



Environment Newsletter :

November 2023

We serve to sustainably protect and restore our environment to improve the well-being of all communities



World Basking Shark Day - 03 November



BASKING SHARK (*Cetorhinus maximus*)

1. NAMED BECAUSE THEY FEED AT THE SURFACE (BASKING IN THE SUN) THESE SHARKS ARE THE SECOND LARGEST FISH IN THE OCEAN GROWING UP TO 10-11 METERS (33-36 FEET) IN LENGTH.
2. DESPITE THEIR LARGE SIZE, THESE SHARKS FEED ON PLANKTON (SIZE OF A GRAIN OF RICE). WITH MOUTHS UP TO A METER WIDE, THEY CAN FILTER 1.5 MILLION LITERS OF WATER PER HOUR.
3. THESE COASTAL-PELAGIC SHARKS ARE HIGHLY MIGRATORY AND ARE FOUND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD'S ARCTIC AND TEMPERATE WATERS.
4. THE MOST DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTIC, OTHER THAN ITS SIZE, ARE THE EXTENDED GILL SLITS THAT NEARLY ENCIRCLE THE HEAD.
5. THEY ARE LISTED AS VULNERABLE ON THE IUCN RED LIST AND ENDANGERED IN THEIR NORTHEAST ATLANTIC AND NORTH PACIFIC TERRITORIES. THEY ARE HUNTED FOR THEIR FINS AND FOR THEIR LARGE LIVERS, OIL FROM WHICH IS USED TO MAKE COSMETICS, PERFUMES AND LUBRICANTS.

At first glance, the world's second largest fish might seem menacing: Its gaping mouth has six rows of teeth in its upper jaw, and nine rows below, for a total of about 1,500 tiny, hooked teeth. The basking shark's scientific name, *Cetorhinus maximus*, roughly translates to "great-nosed sea monster" in Greek.



In reality, these placid sharks, found the world over, are totally harmless. One of only three filter-feeding shark species, basking sharks eat tiny organisms called zooplankton. Swimming with their three-foot-wide mouths agape allows them to take in water and filter out plankton using gill rakers, special organs that prevent their food from escaping through the gills.

International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict

On 5 November 2001, the United Nations General Assembly declared 6 November of each year as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict (resolution 56/4).

In taking this action, it considered that damage to the environment in times of armed conflict impairs ecosystems and natural resources long after the period of conflict, often extending beyond the limits of national territories and the present generation. The Assembly also recalled the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which emphasised the necessity of working to protect our common environment.



The red footed falcon, whose main areas of European distribution are in southern Russia and Ukraine, comes to mind. They are listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN list.



The effects of exploitation can be devastating and far-reaching. Here are some of the consequences of exploitation :

Destruction of natural habitats, both terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic.

- Destruction of ecosystems of all kinds.
- Extinction of animal and plant species.
- Disruption of trophic networks and relationships.
- Soil desertification, the land loses nutrients, and forests or jungles cannot grow or be grown.

It is important to note that exploitation can have a significant impact on the environment and society, and it is essential to take steps to prevent it from happening.

Note to all our keen Lions Photographers:

Please take note that the closing date for entries for the Environmental Photo Competition has been extended to end March 2024, to coincide with the closing dates for all District Competitions



A recent United Nations study reported that more than two-thirds of the world's fisheries have been overfished or are fully harvested and more than one third are in a state of decline because of factors such as the loss of essential fish habitats, pollution, and global warming.

World Fisheries Day



Fish forms an important part of the diets of people around the world, particularly those that live near rivers, coasts and other water bodies. A number of traditional societies and communities are rallied around the occupation of fishing.

This is why a majority of human settlements, whether small villages or mega cities, are situated in close proximity to water bodies. Besides the importance of water for survival and as a means of transportation, it is also an important source of fish and aquatic protein.

Facts on fisheries

- Small-scale fisheries (marine and inland) employ about 90 percent of those involved in fisheries.
- 65 percent of the reported catch from inland fisheries is from low-income food-deficit countries.
- Estimates vary, but from around 30 million to over 60 million people in the developing world are involved in inland fisheries; it is thought that about 50 percent are women.
- More than 25% of the world's dietary protein is provided by fish.
- The human population consumes over 100 million tons of fish annually
- Over 200 million of Africa's 1 billion people regularly consume fish and nearly half of this comes from inland fisheries.



Become involved: Take care of your environment - Take care of rivers, dams and the sea as these are important habitats for fish and aquatic organisms.

Dolphin moms use baby talk to call to their young



You know instantly when someone is speaking to an infant or small child. It turns out that dolphin mothers also use a kind of high-pitched baby talk.

A study published recently found that female bottlenose dolphins change their tone when addressing their calves. Researchers recorded the signature whistles of 19 mother dolphins in Florida, when accompanied by their young offspring and when swimming alone or with other adults.

The dolphin signature whistle is a unique and important signal—akin to calling out their own name.

"They use these whistles to keep track of each other. They're periodically saying, 'I'm here, I'm here,'" said study co-author Laela Sayigh, a Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution marine biologist in Massachusetts.

Environment Calendar : November - December

03 November	World Basking Shark Day
06 November	International Day for Preventing Exploitation of the Environment in War & Armed Conflict
21 November	World Fisheries Day
04 December	International Cheetah Day
04 December	Wildlife Conservation Day
05 December	World Soil Day
11 December	International Mountain Day
14 December	Monkey Day