

**Film Title and Release Date:** *Shark Reef* (2012)

**Length of Film in Minutes:** 26 minutes

**Film Genre:** Documentary

**Reviewer Name and Grade:** Sarina P., 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Date Reviewed:** January 30, 2022

Shark Reef is a documentary about how sharks are endangered by people who hunt sharks for their fins. It is hosted by marine biologist Carl Safina. This film is set in Belize, a country that struggles with overfishing in areas along the Belize coast such as Glovers Reef. Carl Safina also talks about efforts being made to save the ocean and sharks. Safina shows the process in which two conservationists catch, tag, and release sharks in order to track them. Next, Safina interviews a fish market vendor who was selling shark and fish meat, as well as a fin trader. Sharks are hunted for their fins because of a soup which is made with them (known as shark fin soup) primarily in China. After that, he visited Glover's Reef reserve in a protected reef. More sharks within the reef were tagged. Sharks in this reef, which is known as an Atoll, have a stable population because of the restrictions put in place on human activity- most notably, shark fishing. Once tagged, marine biologists can track both the population of sharks and their activity. Efforts are also being made to decrease the popularity of shark fin soup in Hong Kong. Campaigns to save the sharks can have a great effect on the shark population.

*How did you find the film on Kanopy (by title search, subject search, casual browsing, etc.)?*

I found this film through browsing.

*Did the plot (for fictional movie) or presentation of information (for documentary) keep you interested?*

I was interested throughout the film and it has made me want to help save sharks.

*Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?*

The film was paced well, although there are a few things I might've grouped differently.

*What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?*

This film contains some graphic imagery of decapitated and bleeding sharks, and those sections should not be viewed by children below middle school age.

I would rate this film *4 stars*. The documentary was very compelling and reignited my interest in helping marine life. I would've liked it if some sections were more detailed, but since it was made for PBS, it makes sense that the film would be kept shorter.