

Blacktip Shark

Carcharhinus limbatus



DESCRIPTION: Gray above, white below. Tips of dorsal and pectoral fins are black, as is the lower lobe of the caudal fin. Short snout and stout body. Dorsal fin begins at a point above the rear portion of the pectoral fin.

SIZE: Common from 5-30 pounds; seldom reaches 100 pounds, but reported to 200 or more. World record 220 pounds, 9 ounces.

FOOD VALUE: Very good.

GAME QUALITIES: Pound for pound, probably the scrappiest of sharks. Wages a wild battle on light tackle, marked by long runs and frantic jumps, especially in shallow water.

TACKLE AND BAITS: Spinning and baitcasting outfits; also fly outfits. Takes shrimp and any sort of fresh cut-bait. With good presentation (Sharks have poor eyesight, and you have to put the lure very close to them), they will also hit a variety of artificial lures, especially topwater plugs and flyrod poppers; large (for purposes of visibility) streamer flies; slow-swimming jigs and underwater plugs.

FISHING SYSTEMS: Casting; Drifting; Still Fishing.

OTHER NAMES:

Small Blacktip

RANGE: Gulfwide.

HABITAT: One of the most familiar shallow-water sharks nearly everywhere in the Gulf, but it also is encountered well offshore at times.