



[Home](#) > [Resources](#) > [Shark Depth Zones Chart](#)

**VISUAL REFERENCE**

# Shark Depth Zones Chart

Depth labels become much easier to understand when they are grouped into broad zones instead of buried inside scattered species facts. This chart turns shelf, slope, pelagic, and deeper-water language into a quicker visual reference for the field guide.

[Depth guide](#)

[Habitat chart](#)

[Index now](#)

## Download this resource

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

[Download PDF](#)

[Printable version](#)

### Keep the zones broad

Readers usually need a shelf-versus-slope style orientation more than exact oceanography.

### Use it as habitat support

The chart is strongest when it sits beside deep-sea, coastal, and open-water topic pages rather than trying to be a taxonomy page.

## Let the chart route the next click

Each depth band should send the reader into the hub or cluster that fits that part of the water column best.

## At a glance

ZONE	WHAT IT MEANS HERE	SHARKS OR GROUPS THAT FIT	BEST NEXT PAGE
Estuary, bay, and sheltered coast	Shallower protected water where region and nearshore context often matter as much as the species name	Bull shark, bonnethead, other coastal and estuary-linked sharks	Coastal Sharks
Shelf and surf-zone water	Shallower coastal or shelf settings where many familiar sharks are first encountered	Blacktips, lemons, bonnetheads, many reef and coastal species	Coastal Sharks
Outer shelf and slope	A transition into deeper offshore water where odd body plans start becoming more common	Sixgills, gulper sharks, some sawsharks	Deep-Sea Sharks
Open pelagic water	Water-column species that are defined more by open-ocean movement than by the seafloor	Blue shark, makos, some threshers	Coastal vs Deep-Sea Sharks at a Glance

<b>ZONE</b>	<b>WHAT IT MEANS HERE</b>	<b>SHARKS OR GROUPS THAT FIT</b>	<b>BEST NEXT PAGE</b>
Deeper-water specialist zones	The deeper context where lanternsharks, goblin sharks, and other unusual body plans belong	Lanternsharks, goblin shark, frilled shark	Lanternsharks

## How to use this chart

- Use this chart when a page mentions depth or habitat labels that feel too abstract on their own.
- Treat the zones as broad guide bands, not as exact depth promises for every species page on the site.
- Move into the linked topic hub once you know whether your shark belongs in coastal water, open pelagic water, or a deeper-water cluster.
- If the real question is regional rather than depth-led, switch to a regional hub or printable such as the Gulf of Mexico field sheet instead of forcing the chart to do all the work.

## Frequently asked questions

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

### Is this an exact depth key for every shark on the site?

No. It is a broad habitat-and-depth orientation chart, meant to make recurring labels easier to understand

### When should I use this instead of a species page?

Use it when you are still trying to understand the water zone or habitat context before narrowing to a species.

rather than provide exact species-by-species depth limits.

### **What should I read after I pick a depth zone?**

Move into the linked habitat or topic hub so the broad depth label turns into a more specific field-guide path.

### **What if I know the region but not the depth?**

Use a regional page or printable such as the Gulf of Mexico Shark Field Sheet, then come back to the depth chart if the water-zone language becomes the next question.

## **Useful next pages**

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

Topic hub

### **Deep-Sea Sharks**

The habitat hub this chart is meant to support.

Reference

### **Shark Habitat Zones**

The text version of the same broad depth-language idea.

Topic hub

### **Coastal Sharks**

A good next stop when the shark belongs in shallower nearshore water.

Visual reference

### **Coastal vs Deep-Sea Sharks at a Glance**

A companion page when the biggest question is which side of the habitat split the shark belongs on.

Topic hub

## Lanternsharks

A stronger cluster page when the question turns toward smaller deeper-water sharks.

Printable

## Gulf of Mexico Shark Field Sheet

A regional printable where shelf, bay, and offshore context all matter.

## 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.

Last updated: 2026-04-07

### Browse

[Species guide](#)

[Topic hubs](#)

[Resources](#)

[About and author](#)

[Editorial standards](#)

[Privacy](#)

### Contact

[contact@sharx.uk](mailto:contact@sharx.uk)

[support@sharx.uk](mailto:support@sharx.uk)

Support page

Sources and methods