

FALL WORKSHOP
IDENTIFICATION OF SHARKS
FROM SC WATERS



**The South Carolina Chapter
of the American Fisheries Society**
in conjunction with



The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

Saturday November 18, 10am - 2 pm

Presenters:

Glenn Ulrich and Josh Loefer

On Saturday November 18, 2006 the South Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (SC-AFS) organized a fall workshop on the identification of shark from South Carolina waters. This workshop was organized in collaboration with the Marine Resources Division (MRD) of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SC-DNR). The Department generously allowed us to use the Marine Resources Research Institute (MRRI) auditorium and outdoor classroom for this workshop. Based on the number of participants and the reactions afterwards we can look back on a very successful workshop.



Josh Loefer in the MRD auditorium discussing how to identify the tiger shark

We had 69 participants, 21 of whom were SC-AFS members. The participants ranged from 7 years to past retirement age. Local fishermen, students from several area high schools, faculty, staff, and students from UNC Wilmington, College of Charleston, The Citadel, and Coastal Carolina University, and personnel from SC-DNR freshwater and marine Divisions, NOAA, the South

Carolina Aquarium, and local community organizations were among those attending.

The workshop began at 10:15am with a welcome and brief introduction by the SC-AFS president, who also welcomed the workshop participants on behalf of Robert Boyles, the MRD director. Around 10:20 Josh Loefer started the workshop by explaining several key characteristics of sharks. He stressed various important morphological features and shark habitat, and also discussed fishing regulations, aspects of shark fishing, and (not) handling of sharks once caught. Glenn Ulrich then took over to discuss the most common coastal sharks.

At 11:00 we took a brief break, after which Josh continued the presentation by introducing various off-shore species. A lively discussion followed the presentations, and a hungry crowd walked to the out-door classroom to dig in to the hearty chili lunch that Bryan Frazier prepared.



Workshop participants
enjoying the chili lunch

Judging by the number of second helpings, everyone enjoyed the meal. During lunch Josh and Glenn, with the help of several participants, brought out the specimens for the "Hands On Sharks" portion of the workshop. Around 1pm we started with a quiz asking the participants to identify the 9 species that were laid out on tables using the information and an identification key provided that morning. After everyone completed the quiz, Josh and Glenn revealed the identification of each species while showing everyone the key characteristics.

After all species were discussed, several small rewards were handed out to those who were able to correctly identify all species.

This very successful workshop was adjourned at 2pm with many thanks to Josh, Glenn, and others that helped, and a word of appreciation to the participants for their interest and attendance.



Participants identifying sharks as part of the "Hands On Sharks" portion of the workshop on Saturday afternoon.

This workshop would have been impossible without the help of many. The SC-AFS would like to thank Josh Loefer and Glenn Ulrich for their wonderful presentations and hands-on instruction. We also would like to acknowledge MRD for making the auditorium and the outdoor classroom available. My personal thanks to Carrie Hendrix, who, in addition to assisting with the presentations, did a fantastic job handling the registration, welcoming participants, and with the general workshop organization. We also would like to acknowledge the invaluable help of Laurie DiJoy, Jon Geddings, Brad Floyd, Gabe Ziskin, Emily Evans, Marcus Zokan, Scott Meister and many others with registration, instruction, logistics, and clean-up. Bryan Frazier was responsible for the cooking and based on the reactions, no one went home hungry. Thank you Bryan!

Marcel Reichert
President of the South Carolina Chapter
of the American Fisheries Society