



Whale Shark

Why in News

Recently, fishers in Odisha rescued a **whale shark**.



Key Points

▪ About:

- Whale sharks are the **largest shark**, and indeed **largest of any fishes alive today** and they **travel large distances** to find enough food to sustain their huge size, and to reproduce.
- The whale shark is a **'filter feeder shark'** which means it does not eat meat like other sharks. Whale sharks **filter sea water** and **feed on tiny planktons**.
- The maximum size of whale sharks is not known, but **could be as large as 20m**.

▪ Scientific Name:

- *Rhincodon typus*.

▪ Habitat:

- Whale sharks are **found in all the tropical oceans** of the world.

▪ Threats:

- **Oil & gas drilling, shipping lanes** etc.

▪ Protection Status:

- [IUCN Red List](#): Endangered
- [CITES](#): Appendix II
- [Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#): Schedule I

[Source: DTE](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/whale-shark-1>

