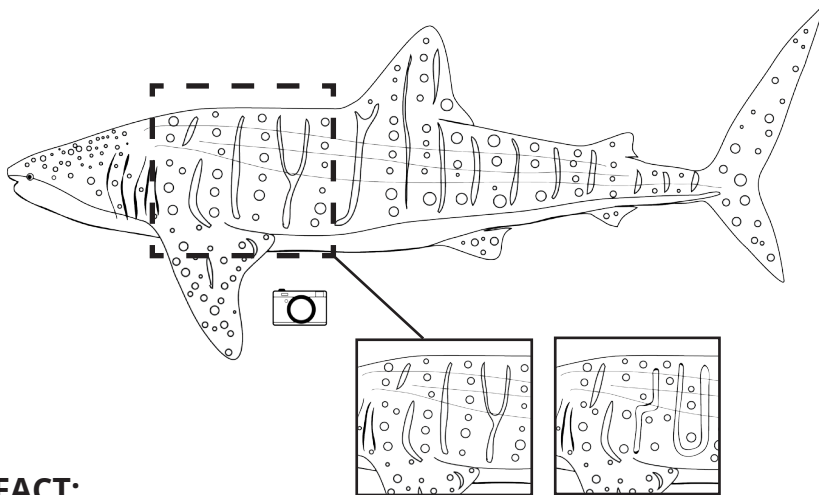


Whale Shark (*Rhincodon typus*) Butanding

Status: Endangered

*In 2016 the whale shark status on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species was changed from Vulnerable to Endangered, due to a population size reduction of $\geq 50\%$ over the last three generations. Southeast Asia was identified as a key area for the species and the risks associated.

FACT: Whale sharks are the **LARGEST** sharks in the world. They can reach 19.6 meters!



AGE AND MATURITY

- Live up to 100-130 years old
- Sexually mature at 25-30 years old
- Females give birth to live young (ovoviviparous).
- No-one knows where the babies are. Very few babies have ever been found - two of the smallest whale shark pups ever were found in Pilar, Sorsogon.

FACT:

Every whale shark has a different spot pattern that lets scientists identify it. Just like how we identify humans by their unique fingerprint.

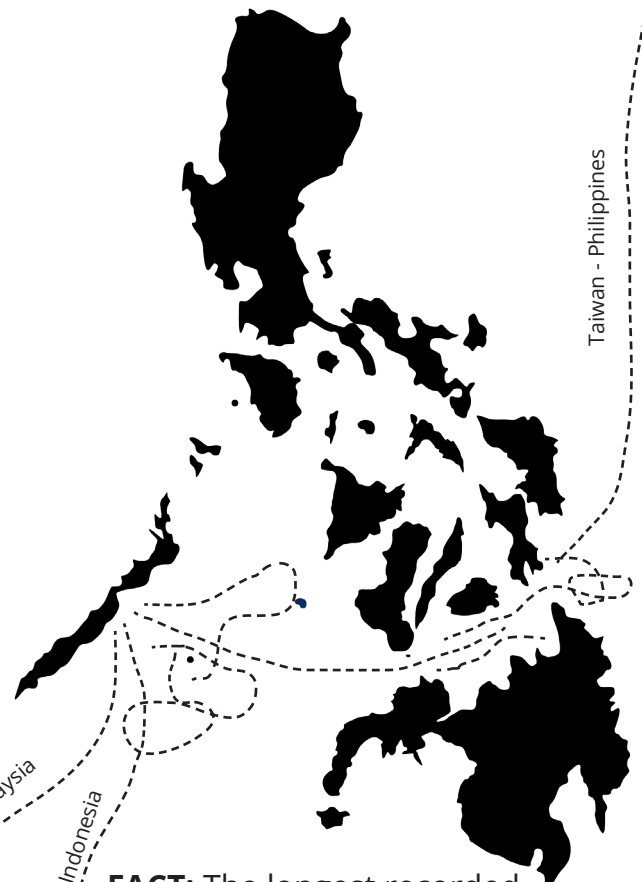
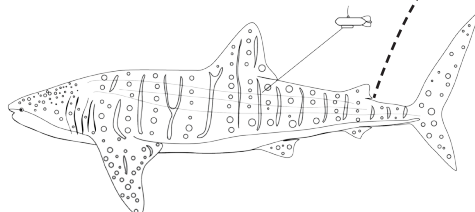
HOW MANY WHALE SHARKS ARE THERE IN THE PHILIPPINES?

Using this technique called "photo-ID" more than 1700 individual whale sharks have been identified in the Philippines. This makes the Philippines **GLOBALLY** important for the species, hosting the second largest known population in the world!

WHERE DO WHALE SHARKS GO?

LAMAVE has tracked whale sharks moving between different provinces in the Philippines and internationally to other countries including Taiwan, Malaysia and Indonesia.

FACT: Whale sharks can dive to depths of 2000 meters



FACT: The longest recorded movement of a whale shark in Southeast Asia is 8025km from the Spratley Islands along the coast of Malaysia to Usukan Island.