

The Secret Life of Sharks

Marine Education Programme for Years 6-8

Location: NZ Marine Studies Centre, 185 Hatchery Road, Portobello, Dunedin

Programme Description

This programme explores what makes a shark a shark.

Find out why sharks are so important, what species of shark are found in and around the Otago Harbour, and how they are different from each other.

Discover how scientists gather data about sharks and what this information tells us.

Explore the external and internal anatomy of a shark and examine the unique features and adaptations it has to survive.

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Be able to identify different species of sharks in Aotearoa.
- Gain an understanding of the role that sharks play in the marine ecosystem.
- Gain an understanding of the impacts that humans have on shark populations around the world.
- Be able to describe the unique adaptations that some of the local sharks have to survive.
- Gain an understanding and appreciation of marine life, the marine environment and what it means to be a marine scientist.

Curriculum Links

Nature of Science (NoS): Understanding about Science, Investigating in Science, Communicating in Science, Participating and Contributing.

Science: Living World - Life processes, Ecology, and Evolution.

Other Curriculum Areas: Social Studies, English, Health.

This programme can be adapted to fit the specific needs of your students, just talk to one of our educators upon booking about customising the itinerary and/or delivery for your class.

Programme Length: 3 hours

Programme Cost: \$15.50 per student (GST excl.), additional hours \$4.50 per student per hour.

Extra Information: As we will be working in a University of Otago Laboratory, students must wear closed toed shoes (no sandals or crocs).

Bring suitable clothing for outdoors - rain or shine (e.g. hats, sunscreen, or warm jackets).

RAMs forms are available on request.



Example Itinerary

30 min introductory presentation covering:

- Introduction to the NZMSC, H&S and lab etiquette
- Introduction to sharks: Understand adaptations of sharks, the role they play in the ecosystem, human impacts on sharks around the world, how we study them

10 min outside to drop BRUV (baited remote underwater video) equipment off the wharf to study the ecosystem on the day of your visit. Will we see any sharks?!

40 min exploration of the NZMSC

- Looking for different creatures in the aquarium and touch tanks
- Learning about their different adaptations, habitats and how they connect to sharks

10 min short break - option for a snack

60 min Shark Dissection

- Demonstration dissection of a spiny dogfish (or similar species)

20 min investigate BRUV footage

- Review footage to see what is present in the local ecosystem
- Discussion of what we saw, and what this means

10 min wrap up

Resources available to support the programme can be found at www.marine.ac.nz

Ideas for learning in class before your visit:

- Look at the NZMSC Rocky Shore Guides and become familiar with identifying some of the different creatures you may see on your visit.
- Introduce students to the concepts of ecosystems, food webs, adaptations, and habitats.

Ideas for learning in class after your visit:

- Inquiry studies into different species of sharks
- Check out Zooniverse: Shark Spy <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/sharkspy/shark-spy>
- Brainstorm ways that we can help protect the life on our local shores, take action around your school and home. You could even do a clean up of your local environment!

NZMSC Contact

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NEW ZEALAND
MARINE STUDIES CENTRE

The NZ Marine Studies Centre is part of the Marine Science Department, University of Otago.
This programme is supported by the Ministry of Education's EOTC service.

See www.marine.ac.nz for more programmes and resources.