

off the fence.

Nature's Greatest Moments - Sea (Series 3)

5 x 5'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. Rays

Rays look completely different to other fish, they spend most of their time at the bottom of the ocean, sometimes even under the sand. Many rays also give birth to live young a few months after mating, rather than laying eggs. There are about 500 species in various parts of the ocean and although their appearance differs widely, there is one thing all rays have in common ... the ability to fly!

2. Great White

Sharks are the perfect predators – and some of the most ancient creatures in the ocean ... The most dangerous is the great white, the largest predatory fish in the sea, which can reach a length of 6 metres. Despite its fearsome reputation, the great white is not an insensitive human-killing machine. It is an intelligent hunter, equipped with acute senses of smell and sight. It plays an essential role in the ocean's food web and is worthy of respect ... rather than fear.

3. Shark Supersenses

Sharks are ancient predators, but this does not mean that they are primitive. They have well-developed brains and an array of acute senses. Their design is so well-adapted to their lifestyle that they have barely changed for the past 70 million years. Apart from an acute sense of sight, sound and smell, sharks have the unique ability to detect the weak electrical field generated by all living organisms and can even sense a fish buried under the sand. With their exceptional senses and brilliant body design, sharks are the great survivors of the ocean ... and they rarely go hungry.

4. Eccentric Sharks

There are many peculiar sharks that look nothing like the conventional image of a shark. The whale shark is the largest fish in the sea. It grows up to 18 metres with a weight of 40 tons. One of the most bizarre sharks is the wobbegong, which instead of chasing after its prey, it uses its clever camouflage to wait in ambush for fish to pass. The elephant fish uses its odd trunk-like nose to locate shellfish. It has a naked skin, with no scales like fish or denticles like sharks. When it comes to sharks, variety is the spice of life!

5. Dolphins

Dolphins are the best-loved creatures of the sea. They are also some of the most intelligent and the most sociable. They communicate with each other using their special language of clicks and whistles. Each dolphin has its own 'signature' whistle that the others can recognise. The bonds between family members are very close, especially a mother and baby which can last for up to six years. Dolphins are also some of the ocean's top predators. When they track the annual sardine run down, they work together as a team to feed on them. This is the event of the year for the common dolphins, and their intelligent co-operation means they certainly make the most of it!