



# Whale Shark

## Why in News

Recently, fishers in Odisha rescued a **whale shark**.



## Key Points

### ▪ About:

- Whale sharks are the **largest shark**, and indeed **largest of any fishes alive today** and they **travel large distances** to find enough food to sustain their huge size, and to reproduce.
- The whale shark is a **'filter feeder shark'** which means it does not eat meat like other sharks. Whale sharks **filter sea water** and **feed on tiny planktons**.
- The maximum size of whale sharks is not known, but **could be as large as 20m**.

### ▪ Scientific Name:

- *Rhincodon typus*.

### ▪ Habitat:

- Whale sharks are **found in all the tropical oceans** of the world.

### ▪ Threats:

- **Oil & gas drilling, shipping lanes** etc.

### ▪ Protection Status:

- [IUCN Red List](#): Endangered
- [CITES](#): Appendix II
- [Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#): Schedule I

**[Source: DTE](#)**

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