



SHARK  FACTS

# WHALE SHARK

## WHALE SHARK (*Rhincodon typus*)

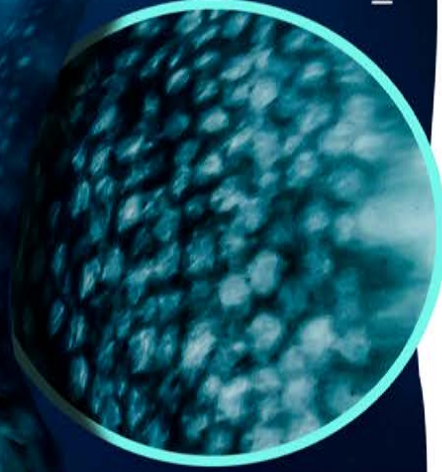
- ▶ Whale sharks are named for their size and because they are filter feeders like baleen whales
- ▶ They are the biggest fish in the ocean, but they eat microscopic plants and animals including plankton, krill and macro algae
- ▶ To feed they either swim with their mouth open, pushing food and water in or they open and close their mouth, sucking in water and food

Whale sharks are not only the largest species of shark, but also the

**LARGEST FISH  
IN THE OCEAN**



Each whale shark has a unique pattern of spots and this can be used to identify individuals



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Image: Frida Lara

