

# Shark Teeth: Processing and Marketing

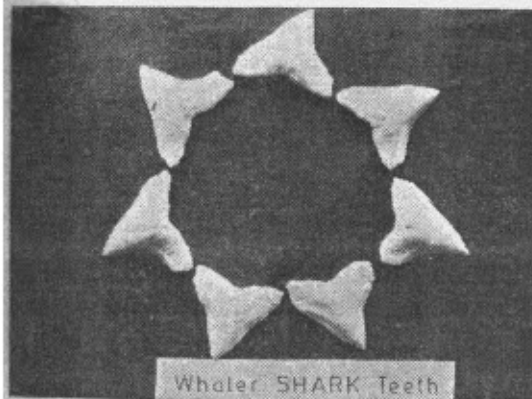
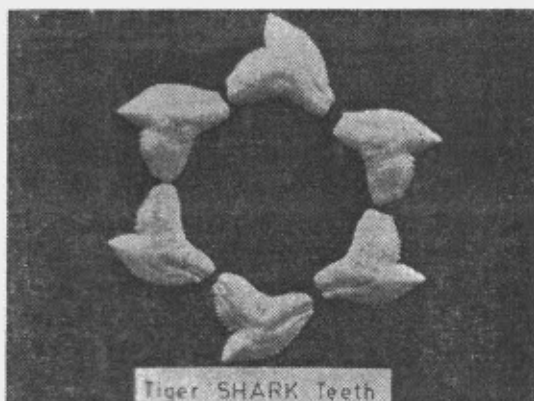
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INDIA has good potential for entering the export market of Shark Teeth, A good market exists in Australia, U. S. A., U. K. and some other countries. At present there is no internal demand for Shark jaws, raw material needed for the extraction of Shark teeth and Shark jaws are available at a very cheap rate.

The present landings of sharks constitute 2.78% of the total marine landing, with 39,367 tonnes catch. Gujarat ranks first with 10,173 tonnes followed by Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka with 8,383, 5,818 and 4,593 tonnes of catch respectively (Source Mar. Fish. Infor. SERV. T&E Ser. No. 52:1983) Two varieties of sharks (a) Whaler Shark (*Carchodon Carcharias*) and (b)

Tiger Shark (*Galeo Cerdo*) (Cuvier) are commonly used for shark teeth extraction. Bigger size sharks above 5 feet are more suitable for the purpose.

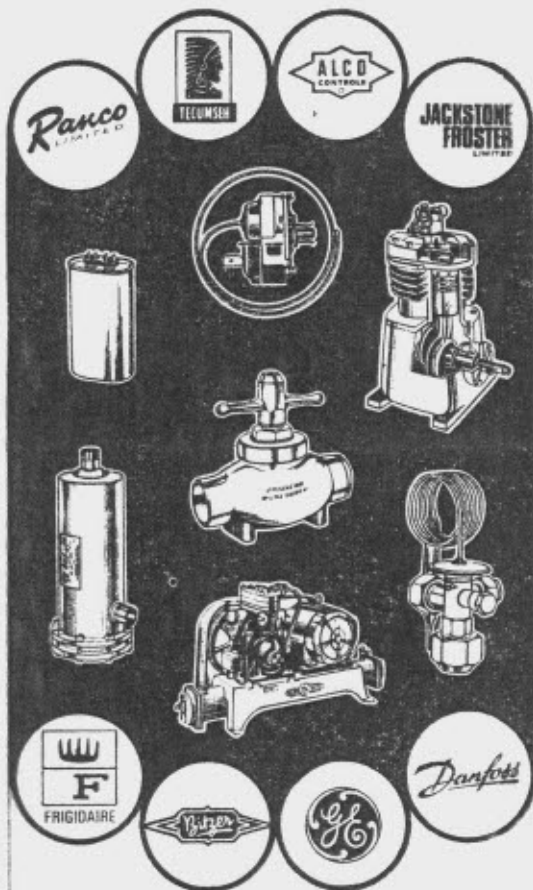


## EXTRACTION OF SHARK TEETH

Fresh or dried shark jaws are to be soaked in water. Water is made 2-3% alkaline by adding Sodium Hydroxide pellets (Caustic soda). Then it is boiled for about 30 minutes in a cooking vessel along with jaws till jaw muscles become soft. Teeth will get separated and can be picked up by forcep or hand. If some meat is still adhering with the teeth it can be further boiled in alkaline water. Teeth are washed with water and small quantity of Acetic acid is added to neutralise the alkali. It is

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kept for about one hour and washed again with water. Then the teeth are bleached by adding small amount of Hydrogen peroxide. This will have whitening effect on teeth. Again after washing the teeth are dried in sun or drier and packed in polythene pouches. 30-50 teeth of good size can be obtained from one jaw depending upon the size and age of the shark.

## QUALITY OF THE TEETH

Shark teeth should be mature, solid and perfect specimen. Hollow or partly hollow teeth are to be discarded. Hollow-ness occurs in the portion which fits into the Jaw? Teeth chipped in any part should also be discarded. Yellow or black discoloured teeth are also to be discarded.

## SIZE, PRICE AND PACKING

Popular size is 25 mm but from 11 mm onwards are usable. Price depends on the size and quality of the teeth. Bigger the teeth better the price. Pointer teeth above 20 mm size can fetch approximate F. I. S. Australia 15-20 Rupees and or piece of Tiger shark 6-8 Rupees.

Teeth can be packed in polythene bags containing 25 teeth of specified size or in a mix pack of 100 containing at least 25% of large size. For bulk order it can be packed in bigger cartons.

## USES

For capping in Silver for ornamental purpose is quite popular in U. S. A. Following articles can be prepared using given No. of shark teeth.

Bangles	3-10 Teeth
Necklaces	5-25 Teeth
Pendants	1-3 Teeth
Broaches	1-3 Teeth

Tie bars 1-5 Teeth (smaller size)  
Tie Pin 1+10

Sydney, Port Lincon are important centres for preparing silver and gold jewellery of Shark teeth.

#### MARKETING

Import duty into Australia for shark teeth is 24% plus 27½% Sales tax. Custom import classification No. 9504. Sales tax is general group classification. Insurance charges are advised to be included in quotation both by Air and surface cargo. Certificate of origin and health certificate may also be required for the export.

#### BUYERS

List of the prospective buyers is furnished below. Credit worthiness and financial standing of the buyer is to be ensured by the supplier himself.

- 1) Kati Jewel Co., 1848 Thunder bird street Troy, Michigan 48084, U.S.A. They require larger size and quantities of teeth.
- 2) The Manager, Marine Department, J. T. Gunn Pvt. Ltd., 50 Brisbane street, Lanceston P. O. Box 572, Tasmania 7250, Australia.
- 3) Coral Sea Industry, P. O. Box 14, Cook Town N. O. 4871, Australia.
- 4) Western Australian shells, Box T1738, G. P. O. Perth, Western Australia 6001.
- 5) The Tropical Shell Co. Ltd., 22 Preston Road Brighton, BNI, England.

#### SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Correspondance of the Author with some of the entrepreneurs from Australia. Information from 'Australian Fisheries' is also acknowledged. ○

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