

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Basking Shark

Cetorhinus maximus

The basking shark is the second largest fish in the world, surpassed only by the whale shark. Distinguished by its enormous mouth and gill slits that almost encircle its head, this gentle giant feeds...

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.
- Basking sharks can filter up to 2,000 tons of water per hour through their gills while feeding. They are known for their seasonal migrations, sometim...

What I learned

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