



Juvenile tiger shark with diver, Jupiter, Florida, USA (above). Exposure: ISO 100, f/5.6, 1/125s; Juvenile silky shark (top right). Exposure: ISO 250, f/11, 1/160s; Juvenile sandbar shark (bottom right). Exposure: ISO 100, f/8, 1/125s. Gear used for all photos: Nikon D500 camera, Tokina 10-17 lens, Nauticam housing, Inon Z330 strobes

Summer's Shark Juveniles

Text and photos by Gary Rose, MD

I particularly love the summer months of diving in Jupiter, Florida, USA. It is during these times of warm and calm seas that I have had some very wonderful introductions to juvenile sharks. It is not uncommon to dive with very young, one- to three-foot silky sharks, dusky sharks, sandbar sharks and occasional bull sharks. This past spring, I even had the amazing experience of diving with a juvenile female tiger shark.

Granted, young tiger sharks present on a much grander scale than most other young sharks. She swam by our group of divers, far on the periphery for a few weeks, and then finally came in close enough for her first photo shoot. She was gorgeous, shy, and about 4.5 feet long. I will tell you a little secret about her: She had been following Patrick, our rare male "adolescent" tiger shark. Just like with humans, juveniles become adolescents, adolescents become adults, and then... I will leave what comes next to your imagination.

The most enjoyable aspect of div-

ing with juvenile sharks is that they are so playful and awkward—constantly bumping, prodding, and exploring—a real joy. They have no hesitation in swimming right up and bumping into a camera housing dome port, which becomes a fantastic photo op. They will also nip at strobes, strobe wires, arms and hands. Juveniles are juveniles, and they will stop at nothing to explore and learn about their new environment. Just when you think it could not get any better, it does. Each year brings new juvenile sharks. Visit: garyrosephotos.com