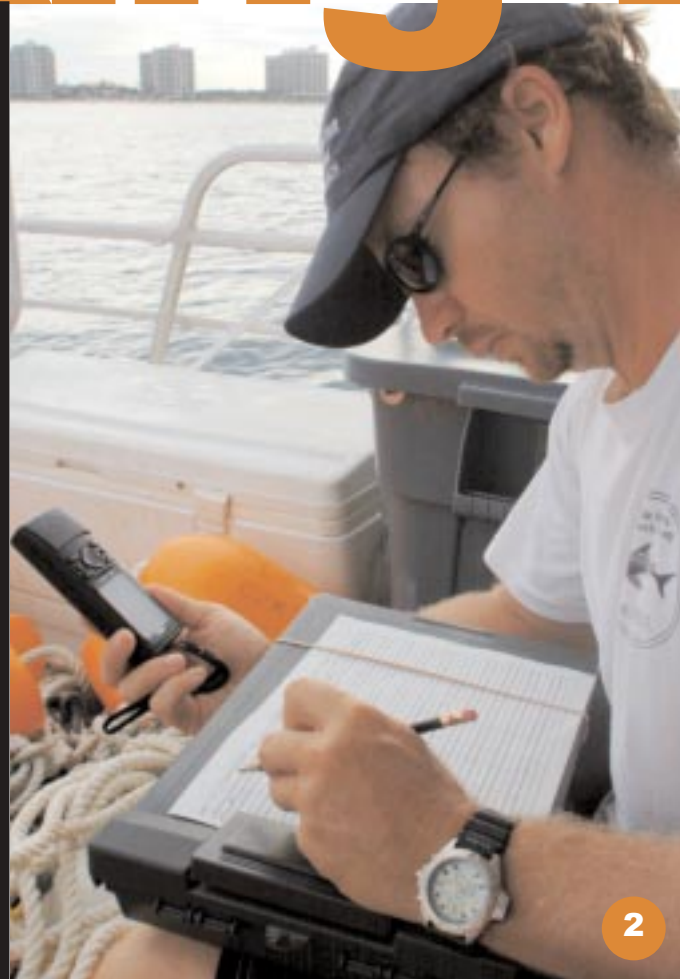


# Tracking Predators



**1** Summer interns in Mote's Center for Shark Research deploy long lines during a June day aboard the *RV Eugenie Clark* in the Gulf of Mexico. The interns baited circle hooks with jacks and used 800-pound monofilament line with a double monofilament leader to catch large coastal sharks as part of an ongoing study that started in 2001.



**2**



**4** Researchers hold the bull shark on the deck of the *Eugenie Clark*. While the shark is on board, they quickly record the shark's size, sex, length, and other details. They also take a fin clip from the bull for a genetic sample of the shark and attach a tag with a number and information on how to report a tagged shark sighting to Mote. Taking the information and clipping the shark takes only a few minutes. The hardest part can be getting the shark on board.



**3**



**5** The bull shark is released. The information collected during this study will be used to determine how abundant coastal sharks are and the impact of commercial fishing on the sharks. The tagging portion of the study helps scientists know where the sharks go and how fast they move. Such sampling is done quarterly at the same time each year.

**2** Senior Biologist John Tyminski records the location and bait type used, along with other relevant information about how the sharks were being caught while off Longboat Key in the Gulf.

**3** Tyminski hauls in a bull shark by hand.

In 1991, U.S. Congress designated Mote a national Center for Shark Research.

