	Dull when dry, smooth with small dentricles

Pectoral Fin
Dorsal (Top) View



Pectoral Fin
Ventral (Bottom) View

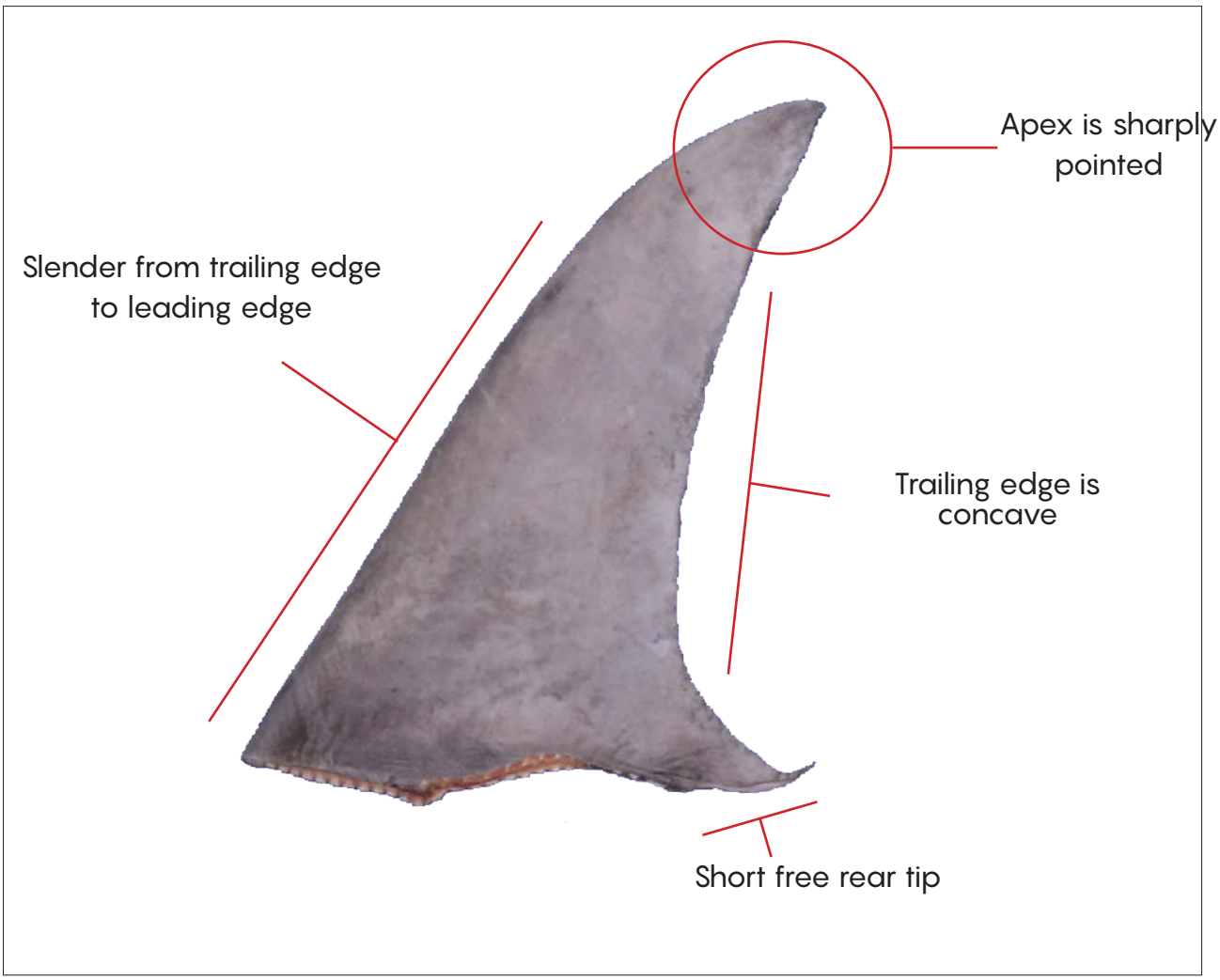
HAMMERHEAD SHARKS
Genus *Sphyrna*

Great hammerhead shark
Sphyrna mokarran

CITES	CMS	IUCN Red List Status
Appendix II (2014)	Appendix II (2015)	ENDANGERED

1st Dorsal Fin

Shape	Color	Texture
Tall & elongated	Grey to light greyish-brown	Quite rigid in structure when wet

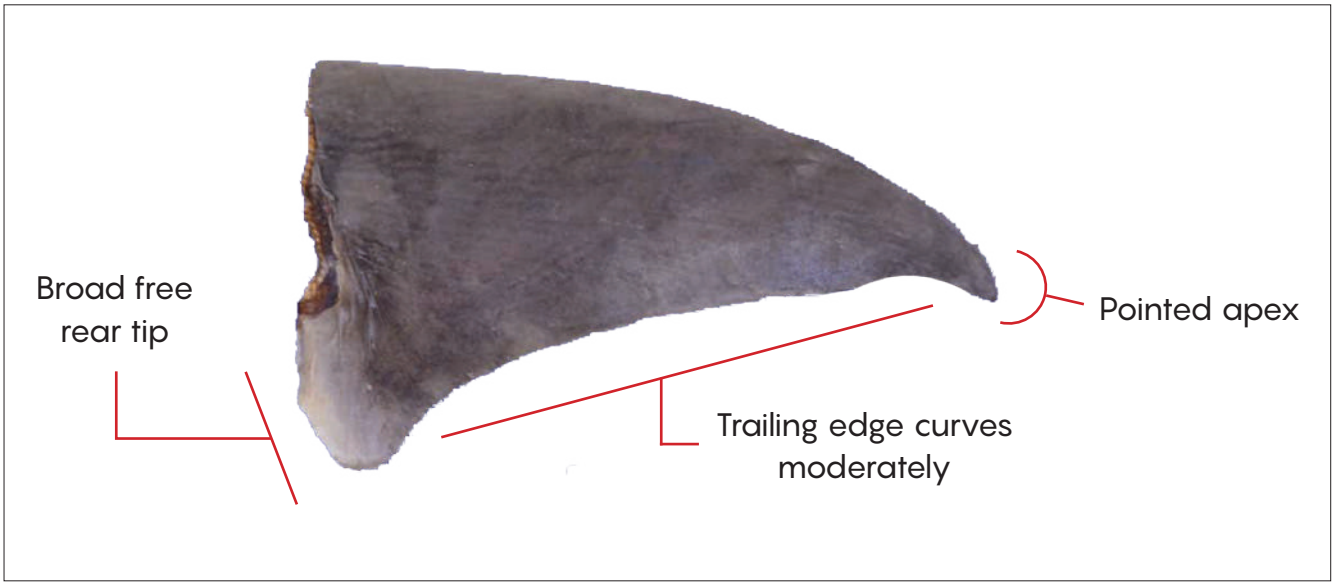


Great hammerhead shark
Sphyrna mokarran

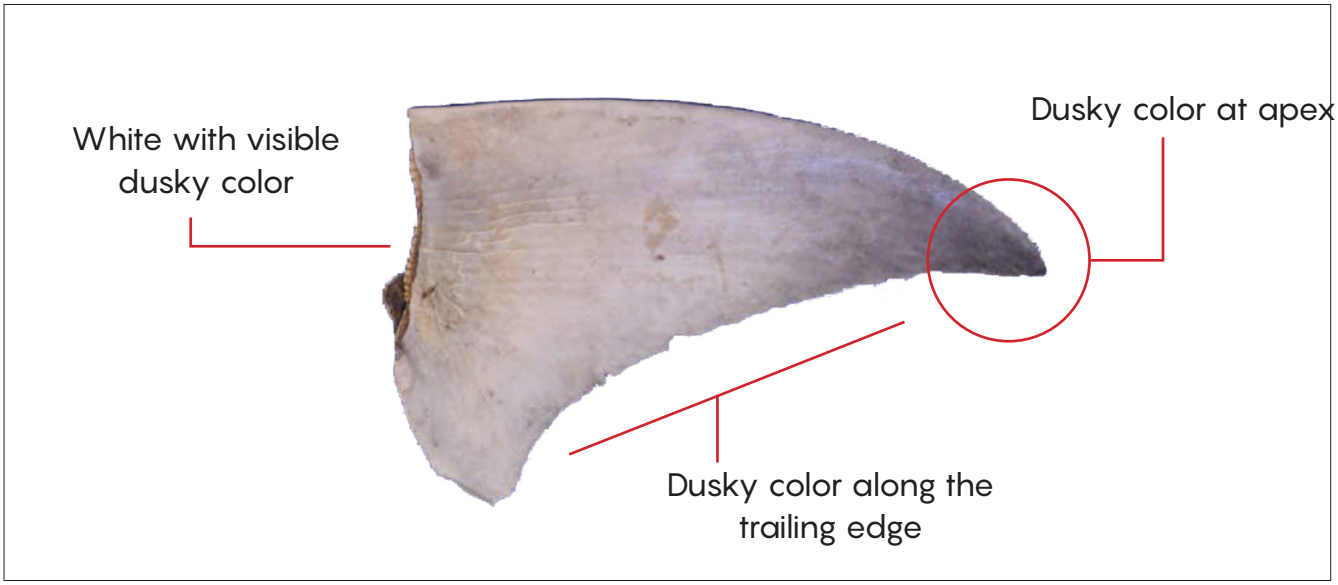
Pectoral Fins

Shape	Color	Texture
Broad	Grey to light greyish-brown	Quite rigid in structure when wet

Pectoral Fin
Dorsal (Top) View



Pectoral Fin
Ventral (Bottom) View



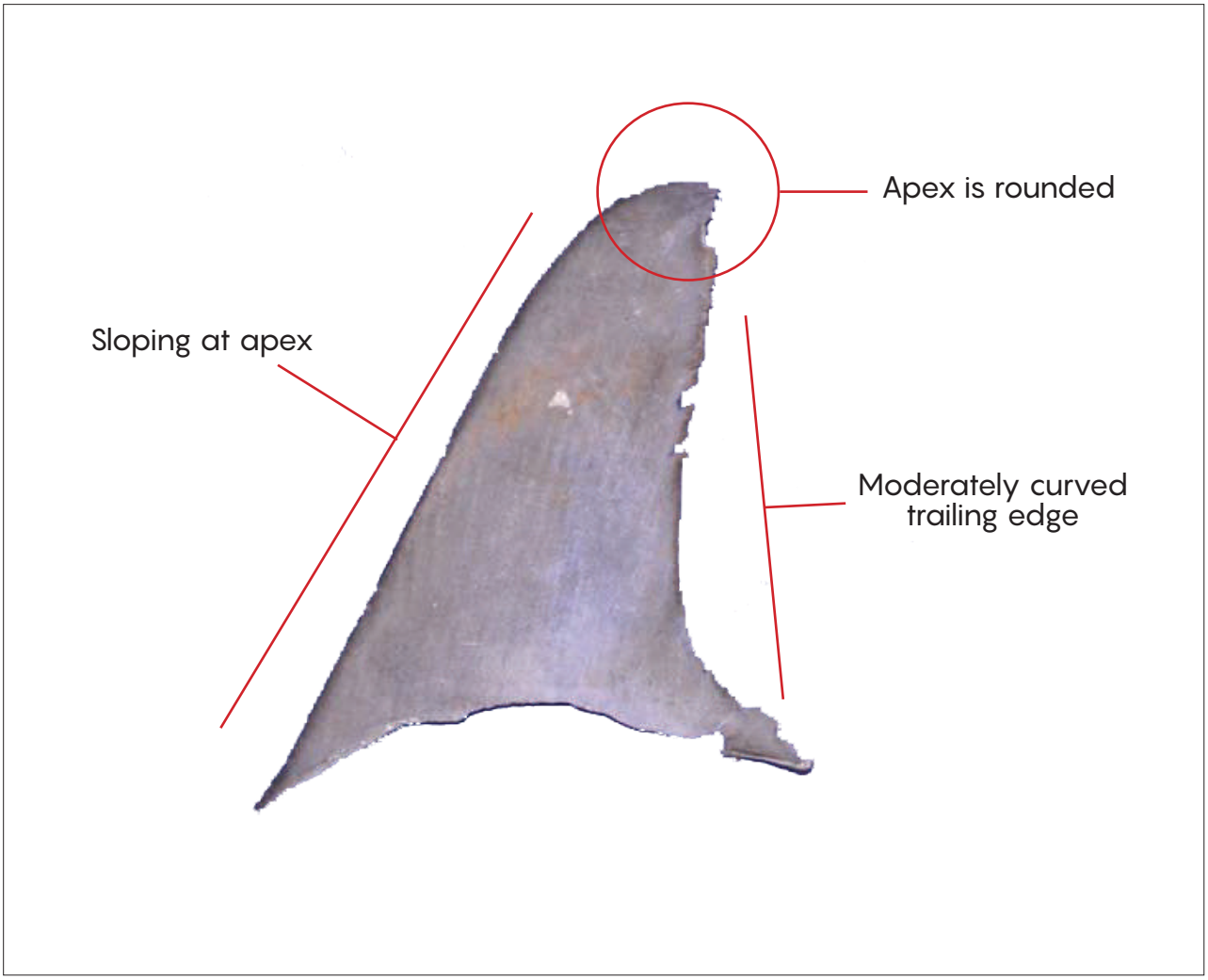
HAMMERHEAD SHARKS
Genus *Sphyrna*

Smooth hammerhead shark
Sphyrna zygaena

CITES	IUCN Red List Status
Appendix II (2014)	VULNERABLE

1st Dorsal Fin

Shape	Color	Texture
Tall	Light brown to light greyish-brown	Dull, velvety when dry with small dentricles

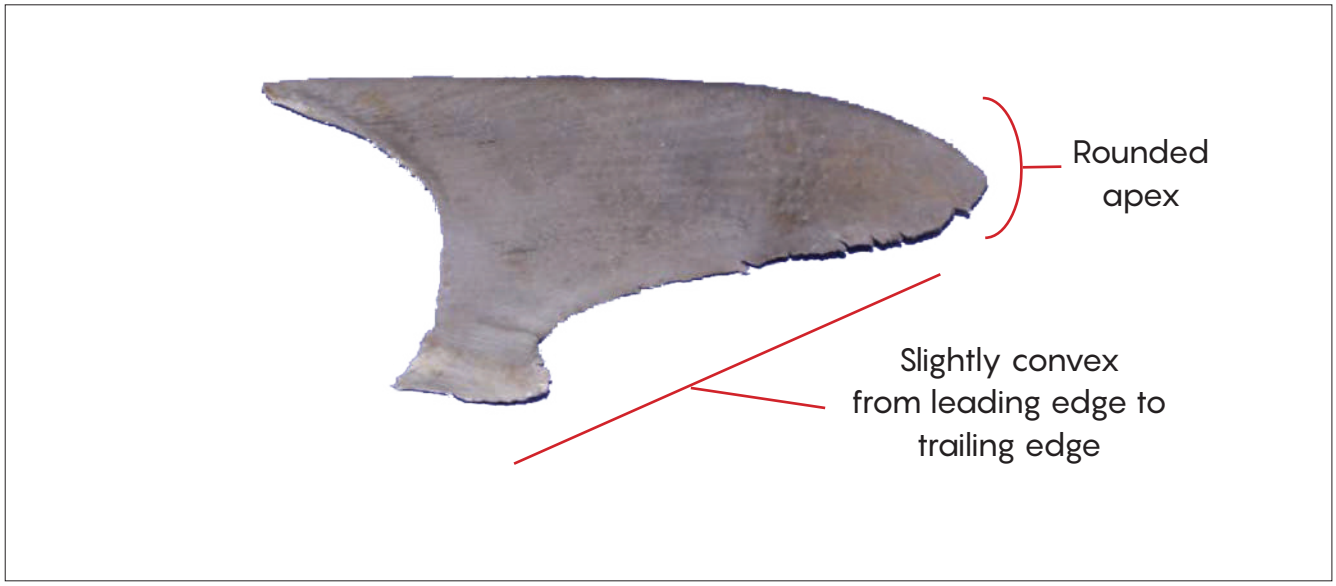


Smooth hammerhead shark
Sphyrna zygaena

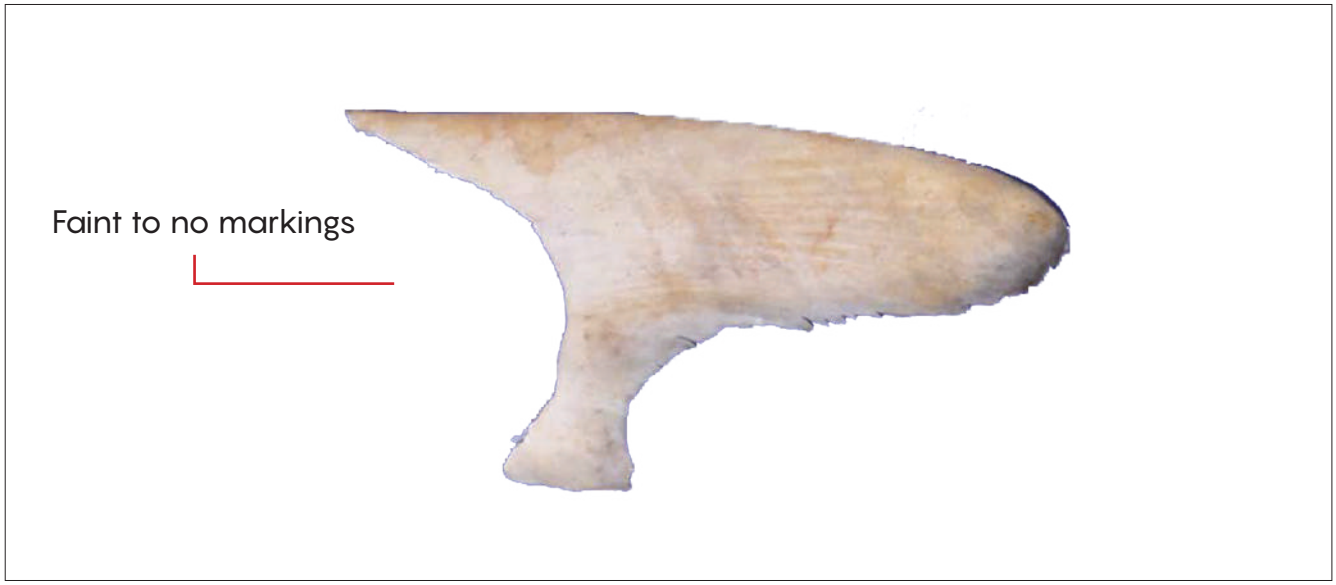
Pectoral Fins

Shape	Color	Texture
Short & broad	Light brown to greyish-brown	Dull, velvety when dry with small dentricles

Pectoral Fin
Dorsal (Top) View



Pectoral Fin
Ventral (Bottom) View



MAKO SHARKS
Genus *Isurus*

Distribution:
- Mako sharks occur globally in temperate and tropical oceans and are highly migratory in nature.

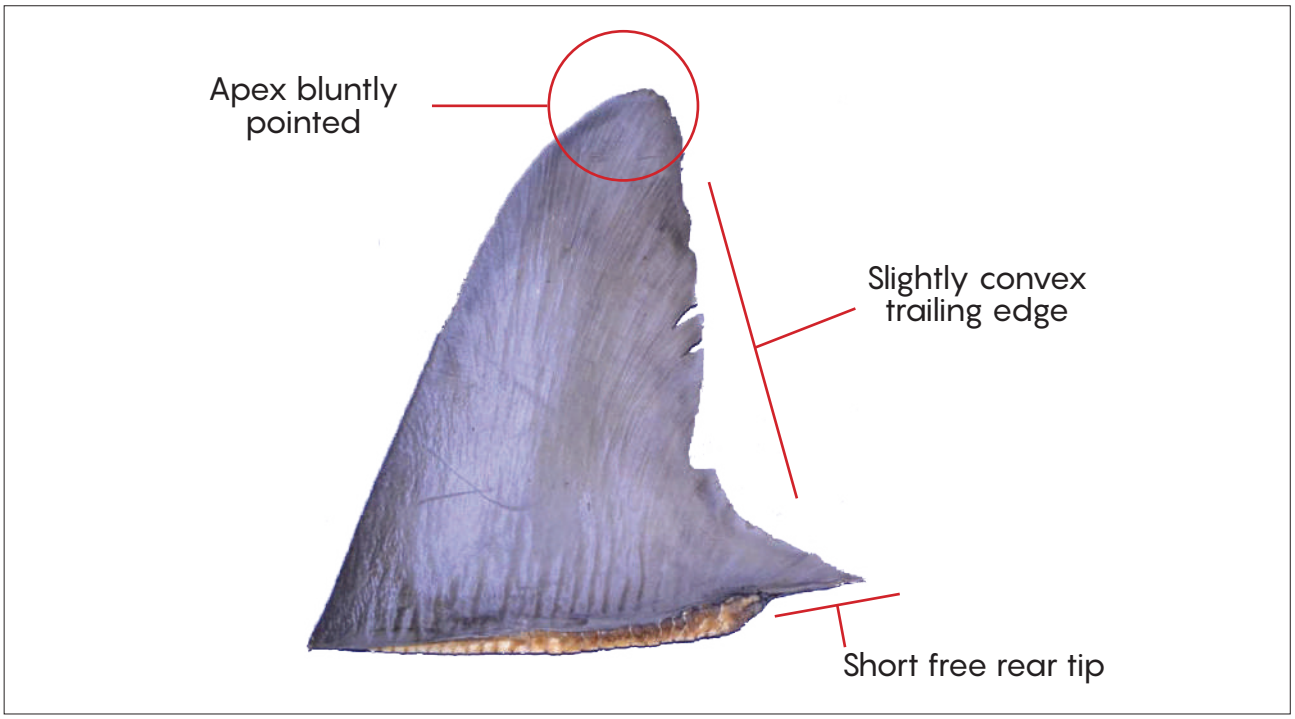
Trade:
- I. oxyrinchus is valued for its meat as well as its fins and skin, and is ranked as the 5th most common species in the fin trade in Hong Kong SAR.
- Liver oil is extracted for vitamins, fins for shark fin soup, its jaws and teeth are also sold as ornaments and trophies.
- I. paucus are utilized fresh, frozen, dried or salted meat . Fins are of high value compared to the carcass.

Shortfin mako shark
Isurus oxyrinchus

CITES	CMS	IUCN Red List Status
Appendix II (2019)	Appendix II (2009)	ENDANGERED

1st Dorsal Fin

Size & Shape	Color	Texture
Large, tall and upright	Indigo blue or dark grey-black	Dull when dry with small denticles



Shortfin mako shark
Isurus oxyrinchus

Pectoral Fins

Color	Texture
Dark grey-brown or slate grey	Dull when dry with small denticles

Pectoral Fin
Dorsal (Top) View

Pectoral Fin
Ventral (Bottom) View

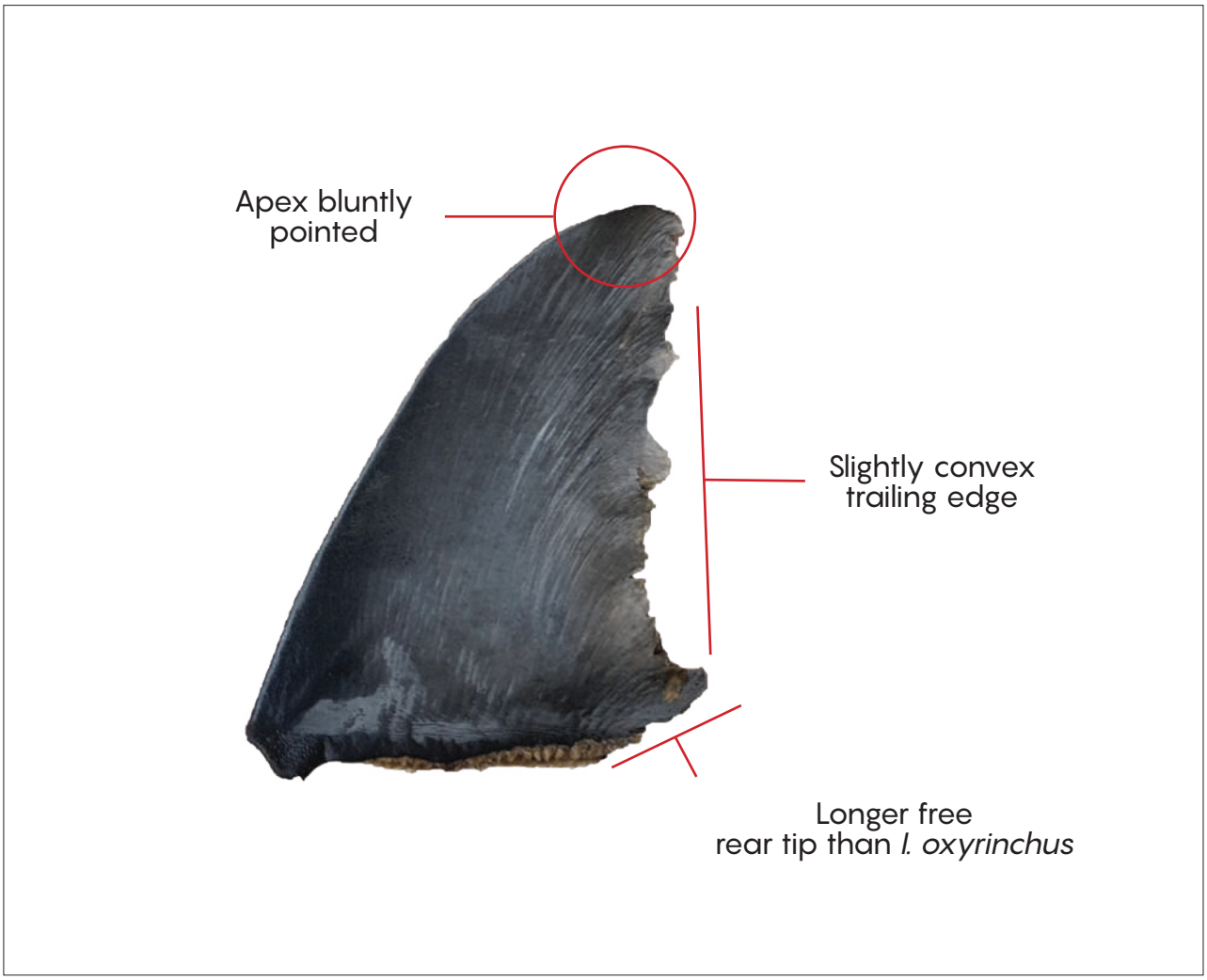
MAKO SHARKS
Genus *Isurus*

Longfin mako shark
Isurus paucus

CITES	CMS	IUCN Red List Status
Appendix II (2019)	Appendix II (2009)	ENDANGERED

1st Dorsal Fin

Size & Shape	Color
Large, tall and upright	Indigo blue or dark grey-black



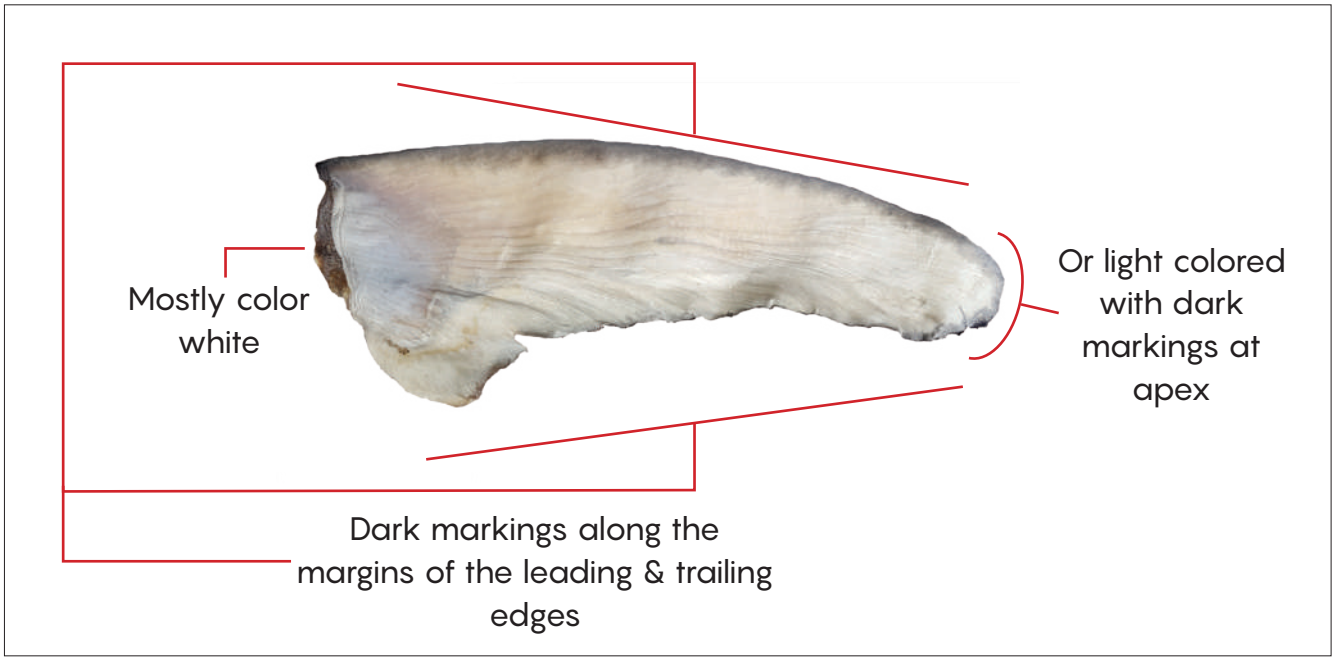
Longfin mako shark
Isurus paucus

Pectoral Fins

Color
Dark grey-brown or slate grey

Pectoral Fin
Dorsal (Top) View

Pectoral Fin
Ventral (Bottom) View



WEDGEFISHES
Family *Rhinidae*

Distribution:

- The wedgefishes typically occur in inshore habitats on the continental shelf including shallow bays. Estuaries and coastal coral reefs mainly in the Indo-Pacific.

Trade:

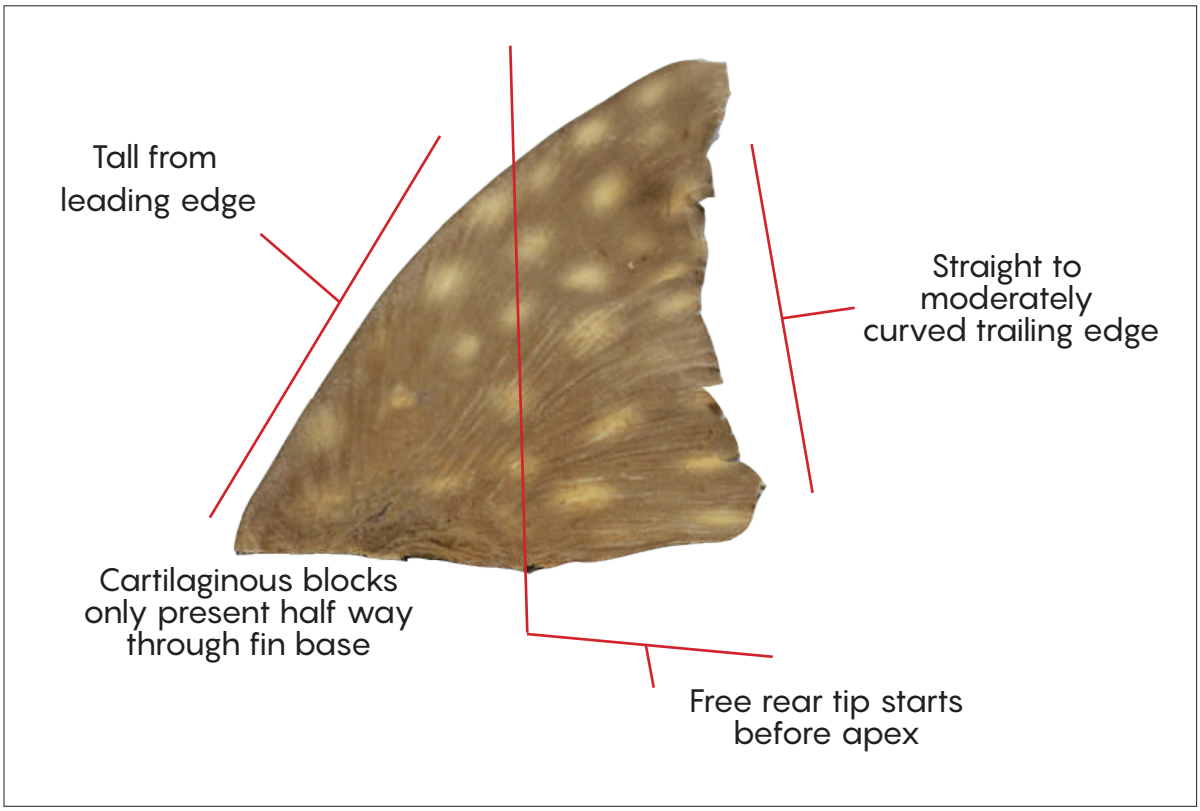
- Wedgefish fins are considered amongst the best quality and highest value in the global shark fin trade.

Bowmouth guitarfish
Rhina ancylostoma

CITES	CMS	IUCN Red List Status
Appendix II (2019)	Appendix II (2017)	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

1st and 2nd Dorsal Fin for *Rhina ancylostoma*

Shape	Color	Texture
Tall & slender	Dark brown or grey, with white spots	Denticles visible, smooth & shiny



Bottlenose wedgefish
Rhynchobatus australiae

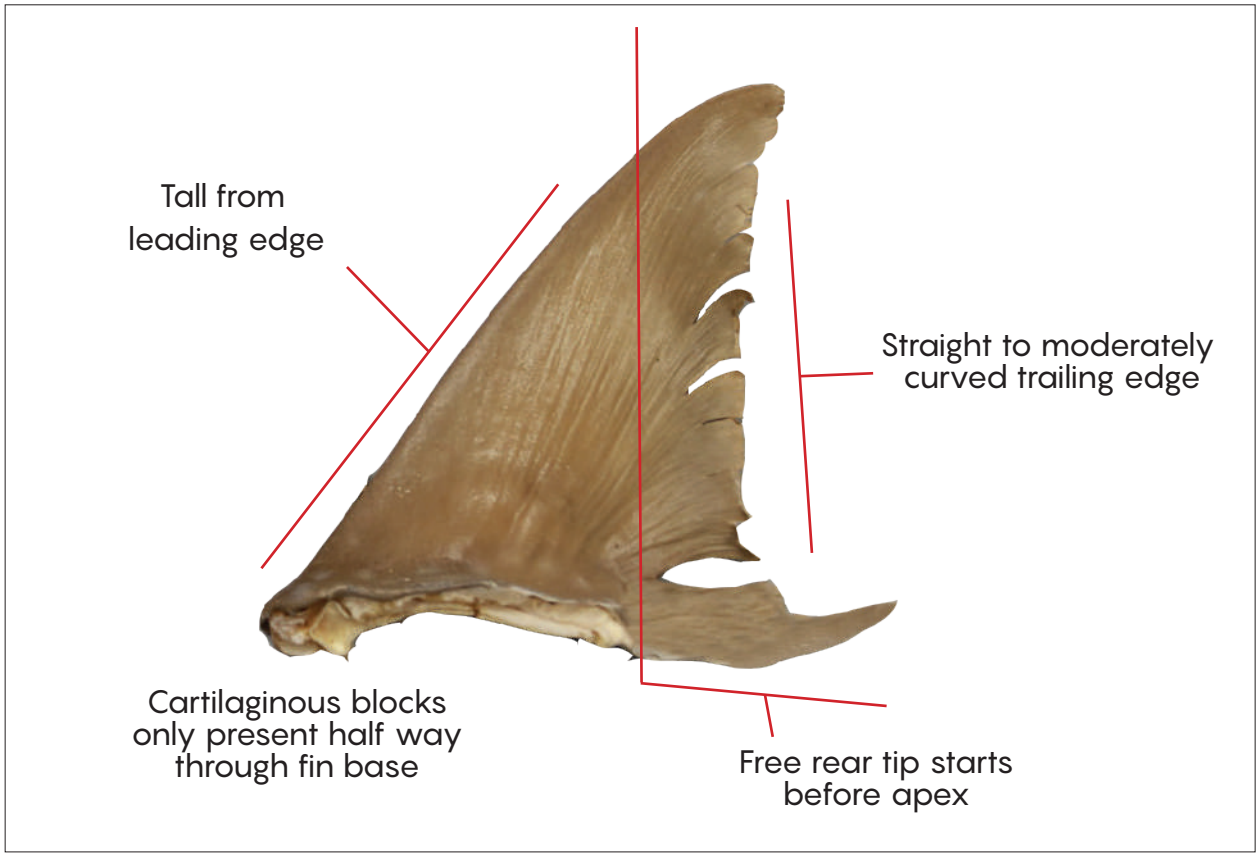
CITES	CMS	IUCN Red List Status
Appendix II (2019)	Appendix II (2017)	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

Broadnose wedgefish
Rhynchobatus springeri

CITES	CMS	IUCN Red List Status
Appendix II (2019)	Appendix II (2017)	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

1st and 2nd Dorsal Fin for *R. australiae* and *R. springeri*

Shape	Color	Texture
Tall & slender	Dull brown or light grey	Denticles visible, smooth & shiny



GUITARFISHES
Family *Glaucostegus*

Trade:

- Much like the wedgefishes, they are largely traded for their high value fins and are known to occur in markets in Hong Kong SAR.

Giant guitarfish
Glaucostegus typus

CITES	CMS	IUCN Red List Status
Appendix II (2019)	Appendix II (2017)	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

Dorsal Fin

Shape	Color	Texture
Tall & slender	Dull brown or light grey	Enlarged denticles visible, rough texture