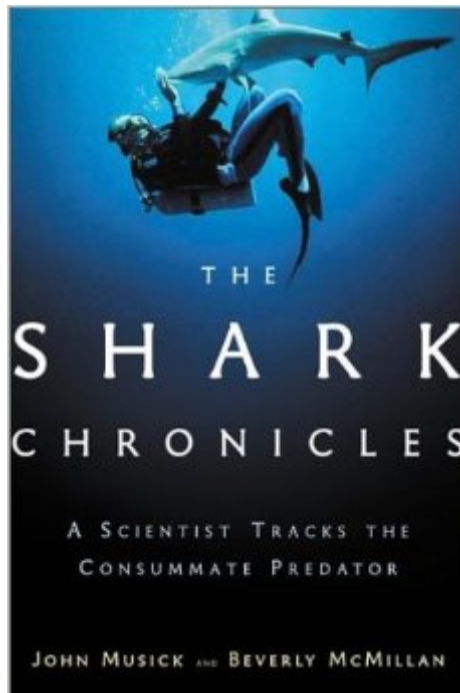


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The Shark Chronicles: A Scientist Tracks The Consummate Predator



Synopsis

Many animals elicit the same mythical terror and awe as sharks, and yet we know little about these elusive, highly engineered creatures. John A. Musick and Beverly McMillan bring us along on a thrilling adventure as they chase sharks from Bear Gulch, Montana, to a whale shark-feeding station in Okinawa, by way of Alaska, the Bimini islands, and the most sophisticated shark-research labs in the world. En route we discover that sharks navigate using electromagnetic signals, have a bloodhound's sense of smell, are both cold- and warm-blooded, and possess biochemical weapons, which, used properly, might indeed help fend off malignant tumors and microbes. Musick, who has spent over thirty years as a defender of the much-maligned shark, here excavates the mysterious lives of sharks from the dark recesses of the oceans--and raising the alarm about how fishing and industry are reducing their numbers and affecting their behavior. This captivating and educational scientific exploration challenges us to rethink our relationship with sharks, leaving us with the question: Are humans the prey, or the predator?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The tales of a shark researcher and his colleagues and friends serve as the vehicle for instructing the reader on the fascinating world of the Shark. This narrative trick works in this book much better than I had anticipated, since the vignettes presented quickly depart from the story of the researchers involved and delve into the secrets of the shark they uncovered instead. And the secrets are fascinating. Shark fossils, shark senses, shark sex, shark behavior, shark attack (of course), threats

to sharks and surprising data on shark intelligence are all presented in a book that breezes by too quickly. Well worth the price of admission!

I really enjoyed this book. The authors cover shark evolution, taxonomy, behavior, natural history, biology, exploitation and conservation. They mix accounts of their own research with that of other researchers they visit in various places, including California, Baja California, Florida, and the east coast of the U.S. I took a star away as it didn't include notes, a bibliography, or illustrations of any kind. It did have an appendix with two tables illustrating shark evolution and taxonomy as well as an index.

I'm fascinated by sharks, and so glad I bought this book. It provides an interesting account of sharks and their evolution, and highlights how little we still know of them through first-hand accounts. It can get slightly bogged down in science for a purely casual reader, but provides a wealth of interesting information all the same. It also goes a long way toward dispelling media myths, and recognizing sharks -- with reverence and respect rather than condemnation -- for what they are: apex predators par excellence. Buy this book!

This book has a ton of great information, is an easy read, and the delivery is enjoyable. If you want to get some basic and advanced information on the past, present, and future of sharks this is the book to read.

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