

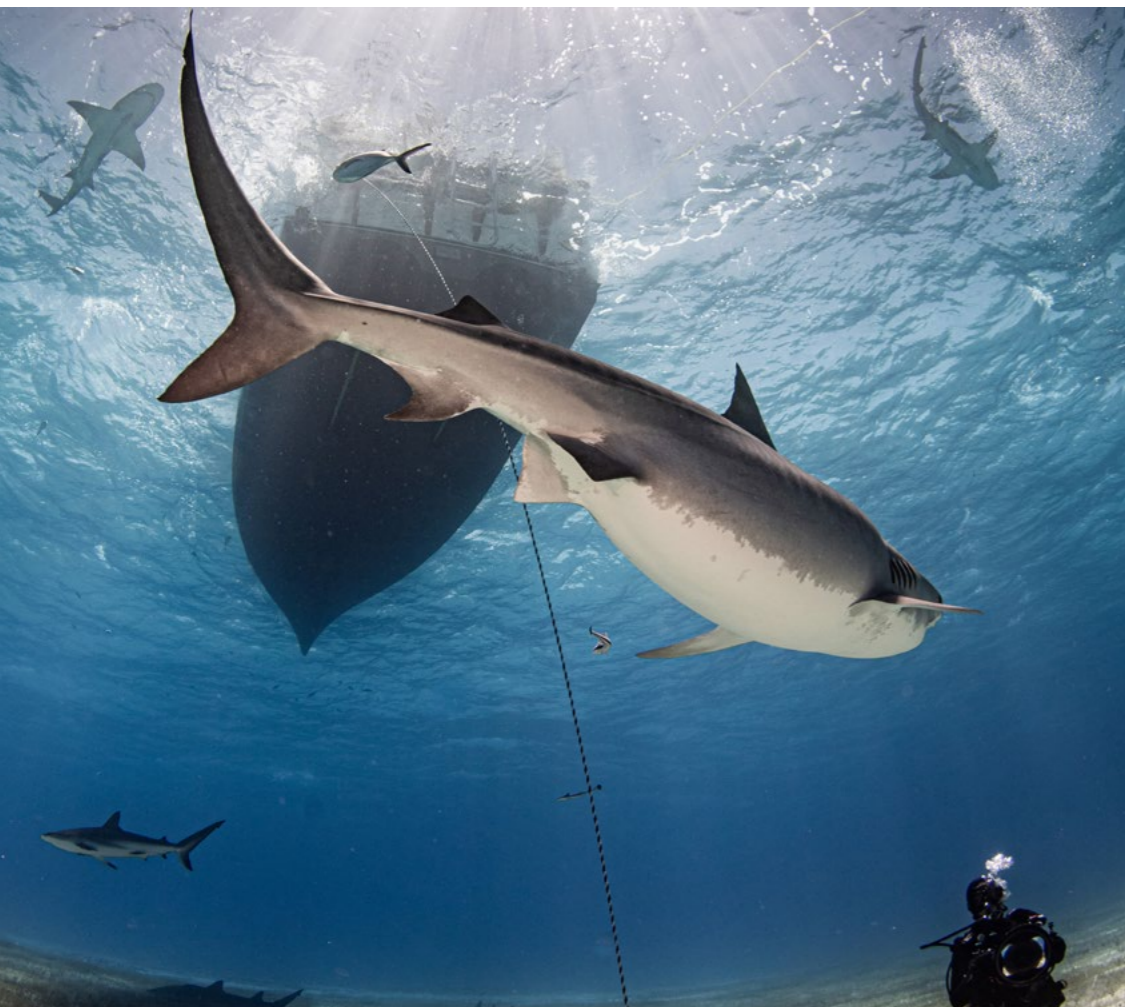
feature

Photo 1 (below). Pregnant female tiger shark. Exposure: ISO 100, f/11, 1/200s

Photo 2 (right). Soaring silky shark. Exposure: ISO 200, f/14, 1/125s

Photo 3 (bottom right). Multiple hooks in silky shark. Exposure: ISO 320, f/8, 1/100s

Photo 4 (top far right). Contemplation: lemon-shark sharknado. Exposure: ISO 100, f/14, 1/125s



When Things Are Looking Up

Text and photos by Gary Rose, MD

As divers, we are almost always looking forward and slightly down, or more comfortably just looking down. We are taught to be as close to the prone position as possible to improve buoyancy control, to decrease drag, and to see where we are going. Even our equipment increases our tendency to look down—the buoyancy compensator, holding the tank on our back with the top of the first stage of the regulator sitting high enough to prevent full neck extension. I know, some of you will say, “set up your tank lower,” to improve neck extension. My response is, “In that case, you will have a tank bottom hitting the back of your thighs with each kick.”

Having made my point, I encourage you to make a practice of looking up during your dives. There is so much that goes on, above, that you are missing. Either learn to be more proficient in extending your neck or assume a vertical position (without disturbing the reef or sea floor) and look up. I have seen sailfish

glide by on the surface. I have witnessed schools of scalloped hammerhead sharks above me in the Gulf Stream. I could not believe it, but last year, I saw a 5ft *Mola mola* (sunfish) hanging 20ft above my head.

I would not have seen the beautiful and very pregnant tiger shark in Photo 1, had I not looked up. I also would not have seen the reef sharks and beautiful lighting. I was in 60ft of water when I photographed the gorgeous silky shark in Photo 2, soaring right over me. Shooting up with a wide-angle lens captured the moment perfectly. Unfortunately, we sometimes witness the harm that others impose upon magnificent apex predators—in this case, stainless steel hooks impaling a silky shark in Photo 3.

By not using strobes, while shooting up, you can capture beautiful silhou-



ettes, which are very effective in evoking strong emotions in the viewer. Feel the passion of the lone diver in Photo 4, gazing at a “sharknado” of lemon sharks.

Explore your surroundings. Appreciate the natural beauty. Remember to look up. Visit: garyrosephotos.com

All photos were taken with a Nikon D500 camera, Tokina 10-17mm lens at 10mm, Nauticam housing, and Inon Z330 strobes.

