



## Part 1

# Shark Conservation in Fernando de Noronha, Brazil

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## Report 1

Fernando de Noronha is a mountain rising from the middle of the ocean—an archipelago with rich biodiversity, and a priority area for shark conservation. More than 15 shark species frequent the area. Some, like the nurse shark (*Ginglymostoma cirratum*) and lemon shark (*Negaprion brevirostris*), are resident species that use the area for breeding, reproduction, and feeding. Others, like the tiger shark (*Galeocerdo cuvier*), are migratory and visit for reproduction and feeding.

For the tiger shark in particular, the archipelago is considered a hotspot, hosting the greatest genetic diversity of the species found anywhere in the world. As such, the archipelago becomes a critical refuge for these shark species.

From around 1994 to 2005, artisanal shark fishing was practiced, which had a significant impact on local shark populations—particularly the Caribbean reef shark (*Carcharhinus perezi*), a resident species in the archipelago that saw its population decline by around 60% due to fishing.

The situation began to improve when the area was designated a marine protected area and shark fishing was banned. Over time, populations started to recover - though they have yet to return to their original numbers.



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