

SHARKS

OF THE PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEANS

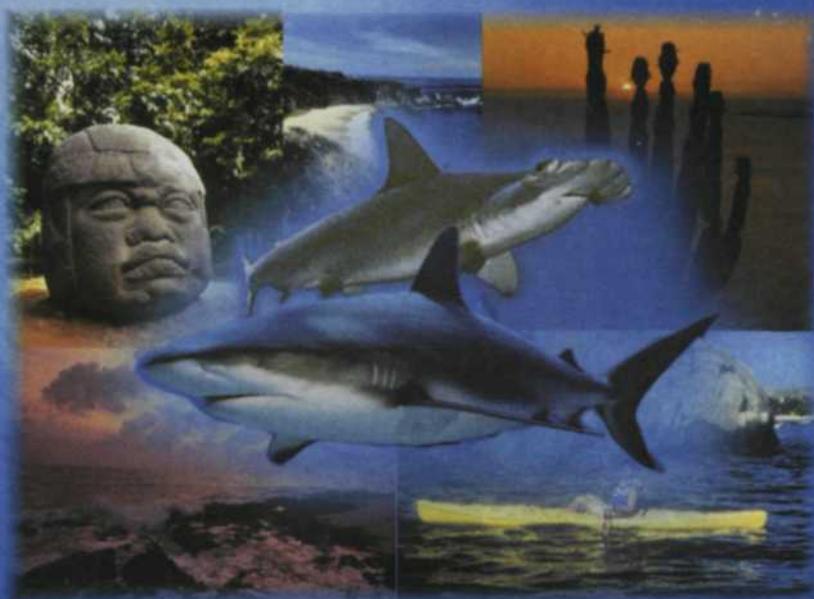


photo/Mark Strickland

Silvertip Shark—
Burma Banks,
Andaman Sea, Thailand

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SHARKS OF THE PACIFIC

was still below and ahead of us.

At 110 feet we reached our destination, a small coral cave embedded in the slope on the north side of Tiputa Pass. The three of us slipped inside the small cave and kneeled on the sandy floor. From the cave entrance, the view was awesome. Gray Reef Sharks began gathering in great numbers, swimming faster and packing close together. It was as if someone had rung a silent dinner bell. Our presence in the cave was the sharks' signal that lunch was about to be served.

*“Each shark
exquisite form
for a photo*

Our dive guide opened the food bucket and the dance began. Sharks began snapping up the bits of fish chunks, out maneuvering each other and occasionally colliding. For two minutes, it was a magnificent ballet as the sharks executed acrobatic twists and turns, rolls and loops. Then it was over. The food was gone and the sharks were once again swimming serenely, almost ignoring our presence.

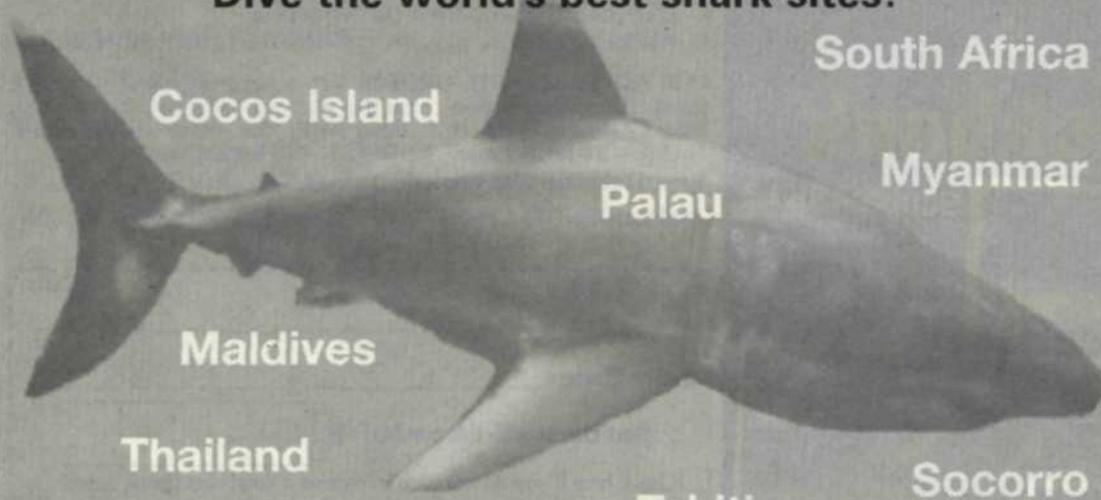
We left the protection of our small cave and continued to drift with the incoming tide, while dozens of sharks coasted along with us. During the drift and safety stop, I couldn't help noticing how well man and sharks co-exist when each knows what the other wants—*Geri Murphy*.

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