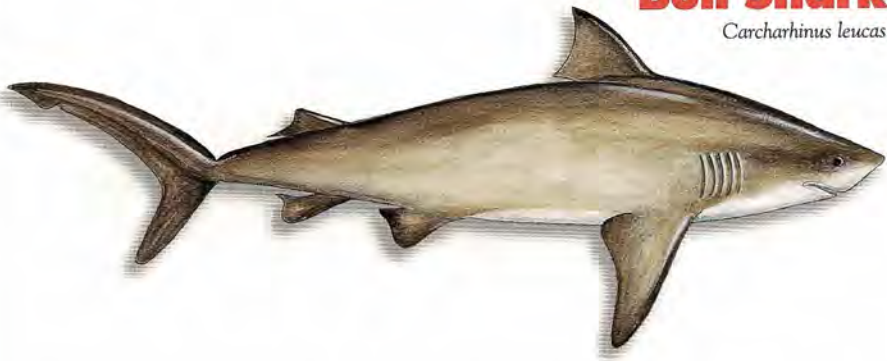


Bull Shark

Carcharhinus leucas



DESCRIPTION: Usually gray to light brown above, white below. Similar to the Sandbar Shark but has a shorter, wider snout. The large first dorsal fin starts above the middle of the pectoral fin, whereas in the Sandbar it starts above the front portion of the pectoral.

SIZE: Commonly runs 6-8 feet and 100-300 pounds, but can exceed 10 feet and 400 pounds. World record 490 pounds.

FOOD VALUE: Good.

GAME QUALITIES: A rugged fighter; usually has heft and strength on its side.

TACKLE AND BAITS: Although more appropriately matched to medium ocean outfits, the Bull is one of the pet targets of adventurous spin, plug and fly casters, especially in the lower Florida Keys. Will take a variety of dead fish as bait, and especially likes fresh-cut Barracuda. Also can be chummed into a mood for hitting artificials—large flies and topwater plugs being preferred.

FISHING SYSTEMS: Still Fishing; Drifting.

OTHER NAMES:

Cub Shark

RANGE: Gulfwide.

HABITAT: Primarily coastal—beaches, bays, tidal rivers.