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**Oregon Coast Aquarium
Odyssey Productions, Inc.**

MYTH OF THE MAN-EATERS: The Sharks of the Oregon Coast

Final Script

MYTH OF THE MAN-EATERS:
The Sharks of the Oregon Coast

FADE IN:

1. Basking shark with mouth wide, wide open, swimming directly toward the camera.

NARRATOR: (voiceover)

HOW WOULD YOU FEEL

IF THIS 30-FOOT SHARK

CAME SWIMMING TOWARD

YOU?

2. Basking shark swims slowly past camera.

... MOUTH AGAPE ...

.. HUNDREDS OF TEETH

JUTTING FROM ITS

GARGANTUAN JAWS?

3. Basking shark with mouth closed, sunlight streaming from above. It floats directly in front of and close to the camera, then it's followed by a second shark.

WELL, YOU'RE LOOKING AT A

SLUGGISH,

PLANKTON-EATING

BASKING SHARK.

4. The basking shark swims with its mouth wide open, then turns in front of the camera.

ITS MINISCULE TEETH

ARE TINIER THAN YOUR

FINGERNAIL.

4. Underwater, it's murky; see one, then another basking shark swim by.

AND, LIKE MOST OF THE
WORLD'S 370 SPECIES
OF SHARKS ...

... IT'S MOSTLY HARMLESS
TO HUMANS.

5. SUPER TITLE: **MYTH OF THE MAN-EATERS.**
The Sharks of the Oregon Coast

WHY OUR LEGENDARY FEAR
AND HORROR OF SHARKS?
IT'S THE MYTH
OF THE MAN-EATERS.

6. Diver with camera swims close to whale shark, right up to its mouth; shark obviously ignores the diver.

7. A diver right at the whale shark's mouth. The diver's feet are almost in the shark's mouth, then the shark swims by.

8. A blue shark swims past a diver.

9. From underwater, looking up to a surfboard with a surfer kicking his legs; one shark swims right by, then a second one.

HYSTERICAL HEADLINES
AND SENSATIONAL FILMS
HAVE CREATED THE
MYTH OF THE

MAN-EATING SHARK.

YET HALF OF THE WORLD'S

SHARKS ARE LESS THAN

THREE FEET LONG.

AND MOST ARE TIMID ...

10. Diver comes down and scares off an angel shark.

... LIKELY TO BE STARTLED

... AND FLEE AT THE SIGHT

OF A HUMAN.

11. Shark baiting; divers in shark cage.

12. A great white shark swims close to the camera.

13. The shark bites baited fish.

14. A close shot of the shark eating the bait fish.

TYPICALLY, FILMMAKERS

LURE SHARKS TO THE

CAMERA WITH BLOOD ...

... DELIBERATELY CREATING

THE IMAGE OF A SAVAGE

KILLER.

dissolve to:

15. DR. BETS RASMUSSEN INTERVIEW.

SUPER: DR. LOIS "BETS" RASMUSSEN

Shark Researcher, Oregon Graduate Institute

DR. RASMUSSEN (on camera)

(She'll answer questions directed along these lines, based on our original interview and additional script research)

"I was diving once in Palau, and saw about 35 sharks around me. They seemed curious, and timid.

"Sharks are what scientists call 'apex predators.' They're among the top predators of fish and marine mammals, but they don't eat people. They rarely even bite people."

16. Blue shark swimming; sunlight streams underwater.

17. Shark swimming toward camera; turns and swims away.

DR. RASMUSSEN: (voiceover)

"Shark incidents are extremely rare. Since scientists started keeping records, there have been no fatalities off the Oregon coast, and only ten shark incidents in more than 40 years. All of those involved surfers, and they were usually near marine mammal sites, like sea lion rookeries."

transition to:

18. SPECIAL EFFECT GRAPHICS.

The camera pans across an illustration that shows the 15 species of sharks off the Oregon coast, from the largest to the smallest, along with a diver for comparison.

HIGHLIGHT: Each species' name is brought forth and highlighted, quickly, one at a time:

BASKING (22-29 ft.)

WHITE (15-21 ft.)

SIXGILL (13-15 ft)

PACIFIC SLEEPER (12 ft)

THRESHER (10-16 ft)

BLUE (6-7-1/2 ft)

LEOPARD (5-6 ft)

SOUPFIN (5-6 ft)
SALMON (5-10 ft)
SEVENGILL (2-8 ft)
PACIFIC ANGEL (3 ft)
SPINY DOGFISH (30-40 inches)
BROWN SMOOTHHOUND (26 inches)
BROWN CATSHARK (22 inches)

NARRATOR: (voiceover)

FIFTEEN SPECIES OF SHARKS

LIVE OFF THE OREGON

COAST.

LIKE ALL SHARKS,

THEY'RE MAGNIFICENT AND

FASCINATING CREATURES

OF THE SEA.

19. Extreme closeup of blue sharks swimming by, turning.

20. FREEZE FRAME of shark, then SUPERIMPOSE graphic that illustrates the shark's cartilaginous skeleton.

BIOLOGICALLY,

SHARKS ARE FISH.

BUT THEIR SKELETONS ARE

MADE NOT OF BONE ...

BUT OF CARTILAGE,

A FLEXIBLE TISSUE,

LIKE THAT FOUND IN

HUMAN EARS.

21. The Freeze Frame ends and the blue shark continues swimming by.

22. A basking shark turns and swims by, exposing a great shot of its gills.

MOST SHARKS HAVE
FIVE GILL SLITS
ON EACH SIDE.

23. Extreme closeup of gills moving in and out.

IN SOME SPECIES,
MUSCLES PUMP WATER OVER
THE GILLS.
IN OTHERS, THE SHARK'S
FORWARD MOTION PROPELS
WATER ACROSS THE GILLS...

24. Blue shark; a great shot of the gills opening and "waving" and closing.

... REQUIRING THAT THE
SHARK KEEP SWIMMING
UNDERWATER
... IN ORDER TO BREATHE.

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To see the complete script, contact me at matrazzo@msn.com
