

Title- The Perception of Sharks is Distorted

Intro- Sharks have been mislabeled as evil and bloodthirsty by corporations, social media, and even movies. In movies, sharks are seen wiping out numerous people on a daily basis. To put in perspective, the average shark won't ever attack half of as many people as the five seen in *47 Meters Down: Uncaged*. Sharks diets, rare attack occurrence, and the scarce amount of kills they have ever been involved in.

Restate

Tie back

Explain

1-Common perceptions of sharks in media are inaccurate.

2- Sharks diets do not align with what the media says it is.

3- Sharks do not include humans in their day to day diets, and most attacks end up being only one bite since sharks are not particularly fond of the taste of humans.

4- According to the *National Ocean Service*, "Sharks evolved millions of years before humans existed and therefore humans are not part of their normal diets."(NOAA's National Ocean Service).

5-Sharks have been around before the evolution of the tree, let alone humans. It would be illogical to assume that sharks have human in their day to day diet, considering they had to survive approximately 190 million years before even seeing a dinosaur. Keep in mind humans came around 65 million years after the dinosaur went extinct.

5- This aligns with my original statement because it was stated that sharks were around centuries before humans existed, therefore sharks were conditioned to eat other animals like fish or seals.

2- The number of people killed by a shark each year is exaggerated.

3- There are roughly 70 shark attacks every year, and even if this seems like an extreme amount, the amount of sharks killed by humans is even greater.

4-According to IFAW, a wildlife website teaching people about the dangers and thrills of the outdoors, "Humans kill an estimated 100 million sharks every year. That's an average of 274,000 a day, over 11,000 every hour, and around 3 sharks every second."(International Fund For Animal Warfare).

5- 3 sharks every second is an insane amount of life being ripped from its habitat, for a comparison, around 2 people die every second. There are 1.5 more shark

deaths than humans per second, and if you looked at the population of each species you would even more surprised at the ratio. There is only believed to be about 1 billion sharks, whereas there are 8 billion people. This means sharks have a bigger death rate, only due to humans, than people have all together.

5- These statistics show how 70 kills a year pales in comparison to 100 million. The importance of looking at both sides of the story is crucial because the ratio of the numbers can be endlessly different from the numbers separate or alone.

3- Sharks have been known to only attack when provoked or threatened, and will usually avoid humans if they don't mistake them for fish or other prey.

2- The USS sinking was a massive shark attack that killed hundreds of people was not typical.

3- The USS Indianapolis was a cargo ship in World War II, when it was struck by a torpedo from a Japanese army. Of the 1,196 only 317 made it to safety. Of that great amount of deaths, a maximum of over 150 were killed by sharks.

4- A survivor from the ship states the following, "If you didn't stay as we are here now, in a group, if you were out there by yourself, a shark had you..." (Bebbington).

5- These sharks would pick the people who separated from the crowd, and snatch them from the water when they were alone, and the hysterical state they were put in after the ship made it more likely they would separate.

5- This isn't typical since the average shark attack happens in a shallow area, whereas these were in waters approximately 18,000 feet deep. This isn't a typical area for such a massive attack, therefore proving it isn't typical.

Conclusion: In conclusion, the perception of sharks in media cause people to lack empathy for their species, leading to millions more sharks being killed and a possible extinction if our actions do not adjust to their shrinking population. It is a priority to help the marine life thrive and helping them through circumstances that might be dangerous such as pollution or global warming. Overall, sharks are seen as far more hostile then they ever could be, and are just creatures trying to survive, similar to humans.

Works Cited

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