



SAND TIGER SHARK

SHARK FACTS



SAND TIGER/GREY NURSE SHARK (*Carcharias taurus*)

- ▶ Despite their name, they are not that closely related to the tiger or nurse shark
- ▶ They are one of the most popular shark species to be housed in aquariums. However, studies have found that the average captive sand tiger shark spine is much weaker than those of other wild shark species
- ▶ During pregnancy, the most developed embryo will eat the other eggs in the womb. This reproductive process is known as intrauterine cannibalism, "embryophagy" or "adelphophagy" (which means "eating one's brother")

CONSERVATION STATUS

The sand tiger shark is a popular delicacy in the western northern Pacific and Japan. Because of overfishing, small litter sizes, and low reproductive rates, they are classified as **"VULNERABLE"** on the IUCN Red List

WHERE DO THEY LIVE?

The sand tiger shark is found off of Japan, Australia, South Africa, the Mediterranean and the east coasts of North and South America

