

BIGEYE THRESHER SHARK

- India, there are 3 types of Thresher Sharks and like all sharks, they also have a cartilaginous skeleton. Other fishes like tuna and sailfish etc are bony fishes.
- Sharks as a group evolved over 300 millions years ago. Sharks have nerve endings on their nose and lateral line called 'ampullae of lorenzini' that helps them detect the electric signals and/or distress of their prey base.
- Thresher sharks are easily distinguished by their very long tails; in fact, their tail length is almost as long as the rest of their body. They are also one of the fastest among sharks (fastest shark is Mako).

DESCRIPTION

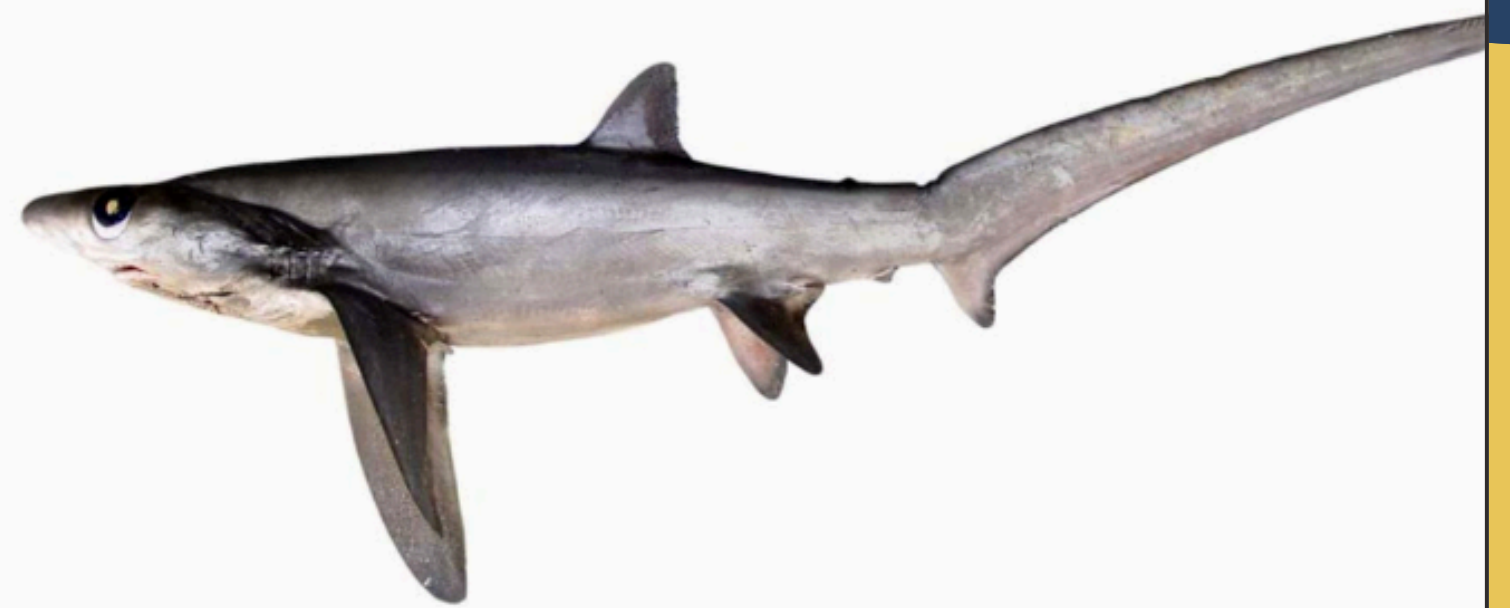
Scientific Name: *Alopias superciliosus*

Length: 101-140 cm

Habitat: Marine

Distribution: Found in across the oceans

Diet: Teleosts, cephalopods, and occasional crustaceans



Source: Australian National Fish Collection, CSIRO

IMPORTANCE

- An excellently evolved apex predators and crucial to the ecosystem.

FUN FACT

What happens if run you your fingers on shark skin? Well, shark skin is made of denticles (structure similar to their teeth). So if you run your hand on shark skin, it is smooth on one way and rough the other way.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

- Big eyes that look upward
- Top of the head has deep lines
- Tail fin is curved like a sickle, with a very long top part
- First back fin starts far behind the front fins

THREATS

Overexploitation, unregulated fishing, bycatch, prey base depletion, and climate crisis

IUCN

Vulnerable