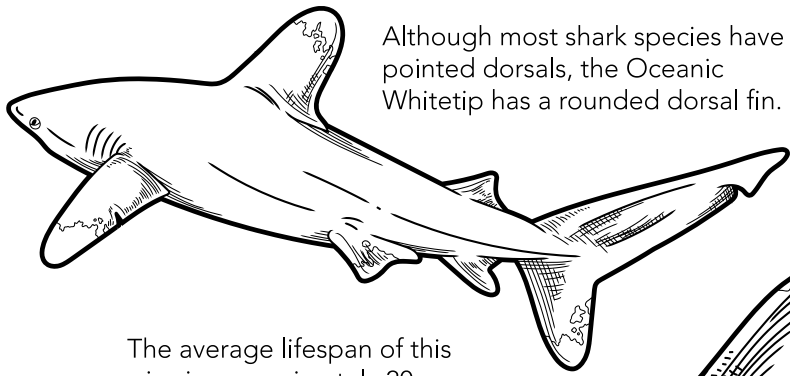


# OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK

Scientific name: *Carcharhinus longimanus*

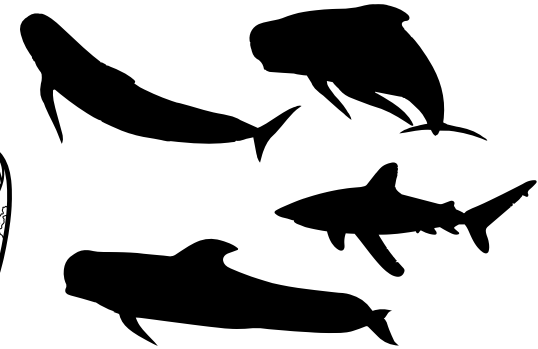
The name in Tahitian, "Parata", is also the name for the fierce warriors of the 'Anaa Atoll' tribe. The sharks and the warriors were given the same name because they were said to symbolically have similar traits in behavior. The warriors even wore shark skin during battle for spiritual protection.

Although most shark species have pointed dorsals, the Oceanic Whitetip has a rounded dorsal fin.



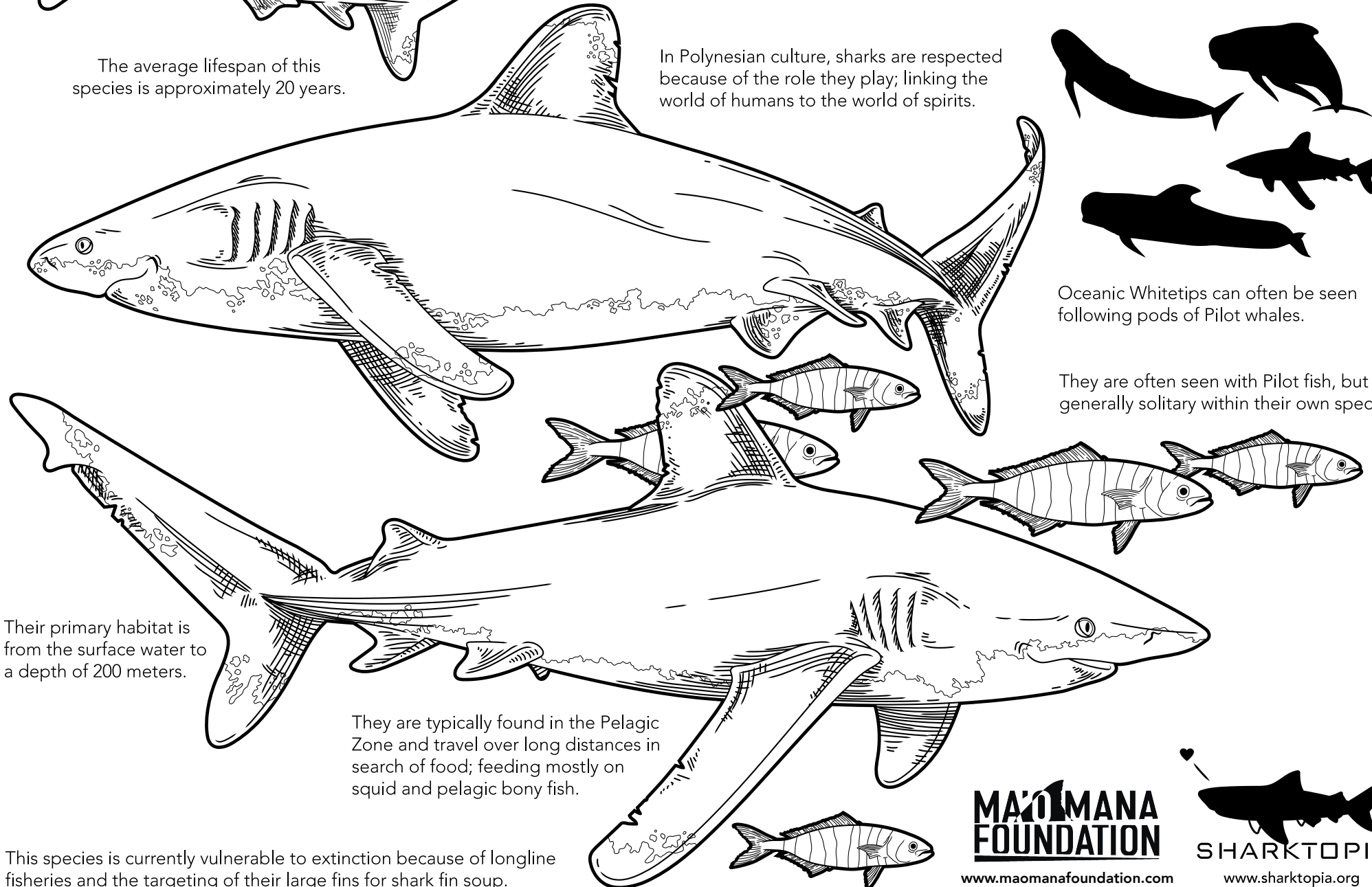
The average lifespan of this species is approximately 20 years.

In Polynesian culture, sharks are respected because of the role they play; linking the world of humans to the world of spirits.



Oceanic Whitetips can often be seen following pods of Pilot whales.

They are often seen with Pilot fish, but are generally solitary within their own species.



Their primary habitat is from the surface water to a depth of 200 meters.

They are typically found in the Pelagic Zone and travel over long distances in search of food; feeding mostly on squid and pelagic bony fish.

This species is currently vulnerable to extinction because of longline fisheries and the targeting of their large fins for shark fin soup.

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