

SHARKS OF TURKS AND CAICOS

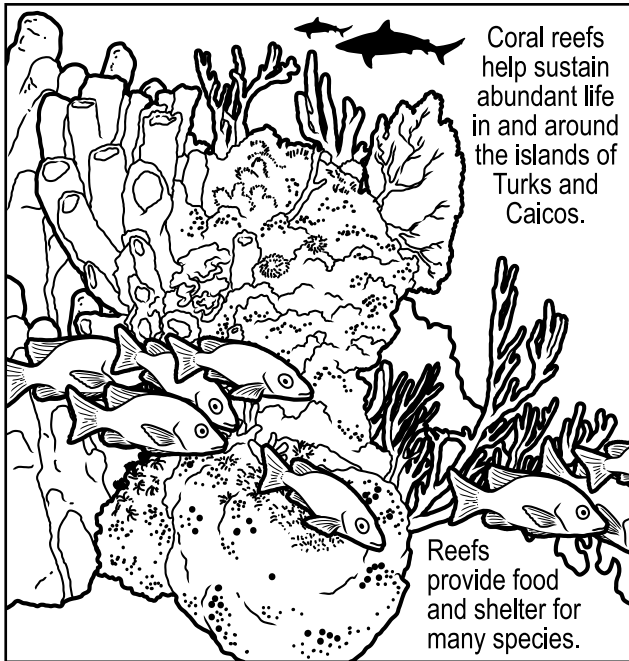
Written by Sharks4Kids with Illustrations by Sharktopia

Artwork created from photos provided by Jillian
Morris, Duncan Brake, and Sean Williams

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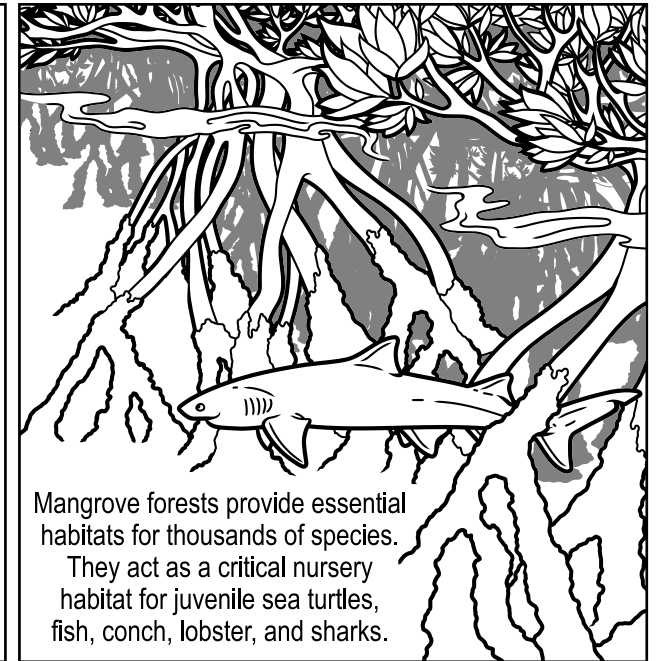

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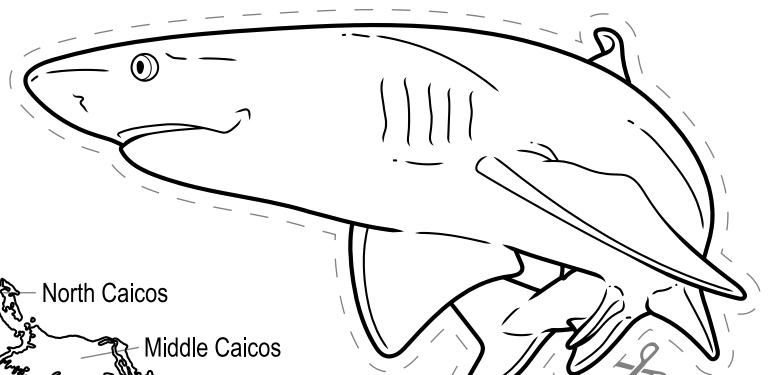
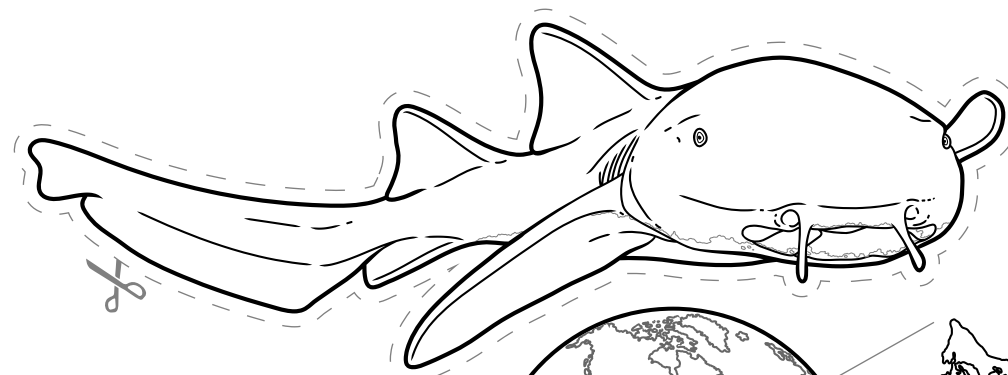
Nurse sharks have a flat body shape and no lower lobe of their tail (caudal fin). They can easily rest on the ocean floor.



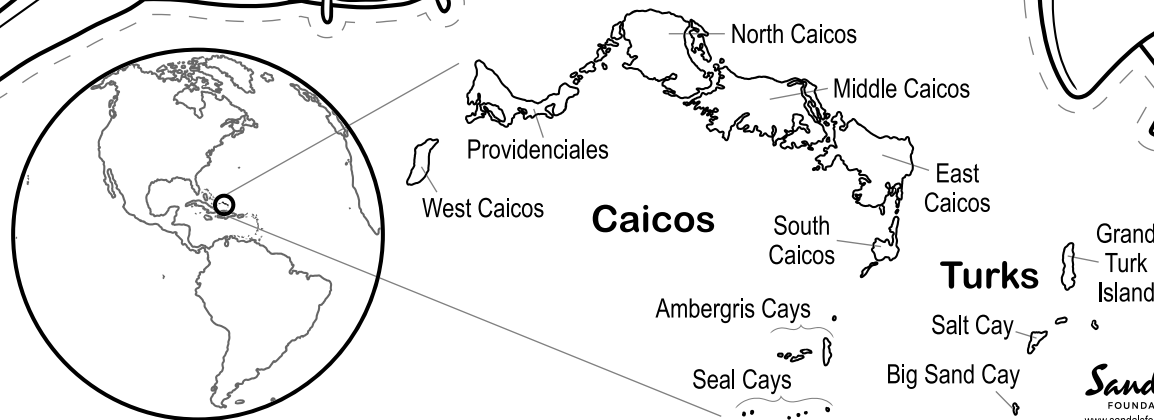
IUCN Red list status for Lemon sharks and Nurse sharks = **Vulnerable**



Research has shown that female lemon sharks return to their birthplace to give birth, like sea turtles and salmon.



TURKS AND CAICOS
is full of life!



Color & cut out the sharks to create fun bookmarks, gift tags, etc!

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TIGER SHARK

Scientific name: *Galeocerdo cuvier*

Length: 5.5 meters (18 feet)

Lifespan: 27 - 37 years

Reproduction: Live birth

Average litter size: 10 - 82 pups

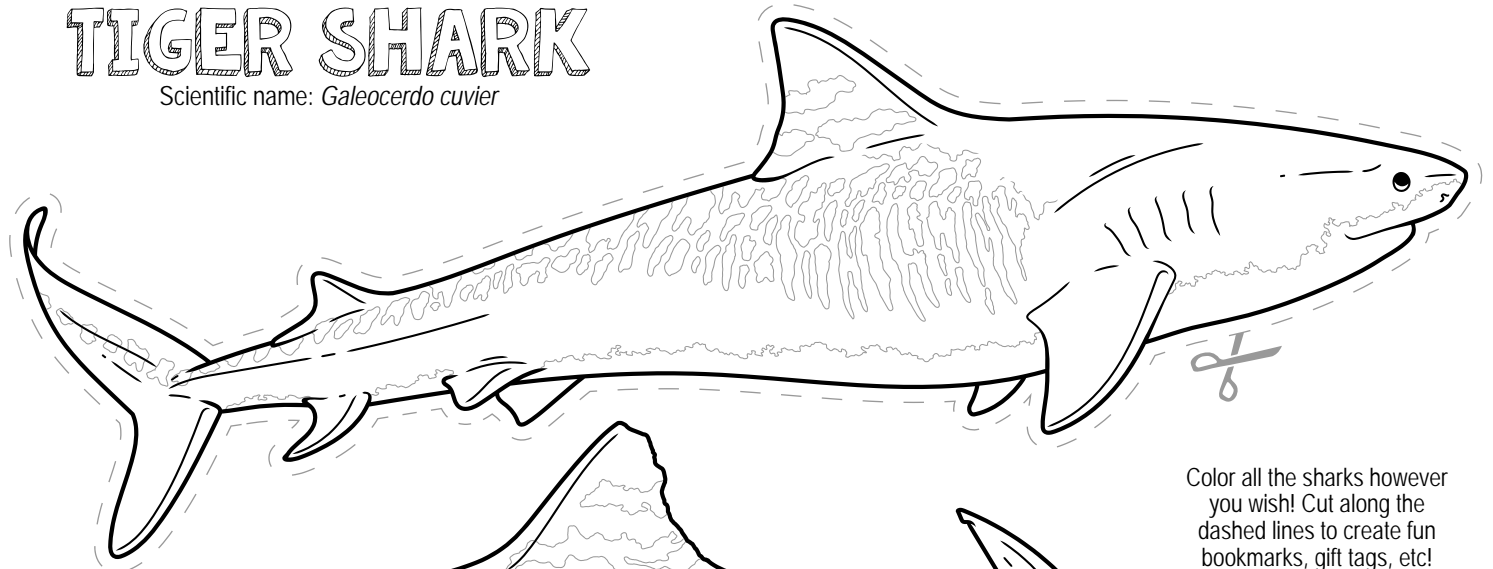
Diet: Sea turtles, sea snakes, birds, fish,
and other sharks

Habitat: Coral reefs, seagrass and open
ocean when migrating

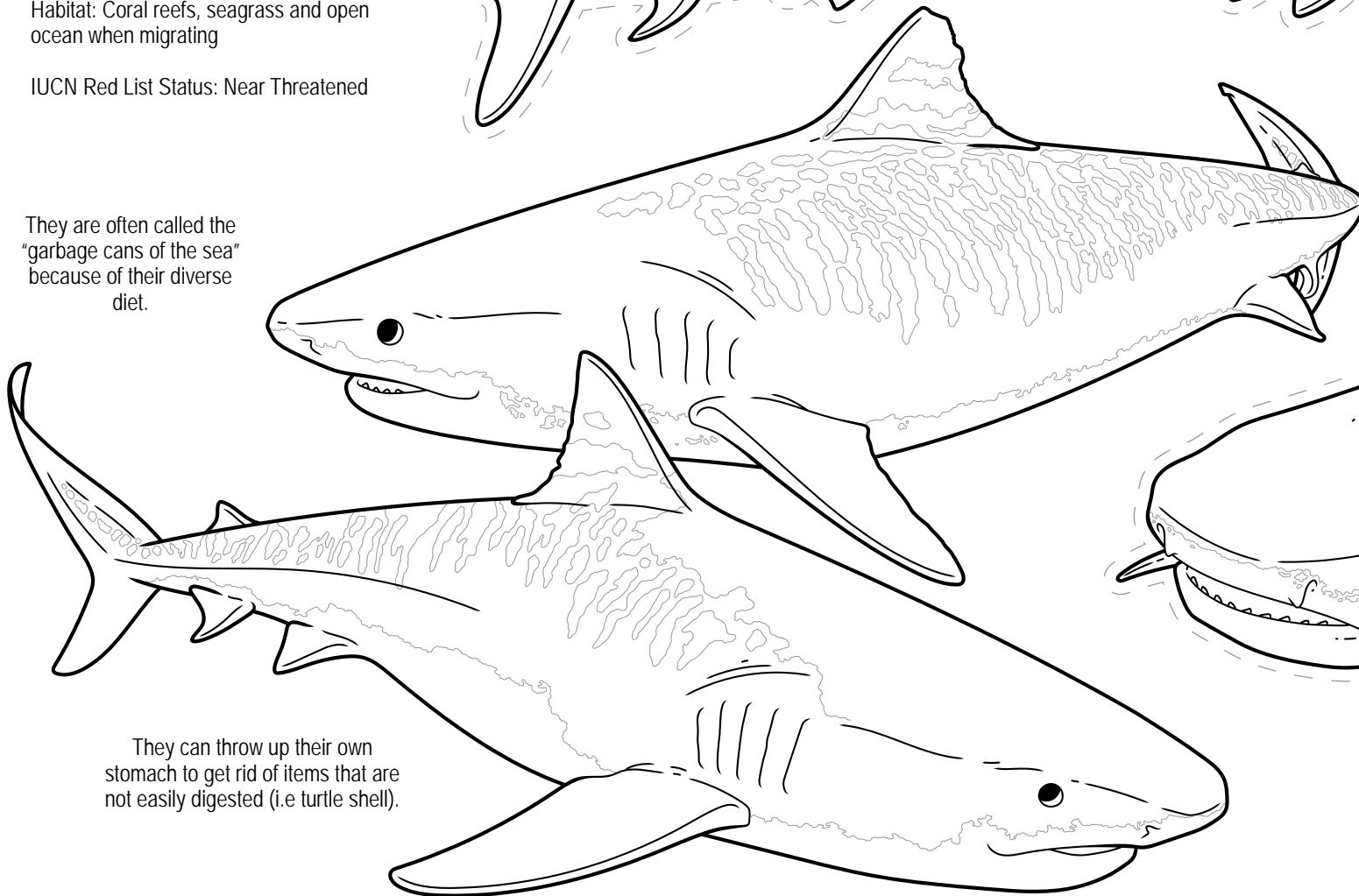
IUCN Red List Status: Near Threatened

They are often called the
"garbage cans of the sea"
because of their diverse
diet.

They can throw up their own
stomach to get rid of items that are
not easily digested (i.e turtle shell).



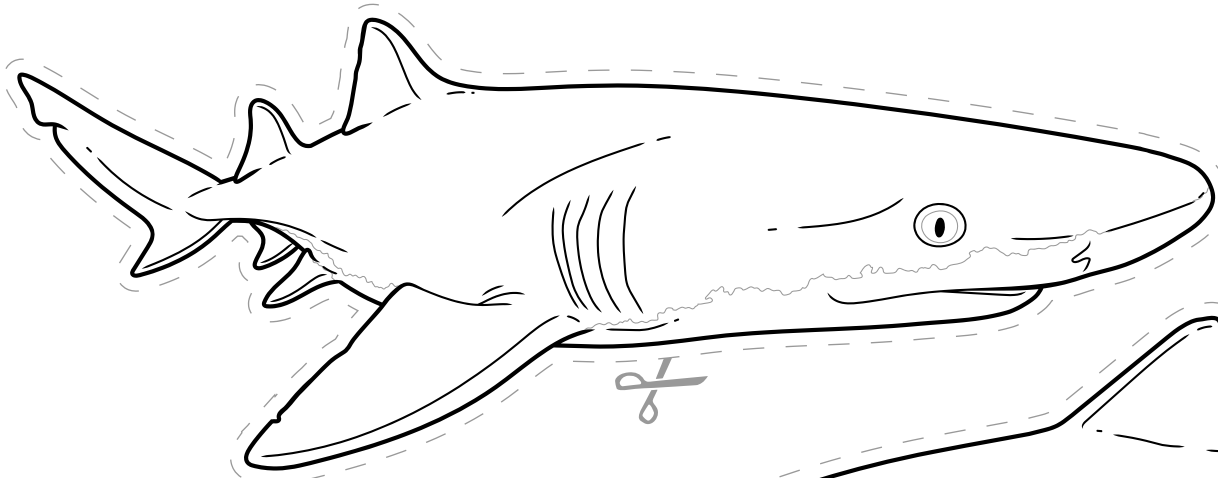
Color all the sharks however
you wish! Cut along the
dashed lines to create fun
bookmarks, gift tags, etc!



LEMON SHARK

Scientific name: *Negaprion brevirostris*

Named for the yellowish color of their skin, which helps them blend in with the sandy ocean floor.



Length: Average length of 2.4 meters (8 feet)
They can reach up to 3.4 meters (11.2 feet)

Lifespan: 27 - 40 years

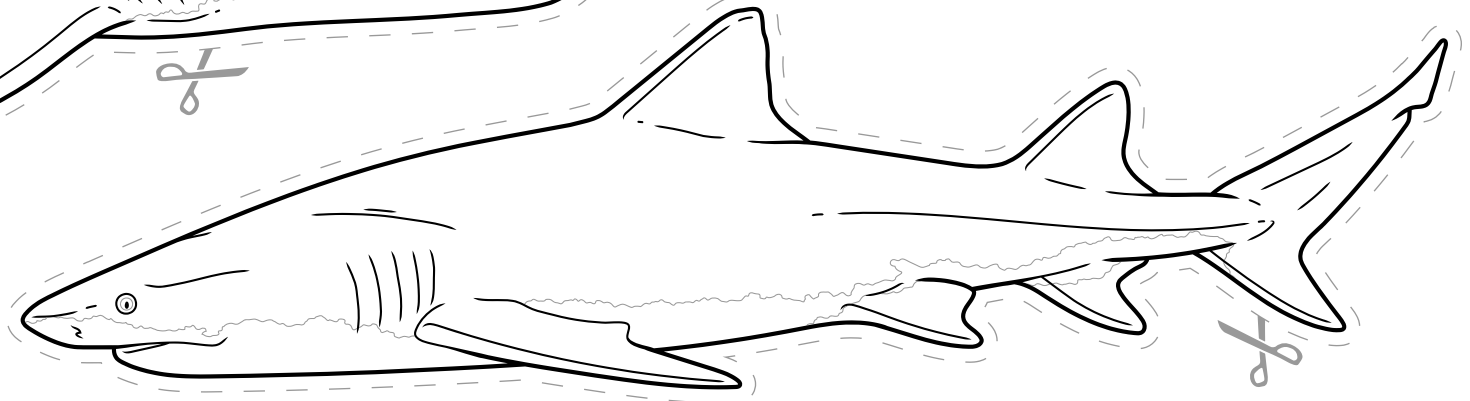
Reproduction: Live birth

Average litter size: 17 pups

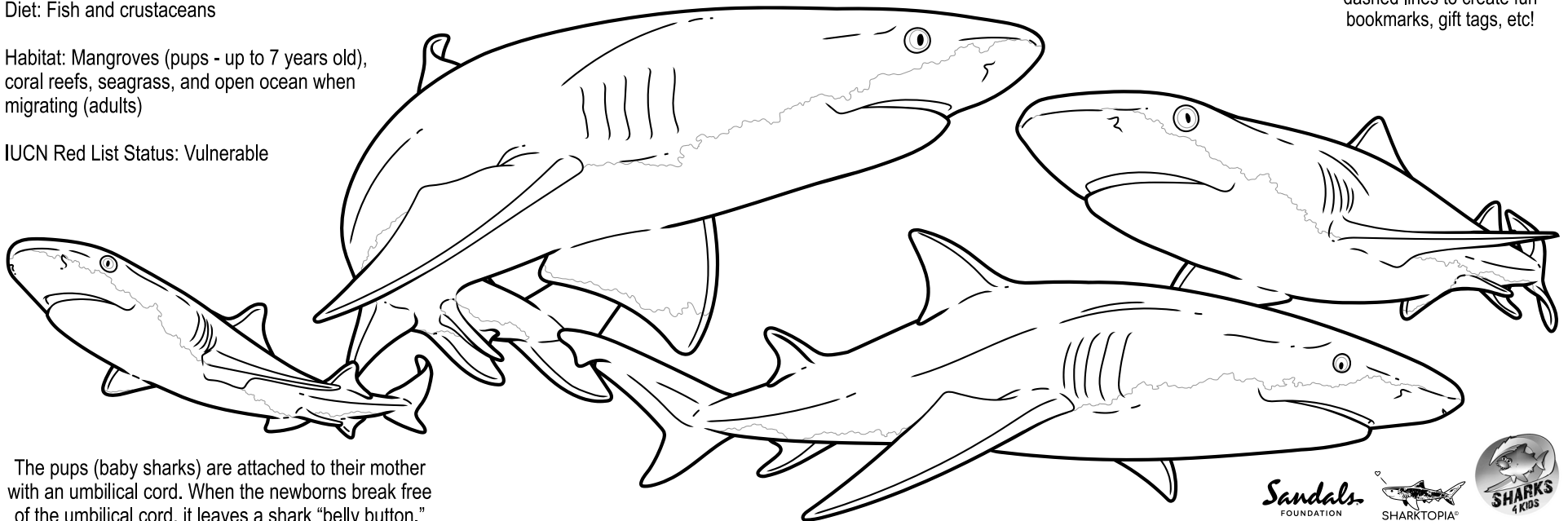
Diet: Fish and crustaceans

Habitat: Mangroves (pups - up to 7 years old),
coral reefs, seagrass, and open ocean when
migrating (adults)

IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable



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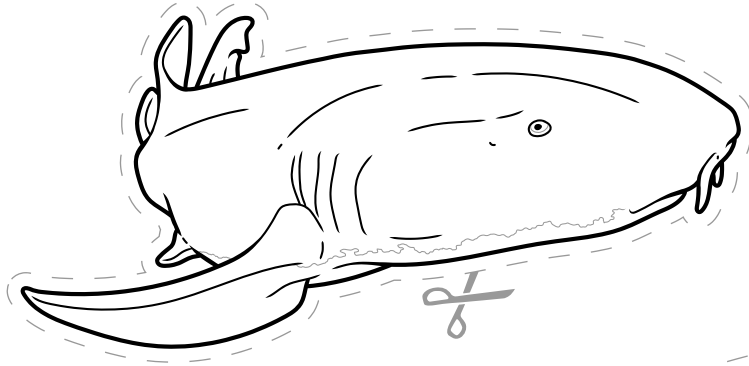


The pups (baby sharks) are attached to their mother
with an umbilical cord. When the newborns break free
of the umbilical cord, it leaves a shark "belly button."

NURSE SHARK

Scientific name: *Ginglymostoma cirratum*

They have two barbels (sensory organs) that dangle near their mouth. These barbels help them locate prey on the seafloor. They have super suction, said to be the equivalent of ten vacuum cleaners.



Length: 3.08 meters (10 feet)

Lifespan: 24+ years

Reproduction: Live birth

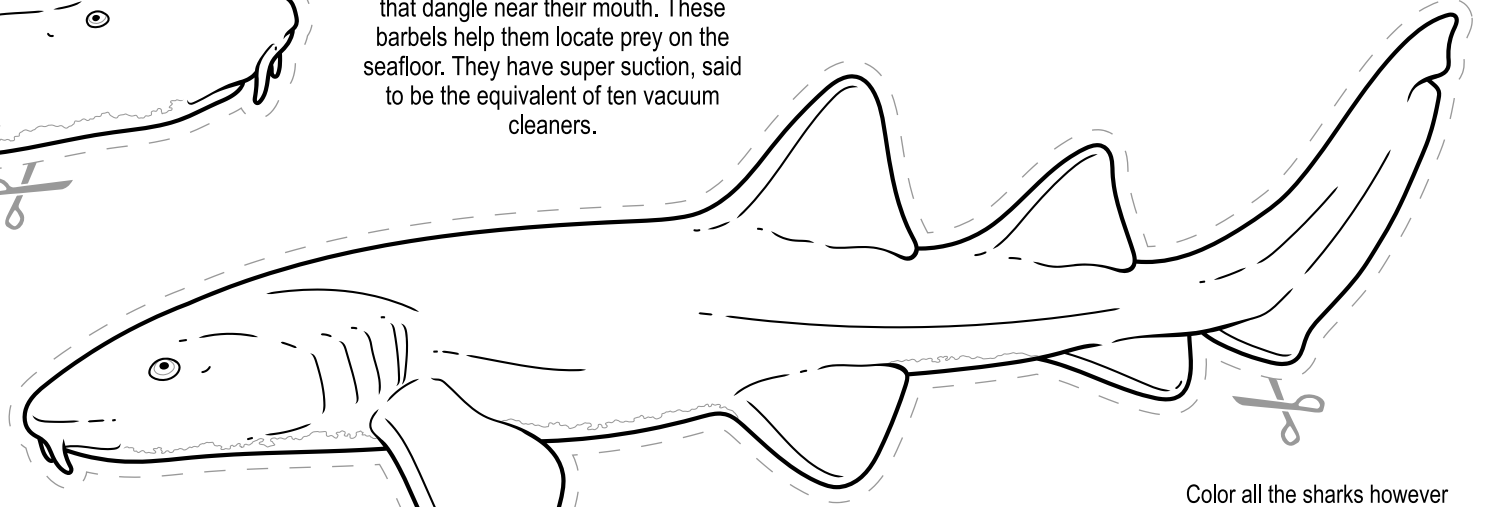
Average litter size: 20 - 30 pups

Diet: Spiny lobster, conch, shrimp, crabs and small fish like grunts

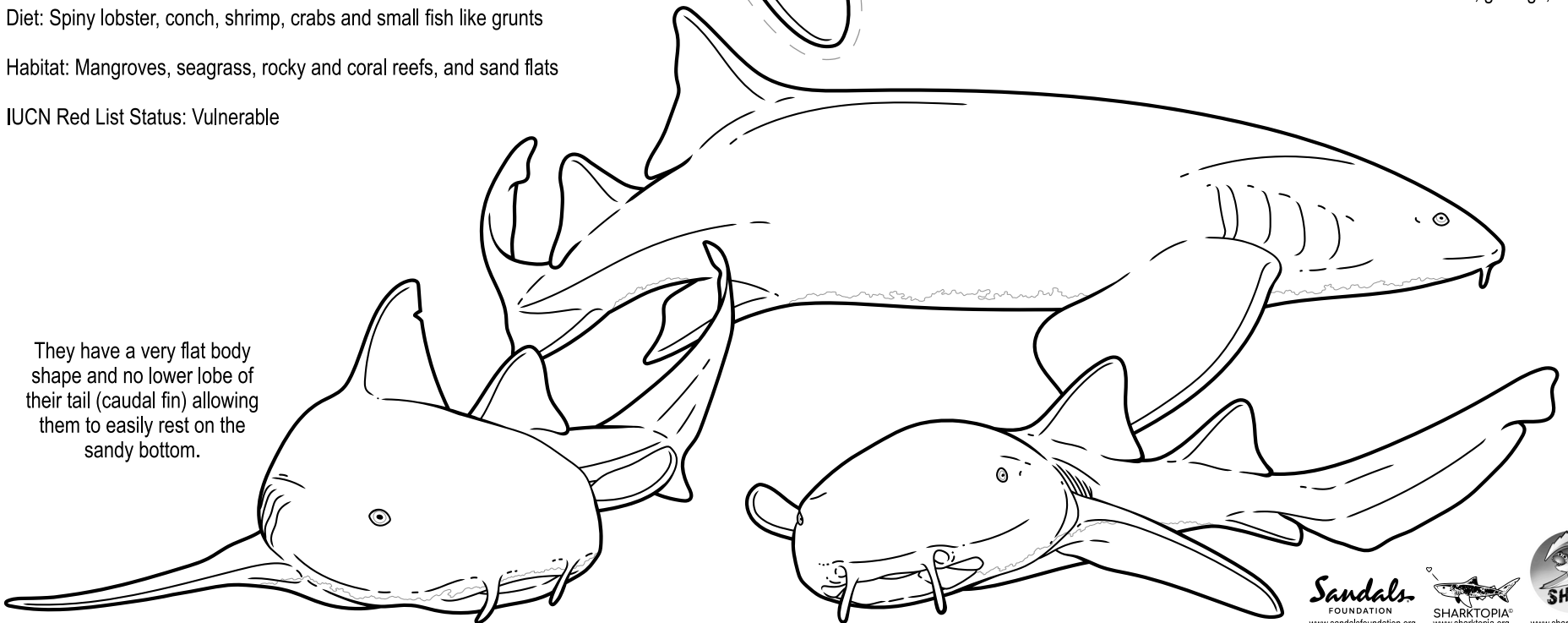
Habitat: Mangroves, seagrass, rocky and coral reefs, and sand flats

IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable

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They have a very flat body shape and no lower lobe of their tail (caudal fin) allowing them to easily rest on the sandy bottom.



They are the most common shark found on or near coral reefs in the Caribbean.

They are the primary species found on "shark feeds" in The Bahamas. Bait is used to attract the sharks so that scuba divers, freedivers, and snorkelers can observe them.

CARIBBEAN REEF SHARK

Scientific name: *Carcharhinus perezii*

Length: 2.95 meters (9.7 feet)

Lifespan: 15 years

Reproduction: Live birth

Average litter size: 4 - 6 pups

Diet: Fish, large crustaceans, octopus, and squid

Habitat: Coral reefs

IUCN Red List Status: Endangered

Color all the sharks however you wish! Cut along the dashed lines to create fun bookmarks, gift tags, etc!

