



Shark Conflicts with the LA Shrimp Industry

La Sea Grant Research On Shark Damage

Shark damage occurs on 65% of trips

Encounters with sharks:

- 74% occur **offshore**
- Time of day:
 - 20% Daytime
 - 10% Nighttime
 - 69% **Day & Night**
- When actively trawling (40%) and **picking up** (60%)
- **Decreases** when fishing with other boats nearby
- Factors:
 - 91%: **wind direction**
 - 83%: **wet v. dry years**

Economic impact:

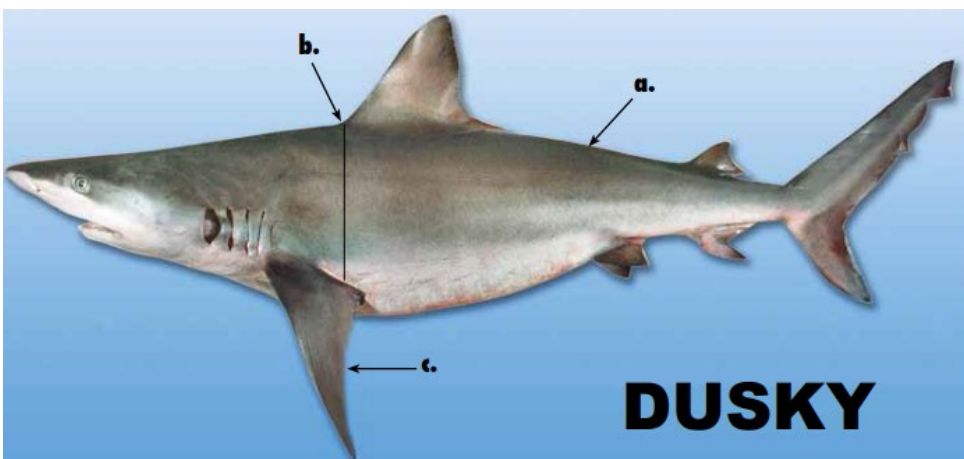
- **4 hrs. per day to repair nets** (range: 0-9 hrs.)
- **Pulling up** nets more frequently
- Over **77% report** shark holes are **10 to over 20 in.**
- Moving to avoid sharks (avg. of **8 miles** with a range of 1-15 miles)
- Shrimpers report a **loss of 14-32% in catch due to time for net repair**

Shark Conflicts By Month

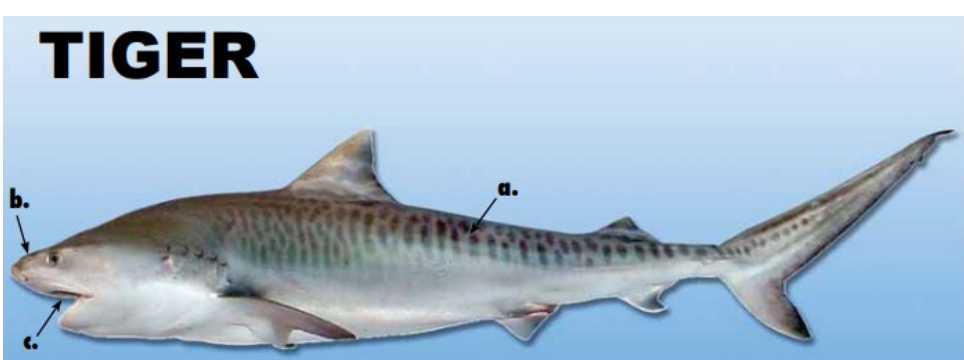


Top sharks damaging nets:

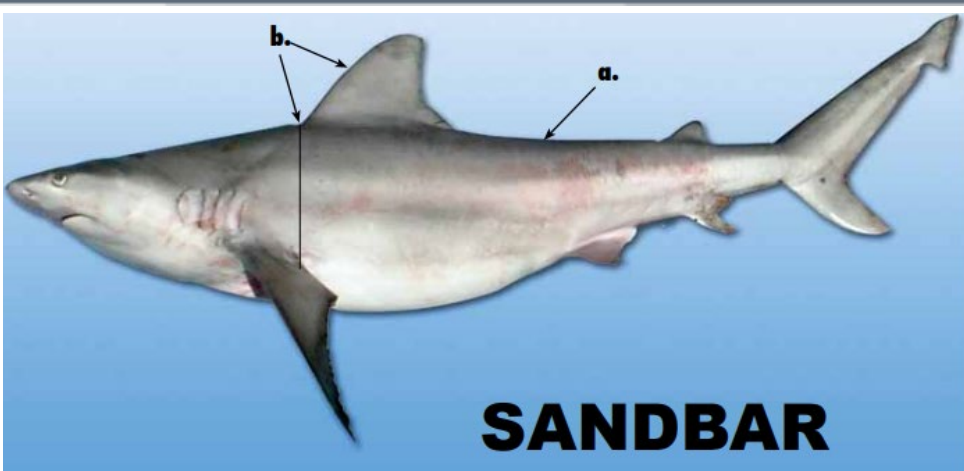
- #1 Dusky
- #2 Tiger
- Sandbar
- Silky
- #5 Blacktip
- #6 Lemon
- Blacknose



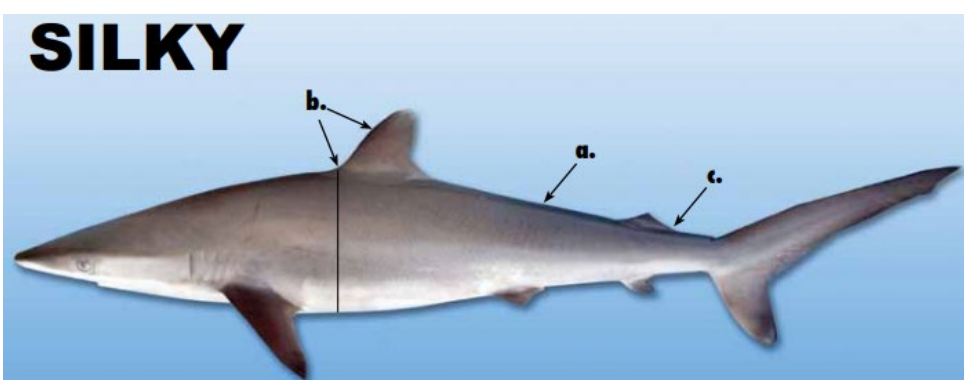
DUSKY



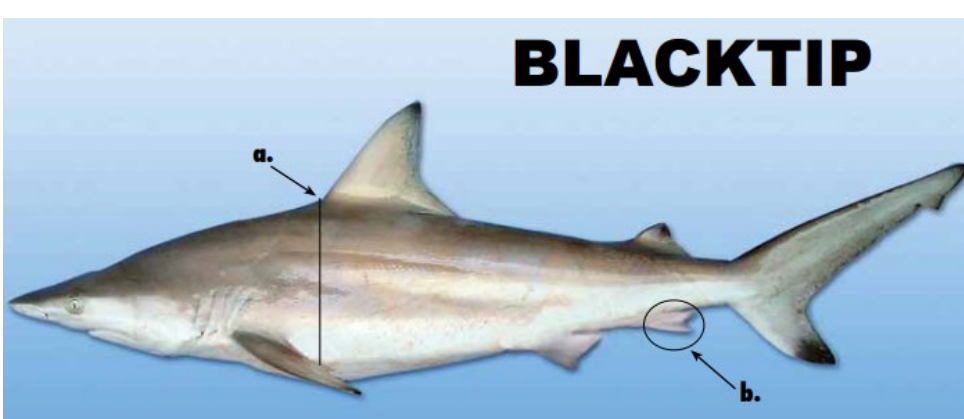
TIGER



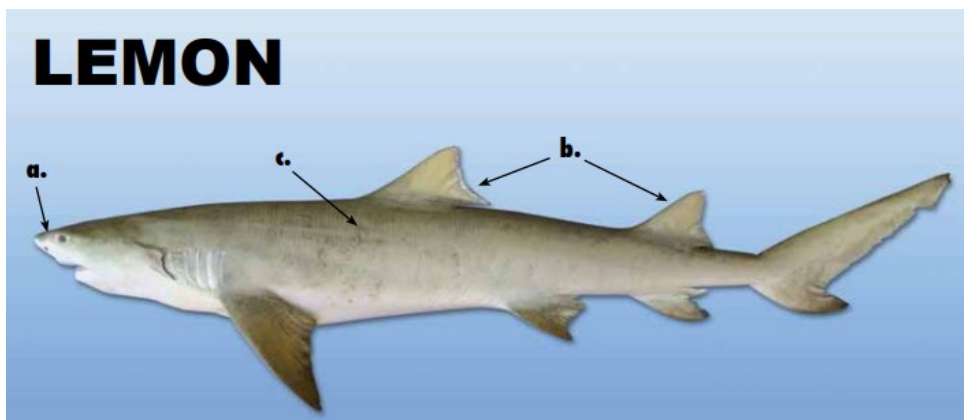
SANDBAR



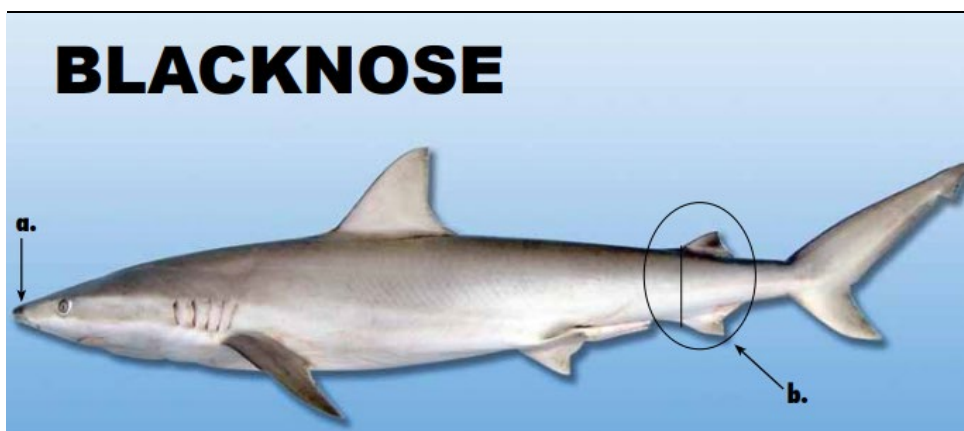
SILKY



BLACKTIP



LEMON



BLACKNOSE

Thu Bui & Julie Lively
Data from 120 surveys of
Louisiana shrimpers



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98% felt sharks are a problem in their fishing effort

Other species causing problems:

- Dolphin & Porpoise (80%)
- Red drum (12%)
- Black drum (4%)
- Pilot whales/ Blackfish (2%)

Shark problems increase:

- When more shrimp are around
- When shrimp are bigger
- More bycatch (and discarding increases shark presence)

Bycatch associated with sharks:

- #1- Croaker
- #2- Menhaden
- #3- Ribbon fish/ Cutlassfish
- #4- Red drum

Nets:

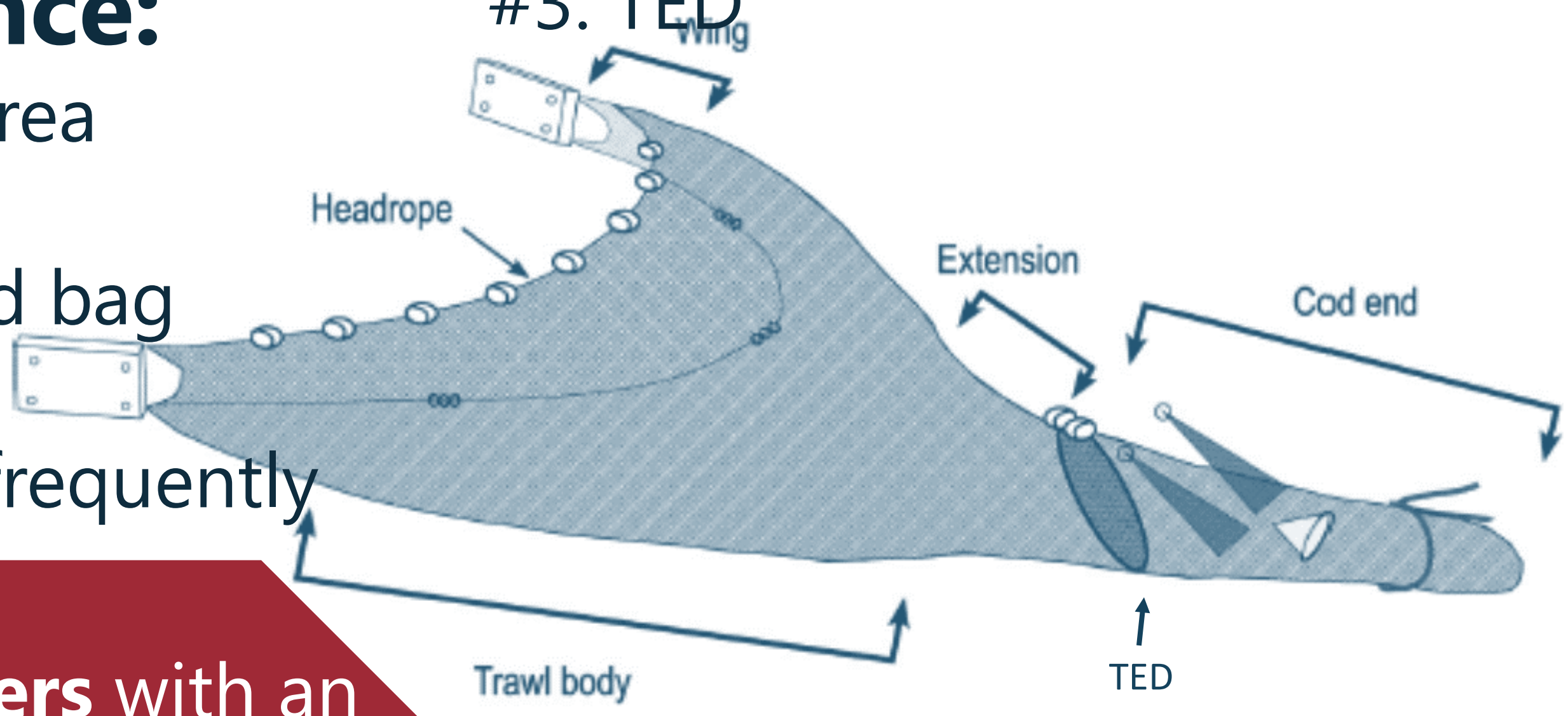
- 2 or 4 nets to fish at one time
- Average of 6 spare nets on board
- Net cost: \$600-\$5,000 per net
- 2 people onboard can repair nets

Area of the net most damaged:

- #1: Cod end
- #2: Extension
- #3: TED

Methods of avoidance:

- Moving to another area
- Alternative webbing
- Protective net around bag
- Magnets
- Cleaning nets more frequently



• 98% were full time shrimpers with an average of 27 years in the industry

• 76% shrimp primarily in offshore waters while 24% shrimp inshore

Thu Bui & Julie Lively
Data from 120 surveys of Louisiana shrimpers