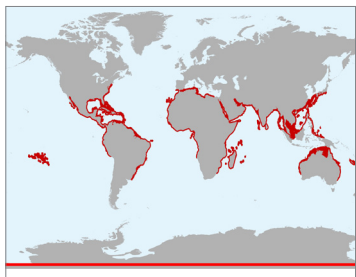




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NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	<b>&lt; ENDANGERED &gt;</b>	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
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Geographical range

## Amazing Species: Great Hammerhead

The **Great Hammerhead**, *Sphyrna mokarran*, is listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Found around the world in warm temperate and tropical waters, it is the largest hammerhead shark species and is distinguished by the virtually straight front edge of its wide, hammer-shaped head.

Great Hammerheads are highly prized for their fins, which are used to make shark fin soup; they are also caught for their liver oil, skin and meat. This species suffers very high levels of incidental mortality in other fisheries, and due to its slow reproductive rate the Great Hammerhead is particularly vulnerable to overexploitation. As a result, it has suffered serious declines, especially in parts of the eastern Atlantic, where fishing efforts are unmanaged and unmonitored.

Some countries and regions, including the USA, Australia and the European Union, are starting to adopt shark finning bans, which should increasingly prevent the killing of hammerhead sharks for their fins. Bycatch limits for sharks are also in place in South African longline fisheries. However, there are currently no specific conservation measures in place for the Great Hammerhead, and improved enforcement of legislation is required to prevent ongoing illegal finning activities.

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