CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Basking Shark

Cetorhinus maximus

The basking shark is the second-largest fish in the world and one of the most harmless. It feeds by simply swimming forward with its mouth open, a gape wide enough to swallow a person whole, strainin…

Quick facts

Classification: Fish
Family: Cetorhinidae
Habitat: Temperate coastal and open ocean waters
Diet: Planktivore
Conservation status: Endangered
Lifespan: 20-50 years
Weight: 2,000–5,200 kg
Scientific name: Cetorhinus maximus

Did you know?

- Despite their massive size, basking sharks feed on some of the ocean's smallest organisms—tiny plankton.
- The second-largest fish alive, and completely harmless — it strains plankton from the water with bristly gill rakers. Its teeth are tiny and effectiv…

What I learned

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