



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Per.uthalayar Kamarajar"

International Whale Shark Day being celebrated to spread awareness about importance of whale sharks

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It is celebrated to spread awareness about the importance of whale sharks and their conservation.

Started in 2008 for the first time at the **International Whale Shark Conference in Isla Holbox**, this day has grown popular over the years.

Scientific Name: **Rhincodon typus**

Whale sharks are **the largest shark species on the planet**, which **grow as much as 60 feet** from the time of their birth.

It is known for its slow and gentle behavior.

It usually prefers to **swim in shallow depths**, but it is also found in waters as deep as 3,000 feet.

Whale sharks are found in **all the tropical oceans of the world**.

Whale sharks are **highly valued on international markets**.

Demand for their meat, fins and oil remains a threat to the species, particularly by unregulated fisheries. They are victims of bycatch, the accidental capture of non-target species in fishing gear.

Whale sharks have never attacked humans.

Protection Status: IUCN Red List: Endangered, CITES: Appendix II, Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I.

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