



Conservation value of having a white shark on exhibit

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Since 2002 the Monterey Bay Aquarium has been collecting biological data on the white shark, (*Carcharodon carcharia*) in order to improve understanding of its life history, to educate the public on the role of this top-level predator in the ecosystem, and to place young-of-year sharks on public display. Ultimately, this information should assist with management of the species, which is currently considered vulnerable and protected by the State of California.

This presentation will include information on habitat preference, movement patterns and genetics of tagged animals in the wild. In addition, it will review what we have learned by keeping six white sharks in captivity for a total of 633 days. Finally, the data will show the impact of this initiative on aquarium visitors in terms of attendance and the value of the white shark as an ambassador for the conservation of oceanic species.