

# Leopard Shark

*Triakis semifasciata*



## CONSERVATION STATUS

LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED
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Herring  
Crab  
Shrimp  
Clams  
Topsmelt

Using the power of suction, the leopard shark is able to quickly catch and eat its prey. After biting down, the leopard shark will regurgitate its food several times before properly digesting the animals. Listed are some of the leopard sharks favorite “snacks”.

## COASTAL CREATURES

Hundreds of leopard sharks appear at La Jolla Shores every summer, where they play an important role in local ecology and support ecotourism. Leopard Sharks can be found as far north as Oregon, and as south as Mazatlan, Mexico. Pictured right is the distribution of Leopard Sharks along the Pacific Coast.



## MOMS TO BE

Scientists at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography discovered that most of the Leopard Sharks at La Jolla Shores are pregnant females. Basking in warm, calm water close to abundant food may help speed the growth of the mothers-to-be, as well as the baby sharks, (called pups) they are carrying. Pictured left is a small leopard shark egg.

