



NEWS

Navigating The Waters: Understanding The Rise In Shark Attacks, Are Humans To Blame?

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Shark attacks have been on the rise in recent years, attracting attention and concern from both locals and tourists in popular beach destinations such as Florida, California, and around the world. There are several theories that could be contributing to an increase in shark attacks.

One possible reason is the changing climate and ocean conditions. As water temperatures rise and ecosystems evolve, sharks may be forced to move closer to

shore in search of food. This increased proximity to human-populated areas can lead to more encounters and potential attacks.

Another theory is overfishing and habitat degradation that could be driving the increase in shark attacks. As sharks seek food closer to shore due to dwindling prey, competition escalates, leading to more aggressive behavior and higher chances of encountering humans. This highlights the importance of sustainable practices to mitigate conflicts and ensure the well-being of both shark and human populations.

Media reports on shark attacks can sensationalize incidents, fueling fear and exaggerating the frequency of such events. This heightened sense of danger may discourage beach visits and water activities, impacting both tourism and public perception. Consequently, it could diminish support for shark conservation initiatives.

“Shark attacks on humans are rare; it’s easier to be killed by a coconut falling on your head! And even when shark attacks happen, survival rates are high. These predators usually ‘test’ bite humans, but favor other prey. So, if there is a beach closure because of shark attacks in your ocean backyard, well...stay out of the water, but otherwise don’t be frightened, enjoy the water, and above all respect the ocean and its inhabitants,” Maddalena Bearzi, Ph.D., President of the [Ocean Conservation Society](#), told WAN.

On average, sharks are responsible for approximately 10 fatalities per year worldwide, with the majority of attacks being non-fatal.

On the other hand, humans pose a much greater threat to sharks. It is estimated that humans kill around [100 million sharks](#) per year for shark finning, bycatch in fishing nets, and habitat destruction. This large-scale killing has led to a decline in shark populations globally, with many species facing the threat of extinction.

It is important for researchers, policymakers, and the public to work together to better understand and address these complex dynamics in order to promote coexistence and safety in marine environments for both wildlife and humans to peacefully coexist.

We must recognize the important role that sharks play in our ecosystem and work towards conservation efforts to protect these important apex predators for the health of our oceans and planet.

You can help all animals and our planet by choosing compassion on your plate and in your glass. [#GoVeg](#)