



GREENLAND SHARK

(*Somniosus microcephalus*)

1. GREENLAND SHARKS ARE NATIVE TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC WATERS AROUND GREENLAND, CANADA, AND ICELAND AND HAVE BEEN OBSERVED AT THE WATER'S SURFACE ALL THE WAY DOWN TO 1,200 METERS (3,937 FEET). THEY ARE THE ONLY TRUE SUB-ARCTIC SHARK AND THE ONLY SHARK THAT CAN TOLERATE ARCTIC TEMPERATURES YEAR ROUND.
2. THEY ARE THE LARGEST ARCTIC FISH WITH AN AVERAGE LENGTH OF 2.5-4.5 METERS (8-15 FEET). THEY ARE THE SECOND LARGEST CARNIVOROUS SHARK. (GREAT WHITES ARE LARGEST).
3. THEY ARE KNOWN TO BE A VERY SLOW MOVING SHARK. THEY USE THEIR UNUSUALLY LARGE SPIRACLES TO TAKE IN ENOUGH OXYGEN WHILE SWIMMING AT A REDUCED SPEED, WHICH ALLOWS THEM TO CONSERVE ENERGY IN THEIR NEAR-FREEZING ENVIRONMENT.
4. THEY ARE OPPORTUNISTIC PREDATORS THAT WILL EAT JUST ABOUT ANY MEAT THEY FIND, EITHER DEAD OR ALIVE. THE REMAINS OF POLAR BEARS, HORSES, MOOSE, AND IN ONE CASE AN ENTIRE REINDEER, HAVE BEEN FOUND IN THE STOMACHS OF GREENLAND SHARKS.
5. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT LARGER SPECIMEN OF GREENLAND SHARK CAN LIVE OVER 100 YEARS, MAKING THEM ONE OF THE LONGEST-LIVING VERTEBRATES ON THE PLANET.

