

The Benefits of Sharks to Our Environment

There are around 1000 different species of sharks and rays, and new species are discovered every year. This essay will explain what would happen if sharks disappeared, whether or not sharks are important, and if humans should care about sharks. Sharks are an extremely important species to the aquatic food chain, and we cannot afford to lose them.

If sharks disappeared, the populations of sharks' prey would increase majorly, and the prey of those organisms' populations would decrease due to high predation. One example of this is how sharks indirectly benefit seagrass and coral reef. The sharks prey on the predators of the consumers of the coral reef and seagrass. This is an example of mutualism, a symbiotic relationship where both of the organisms involved benefit; the sharks and the sea grass benefit. Without sharks, the population of both coral reef and seagrass would decrease. Another way that marine ecosystems would be affected is that carnivorous shark diets include fish, mollusks, and crustaceans. Larger species eat larger marine animals, including dolphins, seals, sea lions, and porpoises. If sharks were to disappear, all of these populations would increase due to less predation. This shows that the disappearance of sharks would affect the oceans, as without sharks as the apex predator, the aquatic food chain would diminish.

Since sharks are an apex predator in the food chain, they are extremely important to aquatic ecosystems.

Sharks are crucial to marine ecosystems and environments. Being an apex predator, they act as regulators towards the ecosystem. One example of this is how they remove the weak and sick organisms and sometimes stop the spread of disease. Another reason why sharks are important is that they eat large fish. Sometimes those fish eat smaller, herbivorous fish who eat algae. The sharks, in a way, protect the herbivorous fish by feeding on the large fish, and if the sharks weren't there, neither would the herbivorous fish be and the algae would overtake much of the space. The coral wouldn't be able to compete with the invasive algae. As stated before, sharks keep the environment balanced. But if we lost sharks, the whole marine ecosystem would collapse, our future depends on sharks to support our oceans. Because of overfishing, climate change, and habitat loss, many shark populations have declined by more than 90%. Most of this is because of humans.

Humans need to care about sharks! As said before, they are a crucial part of the marine ecosystems. Humans should care about sharks because they help against climate change, balance the aquatic food chain, and we rely on sharks to help the oceans' future.

yet still, it is estimated that 100 million sharks are killed by humans per year. Worldwide, sharks are victims of overfishing for their fins and meat. Shark populations are decreasing, and something needs to be done to put a stop to it. Although some are unaware of it, humans rely on sharks for our healthy oceans. We need them to help stop the climate change problem that we, humans, caused. They help both the atmosphere and the hydrosphere. Sharks have played an important role in the ocean for a very long time. They have existed for about 400 million years to 450 million years. That's way before dinosaurs and even before trees!

If sharks disappeared, it would be fatal to other marine life, sharks are very important to aquatic ecosystems, and humans should care about sharks. We need sharks to maintain the ocean's ecosystems and keep the Earth healthy so humans need to care about them. Overfishing must stop, or else sharks could disappear. It is important that we humans work to stop it as much as we can.