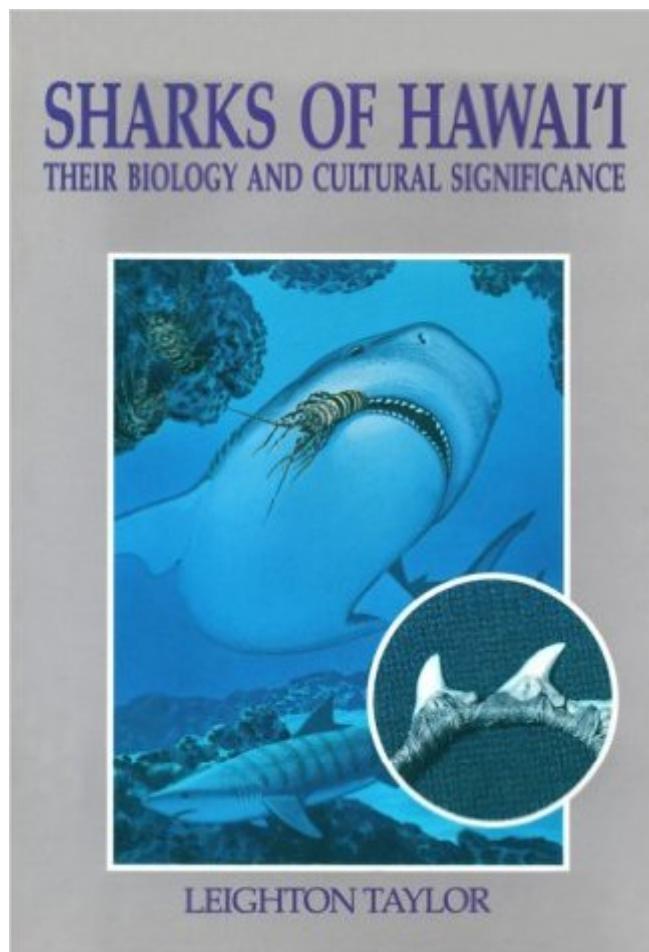


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# Sharks Of Hawai'i: Their Biology And Cultural Significance



## Synopsis

A fascinating look at sharks in general and, in particular, the species inhabiting waters around the Hawaiian archipelago. Combining modern knowledge of shark biology with details culled from oral tradition, legends, and artifacts, Taylor provides a scientific account of individual species and sheds

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you read much at all about sharks, you encounter so many contradictions that it's obvious some authors are talking through their hats. It's fair to say that Dr. Leighton Taylor wears his -- former director of the Waikiki Aquarium, taxonomist who was called to write the species description of the Megamouth shark when it was discovered, veteran of many research efforts in the North Pacific. A man who knows enough to know which questions are best left open. The sharks of Hawaii are political animals. The natural history, while it still contains many mysteries, is the easy part. Here Taylor is admirable, if brief. 'Sharks of Hawaii' has three kinds of illustrations -- color photographs, outline drawings and 10 paintings by Michael Cole. Cole paints plausible versions of natural events never observed by anybody. So, for example, this book takes a thorough look at the cookiecutter shark, one of the mysteries of the deep. It was only recently that this little shark's mode of life was deduced. It nips a bite out of bigger fish or mammals with its specially adapted teeth. Researchers still don't understand how the rather flabby, small-finned and obviously slow cookiecutter manages to get close enough to fast moving prey such as ahi (yellowfin tuna) to get a meal. 'Freshly caught specimens glow a ghostly green,' writes Taylor. 'Perhaps the cookiecutter attracts prey with the

green glow and then ambushes the would-be predator.'The little nightmare is widely distributed but not known to have ever attacked a live human in the water, in Hawaii at least.

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