

YOUR EYES ON ELASMOS



WWW.GULFELASMOPROJECT.COM

WHO WE ARE

The Gulf **Elasmo** Project is a non-profit initiative working on elasmobranchs (sharks, rays, guitarfishes and sawfishes) in the Arabian Seas region.

MISSION

The Gulf **Elasmo** Project aims to advance research, education and conservation of elasmobranchs in the Arabian Seas region by promoting, developing, supporting and undertaking research and educational initiatives.

VISION

The Gulf **Elasmo** Project seeks to ensure the conservation and protection of vulnerable elasmobranch species by building a framework where science and education are the basis for a cooperative and collaborative approach that will contribute to the sound management of the marine environment.



A TIME FOR ACTION



The demand for shark fins and various elasmobranch products from eastern Asia has been a driver in the overexploitation of these species around the world. Studies show that elasmobranchs are extremely **vulnerable** to fishing pressure and once populations are depleted, they are very slow to recover. This is mainly due to the fact that most species are long-lived, slow to grow, reach maturity late in life, and produce few young. Recent work in the Arabian region suggests that current exploitation levels of many elasmobranch species are **unsustainable** and their depletion may have serious consequences on marine ecosystems. Yet there is still limited scientific data on most species and it is likely that without this information to support conservation measures, governments in the region will not prioritise elasmobranch **protection**. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

THE PROBLEM

1/4 OF THE
WORLD'S SHARKS
AND RAYS ARE
THREATENED WITH
EXTINCTION

up to
73 million
SHARKS killed
every year



International demand
for shark **FINS** and
MEAT is driving their
exploitation



Taken primarily
as **BYCATCH** or
TARGETED



More than **20%** of
reported
elasmobranch
catches are from
the **ARABIAN SEAS**
region

90%
Decline in
some shark
populations

TAKE ACTION TODAY By reporting your sightings of sharks, rays, guitarfishes and sawfishes, **YOU** can make a difference. Be **OUR** eyes in the field and help us advance research and conservation in the region.



Help maintain
balance in marine
ecosystems

GET **INVOLVED** IN
ELASMOBRANCH
CONSERVATION!

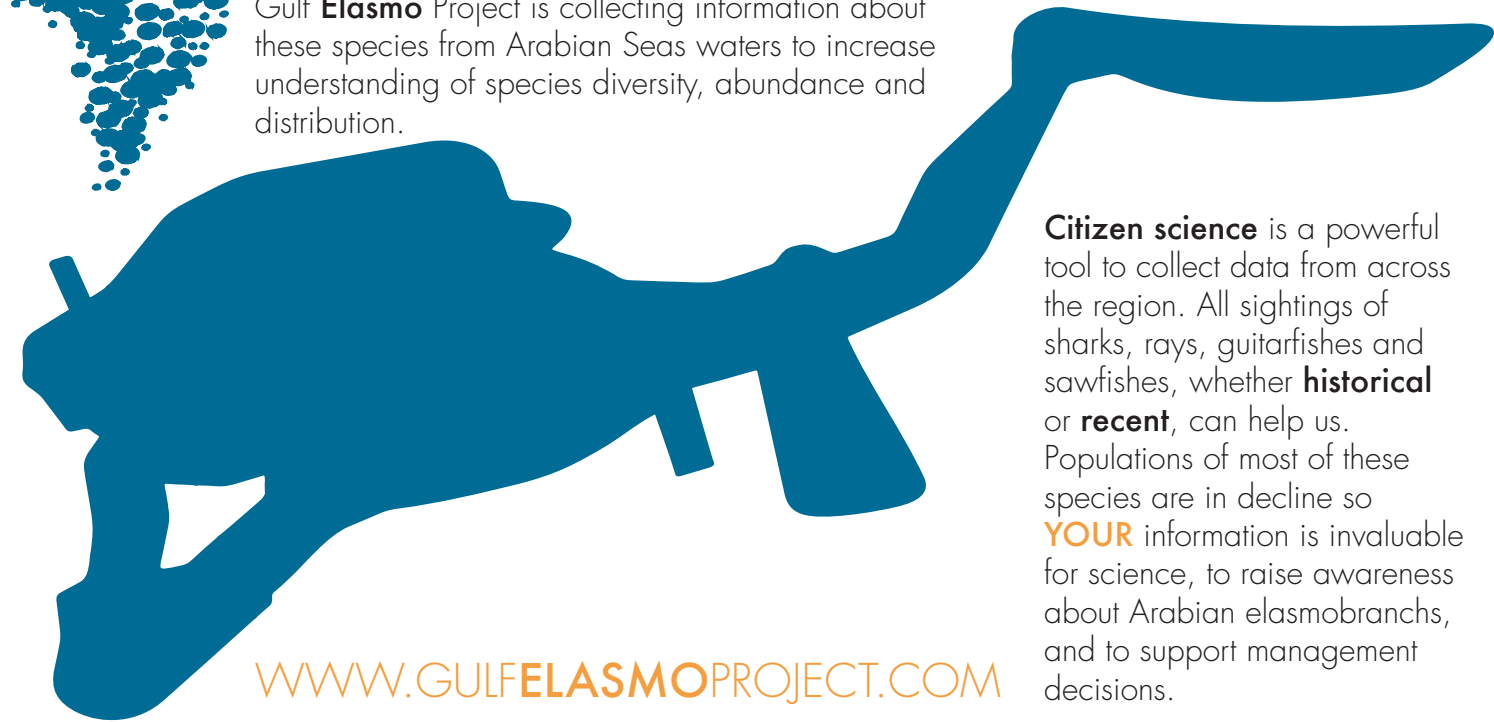


WHY REPORT YOUR SIGHTINGS?

There is currently little information on sharks and rays in the Arabian Seas region. With increasing threats from fisheries, coastal development, habitat degradation and pollution, continued monitoring of sharks and rays is essential to ensure their long-term survival. The Gulf **Elasmo** Project is collecting information about these species from Arabian Seas waters to increase understanding of species diversity, abundance and distribution.

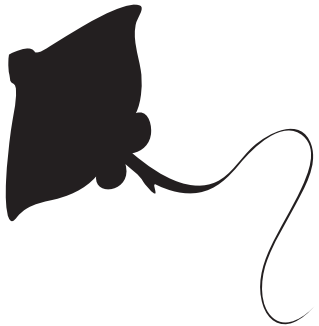


WHERE WE WORK



Citizen science is a powerful tool to collect data from across the region. All sightings of sharks, rays, guitarfishes and sawfishes, whether **historical** or **recent**, can help us. Populations of most of these species are in decline so **YOUR** information is invaluable for science, to raise awareness about Arabian elasmobranchs, and to support management decisions.

WWW.GULFELASMOPROJECT.COM



YOUR EYES ON ELASMOS

Advancing research and conservation

Promoting citizen science

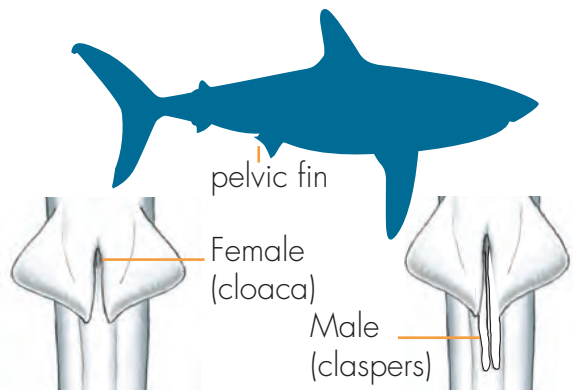
Using your **EYES** to make a difference

WHAT PICTURES TO TAKE



You **DON'T** have to be a professional photographer to submit your pictures. **ANY** photos can help us with this project. However, to help us make an accurate identification, side images of sharks showing the **whole body**, and **top views** of rays and guitarfishes, are preferred. Because male and female individuals can easily be distinguished, please try and take a picture of the pelvic area.

HOW TO TELL APART MALES AND FEMALES?



NOW YOU CAN
MAKE A DIFFERENCE
AND BE OUR EYES
IN THE FIELD. IT'S
EASY AND ANYONE
CAN CONTRIBUTE!

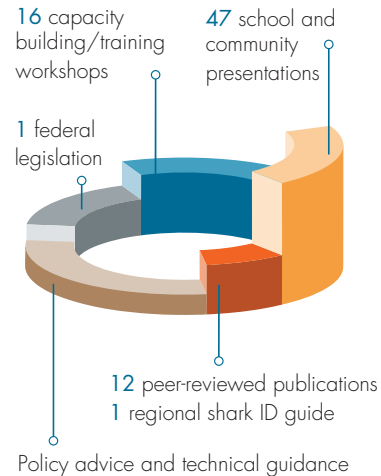
If you see elasmobranchs in these waters, please let us know. Email us or fill out our online reporting form with as much information as you can, including the number of animals you saw, the location and time of your sighting, your activity at the time...



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROJECT

GULF ELASMO PROJECT

5 YEARS
RUNNING



108

VOLUNTEERS
INVOLVED

2,627

STUDENTS
TARGETED

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

IRELAND
KUWAIT
GERMANY
SOUTH AFRICA
JAPAN
CANADA
UNITED KINGDOM

YOUR EYES ON ELASMOS

1 YEAR
RUNNING

783

PICTURES
SUBMITTED

156

SIGHTINGS
REPORTED

NUMBER OF SPECIES SIGHTED

25



21



REPORTING COUNTRIES

UAE
OMAN
IRAN
QATAR
KUWAIT
PAKISTAN
INDIA

SOME REPORTED SIGHTINGS

UNDERWATER



AT LANDING SITES OR ON THE BEACH

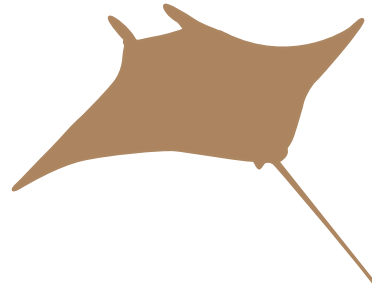


SOME INTERESTING FACTS



Elasmobranchs are older than dinosaurs and have been on earth for over **400 MILLION YEARS**

Mantas and devil rays give birth to only **ONE** offspring every **2** to **5** years. They are considered **THREATENED** because of the rising demand for their gill rakers



Many sharks and rays are **HIGHLY MIGRATORY** and can cross whole ocean basins

ELASMOBRANCHS ARE WORTH MORE ALIVE THAN DEAD



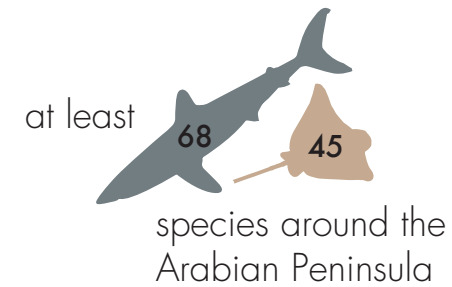
US \$ 150 is the value of **one manta** for fisheries

US \$ 1 MILLION is its value in tourism money over its lifetime

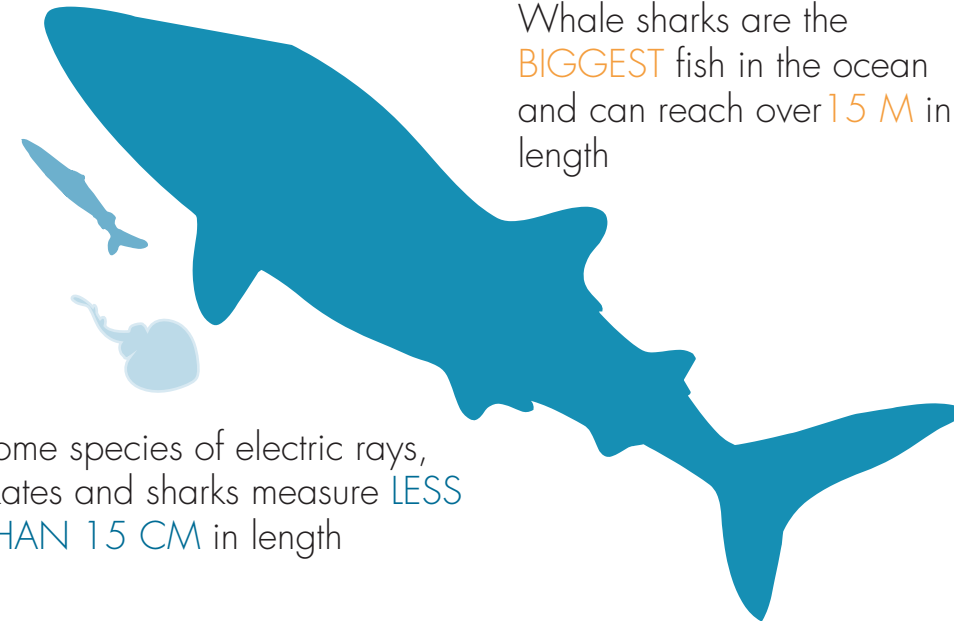
US \$108 is the value of **one large shark** for consumption

US \$ 1.9 MILLION is its value to the tourism industry over its lifetime

THERE ARE OVER **510** SHARK AND **650** RAY SPECIES AROUND THE WORLD



SHARKS AND RAYS COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES



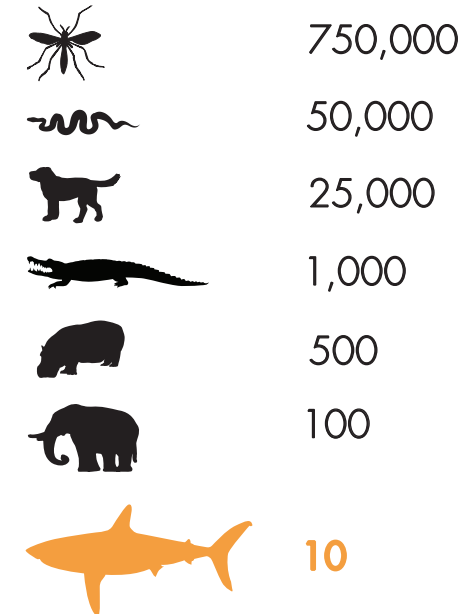
Whale sharks are the **BIGGEST** fish in the ocean and can reach over **15 M** in length

Some species of electric rays, skates and sharks measure **LESS THAN 15 CM** in length

MISUNDERSTOOD

SHARKS KILL FEWER PEOPLE EACH YEAR THAN MANY OTHER ANIMALS

NUMBER OF PEOPLE KILLED BY ANIMALS EVERY YEAR



REPORT **YOUR** SIGHTINGS

WWW.GULFELASMOPROJECT.COM



Supported by Emirates Natural History Group - Abu Dhabi
Images © Simone Caprodossi Photography

For more information, contact:
Dr. Rima Jabado

 info@gulfelasmoproject.com
 Facebook.com/GulfElasmoProject