# Why sharks?

Shark conservation is of the utmost importance if we wish to maintain a healthy balance in the world's oceans. Most sharks serve as top predators at the pinnacle of the marine food pyramid, and so play a critical role in ocean ecosystems. With an average of 100 million sharks being taken from our oceans every year, the time for action is now. By encouraging the public to take part in scientific research we hope to empower individuals to fight for better protection of these ecologically and economically important animals.

# The scientists

Dr. Ryan Kempster is a shark biologist and founder of SOS. Ryan embarked on a career in research to better understand sharks and share his knowledge to inspire others to protect these important species.

Channing Egeberg is a marine biologist and the education coordinator for SOS. Channing enjoys working with kids to ensure that they understand the importance of our oceans and grow up to be future advocates for marine life.


SharkBase is a project of the Support Our Sharks (SOS) Ocean Conservation Society. Through our partnership with The University of Western Australia you can make tax efficient donations to SOS. By making a donation to SOS, you will be helping us to: develop our education program and take the shark conservation message to kids in more schools, reduce demand for shark products through increased awareness, support science-based conservation campaigns, further our global scientific research projects, and much more.

**Support Our Sharks (SOS) Ocean Conservation Society**
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**Supported by the UWA Hackett Foundation, the School of Animal Biology and the Oceans Institute.**

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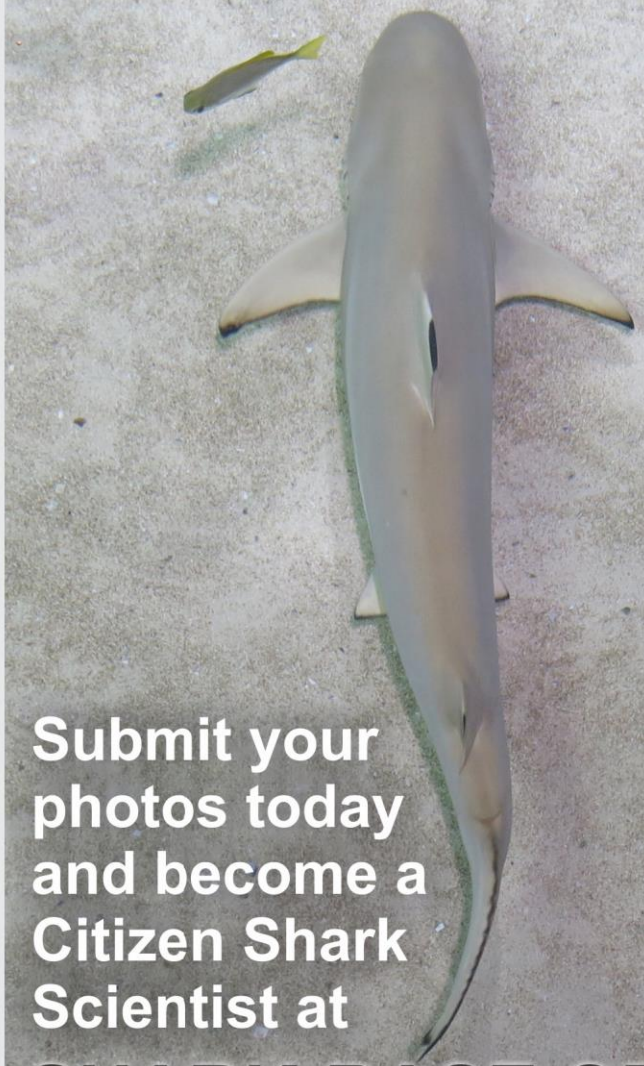
For more information go to supportoursharks.com
or join us on one of the sites below

SHARK BASE
CITIZEN SCIENCE



**Submit your photos today and become a Citizen Shark Scientist at**

**SHARK-BASE.ORG**

# What is SharkBase?

**SharkBase is a global network of Citizen Scientists collecting vital information about the abundance and distribution of sharks*.**

Effective management of sharks* starts with an understanding of their population status, which will ultimately instruct their future conservation. Unfortunately, many shark* species are at significant risk of unrecoverable decline, with some species having declined to near extinction in recent years. We believe that SharkBase could be the answer to improving our understanding of shark* populations, whilst also advancing community education. Traditional assessment of shark* population abundance can be very costly and often uses potentially harmful methods, such as tagging and long-line capture. Through SharkBase we aim to prove that Citizen Scientists can non-invasively obtain usable data on the abundance and distribution of sharks* globally.

*Includes Sharks, Rays, and Chimaeras

# How do I get involved?

With most people now having access to computers, smart phones and digital cameras there is a wealth of information stored on these devices that could help scientists to better understand the abundance and distribution of sharks* globally. By simply submitting your old (and new) shark* photos to SharkBase (including the date and location that they were taken) you can become a Citizen Shark Scientist and help us to better understand global shark* populations. In addition, you can use SharkBase as a log of your shark* encounters and compare your sightings with other users around the world.

# What happens to the data?

SharkBase is a project of the Support Our Sharks (SOS) Ocean Conservation Society, led by Dr. Ryan Kempster. Dr. Kempster, an internationally recognised shark biologist, will utilise the data collected by SharkBase in on-going shark research projects. Additionally, the data will be made available to collaborating scientists and organisations around the world to hep improve our understanding of shark* populations and infer patterns of marine ecosystem health.