

# Shark catch and release survivability in the South West UK recreational fishery

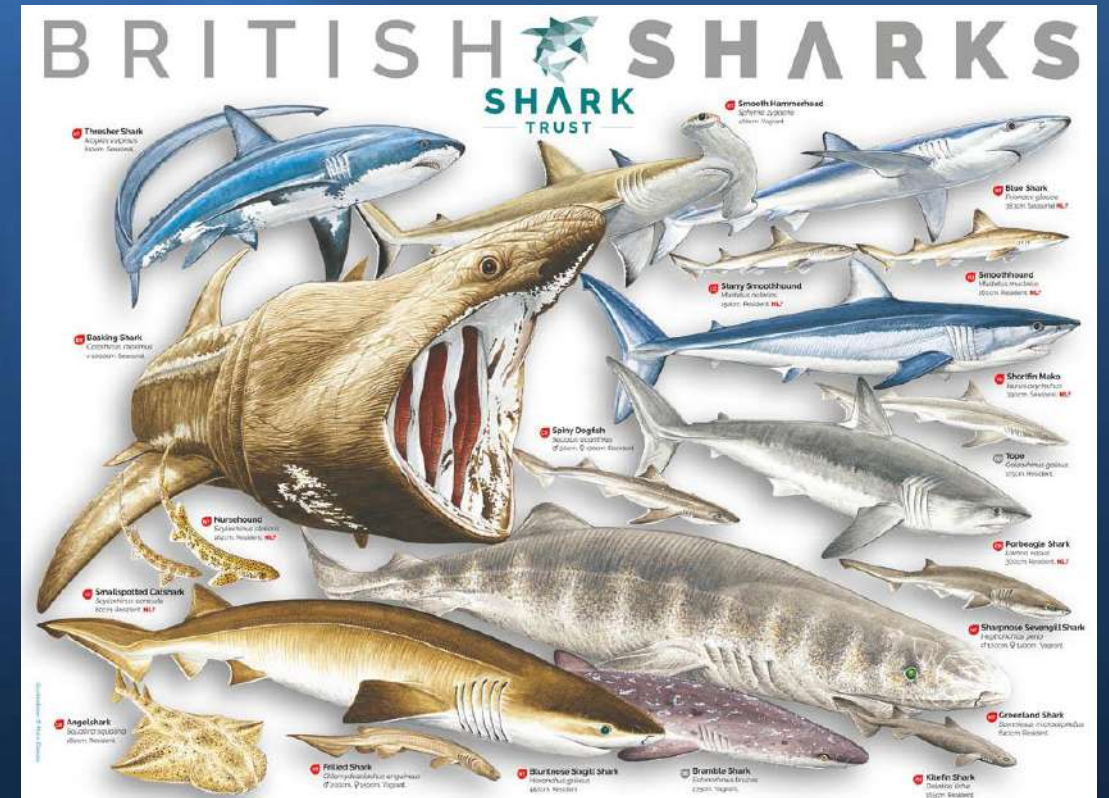
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# The Importance of sharks

- Keystone predators
  - Control population dynamics
  - Limit spatial distribution
  - Target weaker individuals
- Economic value of sharks
  - Source of income
  - Generate revenue
  - Provide incentives for protection



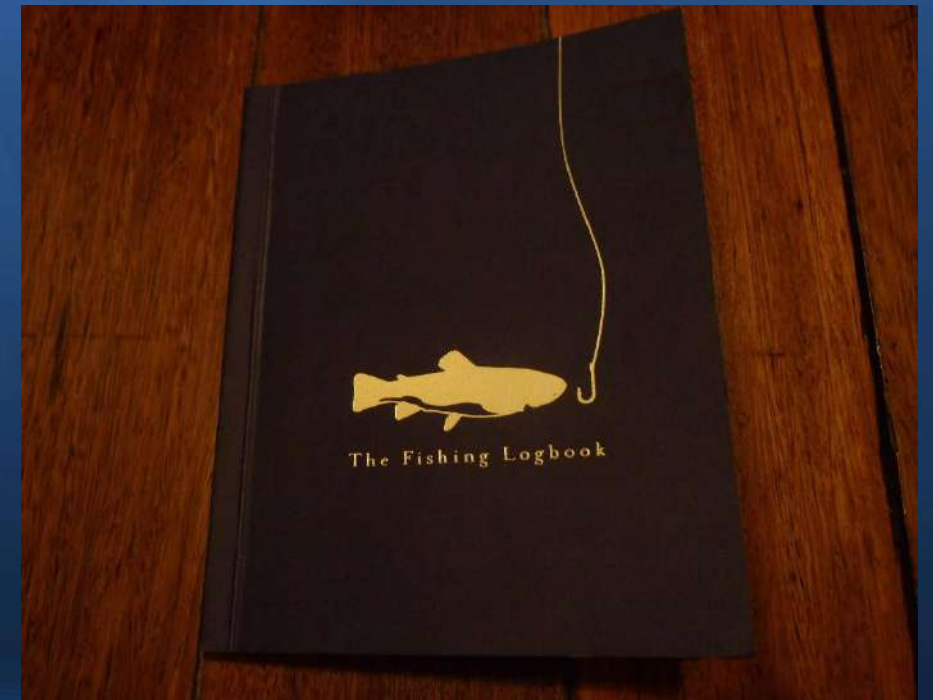
# *Catch and release fisheries*

- UK
  - 884,000 fishers
  - 4 million fishing days
  - £831 million spend(DEFRA, 2012)
- Growing catch and release shark fishery
- Lack of regional and species specific data
- Improved population recoveries = socio-economic benefit of fishery



# *Project aims*

- **Create a historic and contemporary baseline of fishery**
- Deploy electronic tags to study post-release survivorship (175 tags) with recreational fishers
- Inform evidence-based best practices for shark catch and release activities



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**SHARK TRUST**  
SEA-ANGLING ADVISORY

## Handling best practice

Whenever possible, lift a shark to move it

Hold or lift a shark under mid-body and base of the tail

▶ Where possible, release sharks from the side of the boat  
▶ Only inboard a shark when absolutely necessary  
▶ **NEVER** use a gaff!

Avoid contact with the gills, which can be easily damaged

Dragging or holding a shark solely by its tail can easily damage the animal

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