

White Tip Reef Shark

Smaller but more docile than its oceanic cousin, the white tip reef shark can be found on coral reefs in the tropical Indian and Pacific Oceans.

In the daytime you might guess these sharks are “lazy ol’ predators.” But that might change if you see them at night! These “lazy ol’ predators” become kings of the reef-- poking, prodding, searching for their favorite meal such as fish, crabs, and octopus. Ladies and Gentlemen, we present to you the white tip reef shark!

White tip reef sharks are viviparous. They give birth to 1-5 pups in one litter. Whitetips grow as long as 6 ft 6 in (2 m) and weigh up to 40 lbs (18 kg). White tip reef sharks have a bright white spot on top of their dorsal and caudal fins. They also have oval-shaped eyes protected by ridges, and a blunt nose with two barbels. Barbels are used to find food when poking in the seabed. They also help with smelling and tasting.

White tip reef sharks are fished.

1. Nancy Ellwood, and Margaret Parrish. "Black and White." *Sharkpedia*. New York, New York: DK Publishing, 2008. 34. Print.
2. *Eyewitness Shark Profiles*. New York, New York: DK Publishing, 2008. Print.