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**VISUAL REFERENCE**

# Coastal vs Deep-Sea Sharks at a Glance

This page turns a broad habitat contrast into a simple routing tool. It helps readers decide whether they belong in the nearshore guide or the deep-sea guide before they start chasing species names that may not fit the water zone at all.

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## Download this resource

This page is also available as a printable PDF for classrooms, quick reference, and offline use.

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### Use the first big habitat split

Coastal versus deeper-water context is one of the fastest ways to narrow the guide when the shark's environment is clearer than its name.

### Keep the contrast broad

This page should solve the nearshore-versus-deep-water question, not pretend it is a species-by-species checklist.

## Let the next page do the detail work

Once the habitat side is clear, the linked hub or chart should take over instead of crowding this page with too many exceptions.

## At a glance

<b>FIELD CUE</b>	<b>COASTAL SHARKS</b>	<b>DEEP-SEA SHARKS</b>	<b>BEST NEXT PAGE</b>
Where readers picture them	Surf zones, bays, reefs, estuaries, and shelf water	Slope water, offshore depths, dim open water, and unusual deeper habitats	Coastal Sharks or Deep-Sea Sharks
Overall body plan	More familiar cruising, reef, or bottom-associated shapes	Stranger silhouettes, softer bodies, or more unusual proportions are more common	Shark Body Shape Comparison
Color and lighting context	Often countershaded or patterned for brighter, shallower water	Often darker, more uniform, or adapted to dimmer water	Shark Depth Zones Chart
Best use of this page	Sorting common nearshore guide questions before species pages	Getting oriented when the shark clearly belongs to a less familiar deeper-water cluster	Shark Habitat Zones

## How to use this page

- Use this page when the habitat or water setting is clearer than the exact shark name.
- Treat coastal and deep-sea as broad field-guide buckets, not as exact biological labels that every species fits perfectly all the time.
- Once the habitat side is clear, move into the linked hub or chart instead of trying to answer every species question from this one page.

## Frequently asked questions

These quick answers keep the page practical and point readers toward the next useful guide page.

### Is this page meant to classify every shark as either coastal or deep-sea?

No. It is a broad orientation page that helps readers choose the stronger next hub when the habitat context is the biggest clue they have.

### Should I use this before a species page?

Yes, if the environment is clearer than the name. It is often easier to place the shark by habitat first and then move into the right cluster.

### What should I read after I pick a side?

Move into the coastal-sharks hub, the deep-sea-sharks hub, or the depth-zones chart so the broad habitat split turns into a more specific guide route.

## Useful next pages

Keep moving through the field guide with the pages that make this one more useful.

Topic hub

## Coastal Sharks

The nearshore guide that anchors the shallow-water side of the comparison.

Topic hub

## Deep-Sea Sharks

The offshore and deeper-water guide for the stranger-looking side of the split.

Visual reference

## Shark Depth Zones Chart

A companion chart that explains shelf, slope, and deeper-water language more directly.

Reference

## Shark Habitat Zones

The text-first reference page for the broad habitat labels used across the site.

## Keep the guide offline

Pocket Shark is built as an offline shark field guide for iPhone and iPad, so the same comparisons, glossary notes, and species context can stay with you away from a browser.

[Get the field guide on the App Store](#)

### Pocket Shark Field Guide

An independent shark field guide focused on species reference, comparison, and educational context.

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