Meet the usual suspects of Bimini, the Bahamas

A research project of the Bimini Biological Field Station Foundation (BBFSF) in collaboration with the Neal Watson Scuba Dive Center

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@neal@biminiscubacenter.com
**Name: Epic** (ID-Nr.: #12)

1. **Sex:** Female
   **Size:** 301 cm (total length)

2. **Tags and location:**

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3. **First sighting:** Season 2014
   **Last sighting:** Season 2017

4. **Photo-ID characteristics:**

   **4.1. Overview**

   ![Shark-ID #12 “Epic” – Right lateral view](image)

   a) Visible notch pattern in the trailing edge of the first dorsal fin “D1”
   b) Trailing edge of the right pectoral fin is distinctive in shape

   **4.2. Dorsal fins**

   ![Left and right lateral view of the first dorsal fin „D1“](image)

   I: Left side
   II: Right side
   a) Notch close to the top of D1
   b) Notch in the middle of the trailing edge
   c) Two notches close by each other in the lower half of D1
   d) External cut off tags at the left base of D1
4.3. Pectoral fins

Figure 3: Lateral view of the right pectoral fin

- a) Two notches near the middle of the trailing edge
- b) Notch close to the outermost tip of the trailing edge

Figure 4: Ventral view of the right and left pectoral fin

I: Right pectoral fin
   - a) Two notches near the middle of the trailing edge
   - b) Notch close to the outermost tip of the trailing edge

II: Left pectoral fin
   - c) Triangular shaped notch
   - d) Small notch
   - e) Relatively broad notch close to the outer tip of the fin

4.4. Pelvic and anal fins

No distinctive characteristics found

4.5. Caudal fin

No distinctive characteristics found

4.6. Cephalofoil

No distinctive characteristics found
4.7. Ventral view

Figure 5: Ventral view

a) Distinct ventral patterning with several grey coloured areas
b) Two grey coloured stripes/areas on the left and right ventral side of the hammer
c) Triangular shaped notch in the trailing edge of the left pectoral fin

4.8. Miscellaneous

No distinctive characteristics found
Name: Gaia (ID-Nr.: #13)

1. Sex: Female

2. Size: 345.0 cm (total length)

2. Tags and location:

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3. First sighting: Season 2013

4. Last sighting: Season 2019

4. Photo-ID characteristics:

4.1. Overview

Figure 1: Shark-ID #13 “Gaia” – Left lateral view

c) Notch and a bulge in the trailing edge of the left pectoral fin

4.2. Dorsal fins

Figure 2: Left lateral view of the 1st dorsal fin “D1”

a) Notch around the middle section of the trailing edge
b) Two small notches in the lower half of the trailing edge
4.3. Pectoral fins

Figure 3: Left lateral view of the 2nd dorsal fin „D2“

a) Two distinctive notches in the trailing edge

Figure 4: Top view of the left pectoral fin

a) Distinguishable outline of the trailing edge with a bulge in the outer half

4.4. Pelvic and anal fins

Figure 5: Left lateral view of the left pelvic and anal fin

a) Notch in the trailing edge of the left pelvic fin close to the body

4.5. Caudal fin

No distinctive characteristics found

4.6. Cephalofoil

No distinctive characteristics found

4.7. Ventral view

No distinctive characteristics found
4.8. Miscellaneous

**Figure 6:** Right lateral view of the 1st dorsal fin „D1“

a) Transmitter at the right base of D1 – this transmitter came off in December 2016 and is now missing.

b) Notch around the middle section of the trailing edge

**Figure 7:** Left lateral view

I: Picture taken during February 2013
II: Picture taken during March 2016

a) Pigmentation patch behind the gill slits on the left side of the body, above the left pectoral fin.

The Pigmentation patch has stayed consistent in its appearance across four consecutive seasons
Name: Amphitrite  (ID-Nr.: #14)

1. **Sex:** Female  
   **Size:** 339.0 cm (total length)

2. **Tags and location:**

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3. **First sighting:** Season 2014  
   **Last sighting:** Season 2019

4. **Photo-ID characteristics:**

   **4.1. Overview**

   ![Image of Shark-ID #14 Amphitrite – Right lateral view](image)
   
   Figure 1: Shark-ID #14 „Amphitrite“ – Right lateral view

   a) Possible two cut off Casey tags at the right base of the 1\textsuperscript{st} dorsal fin “D1”
   b) Black pigmentation spots at the trailing edge of the right pectoral fin
   c) “Frayed” trailing edge of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} dorsal fin “D2” showing several notches

   **4.2. Dorsal fins**

   ![Image of 1st dorsal fin D1](image)
   
   Figure 2: 1st dorsal fin „D1“
   Amphitrite shows a relatively smooth trailing edge of the first dorsal fin „D1“

   I: Left side
   a) Possible cut off tag
   II: Right side
   b) Possible cut off tags (2x)
   c) Black pigmentation spot in front of D1

   ![Image of 2nd dorsal fin D2](image)
   
   Figure 3: 2nd dorsal fin „D2“
   I: Left side, II: Right side
   a) “Frayed” trailing edge of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} dorsal fin “D2” showing several notches, with a smaller notch being close to the top and a bigger one at the beginning of the upper third of D2
4.3. Pectoral fins

Figure 4: Detail top view of the left and right pectoral fin

I: Top view of left pectoral fin
   a) Trailing edge showing a notch and two small bulges
   b) Pigmentation pattern on top of the fin close to the body

II: Top view of right pectoral fin
   c) Small notch in the trailing edge surrounded by two darker pigmentation spots (see letter d) below
   d) Pigmentation pattern on top of the fin surrounding a notch on the trailing edge

4.4. Pelvic and anal fins

No distinctive characteristics found

4.5. Caudal fin

No distinctive characteristics found

4.6. Cephalofoil

No distinctive characteristics found

4.7. Ventral view

Figure 5: Ventral view

a) Grey coloured „triangle“ intruding into the white coloured ventral area
b) Two grey spots within the white area posterior to the mouth

4.8. Miscellaneous

No distinctive characteristics found
**Name: Medusa (ID-Nr.: #16)**

1. **Sex:** Female  
   **Size:** 290.0 cm (total length)

2. **Tags and location:**

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3. **First sighting:** Season 2014  
   **Last sighting:** Season 2019

4. **Photo-ID characteristics:**

   4.1. **Overview**

   ![Shark-ID #16 "Medusa" – Right lateral view](image)

   **Figure 1:** Shark-ID #16 "Medusa" – Right lateral view

   d) Relatively large triangular-shaped notch in the trailing edge of the right pectoral fin  
   e) Visible pigmentation spot in the lower third of the 1st dorsal fin “D1”  
   f) Pigmentation spot above the 4th and 5th gill slit on the right side of the body  
   g) Scar tissue from a cut off Casey tag (old, new Casey tag got inserted on the 20th October 2016)

   4.2. **Dorsal fins**

   ![1st dorsal fin „D1“](image)

   **Figure 2:** 1st dorsal fin „D1“

   I: Left lateral view
   a) Notches in the trailing edge of D1  
   b) Possible cut off tag at the left base of D1  

   II: Right lateral view
   a) Notches in the trailing edge of D1
4.3. Pectoral fins

Figure 3: Top and ventral view of the right and left pectoral fin

I: Top view of the left pectoral fin
   a) White mark/possible scar tissue at the front base
   b) Notch in the outermost third of the trailing edge
   c) Pigmentation patch and several small notches in the trailing edge

II: Top view of the right pectoral fin
   d) Relatively large triangular-shaped notch
   e) Pigmentation patch surrounding the large notch
   f) Smaller notches in the trailing edge

III: Ventral view of the left and right pectoral fin
   g) Relatively large triangular-shaped notch in the trailing edge of the right pectoral fin

4.4. Pelvic and anal fins

Figure 4: Right lateral view of the right pelvic and anal fin

a) Two distinct notches in the trailing edge of the right pelvic fin
b) Small notch in the trailing edge of the anal fin

4.5. Caudal fin

Figure 5: Left ventral view of the caudal fin

a) Bulge in the upper lobe close to the fork
b) Notch in the middle of the trailing edge of the lower lobe

4.6. Cephalofoil

No distinctive characteristics found

4.7. Ventral view

No distinctive characteristics found
4.8. Miscellaneous

Figure 6: Back and right lateral view of the first dorsal fin “D1”

I: Back view of D1
   a) Newly inserted Casey tag on the right base of D1
   b) Scar tissue from a previous Casey tag
   c) Possible cut off tag on the left side of D1

II: Right lateral view of D1
   d) Newly inserted Casey tag on the right base of D1
   e) Scar tissue from a previous Casey tag

III: Detail view of the right side of D1
   f) Three yellow/green beads attached to the newly inserted Casey tag on the right base of D1
Name: Nemesis (ID-Nr.: #17)

1. **Sex:** Female

2. **Tags and location:**

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3. **First sighting:** Season 2013

   **Last sighting:** Season 2019

4. **Photo-ID characteristics:**

   4.1. **Overview**

   ![Figure 1](image1.png)

   **Figure 1:** Shark-ID #17 “Nemesis” – Right lateral view

   h) Distinguishable notch pattern in trailing edge of the 1st dorsal fin “D1”
   i) Notch at the top of the second dorsal fin “D2”
   j) Notch in trailing edge of anal fin
   k) Casey tag on the right base of the 1st dorsal fin “D1”. This tag was lost and only the monofilament remains sticking out.

   4.2. **Dorsal fins**

   ![Figure 2](image2.png)

   **Figure 2:** Left and right lateral view of the first dorsal fin “D1”

   I: Left side
   a) Distinctive notch pattern in the trailing edge
   II: Right side
   a) Distinctive notch pattern in the trailing edge
   b) Casey tag at the right base of D1 – only the monofilament is visible since the capsule with the info-sheet was lost.
4.3. **Pectoral fins**

**Figure 3:** Left and right lateral view of the 2nd dorsal fin „D2“

I: Left side  
II: Right side  
   a) Relatively large notch at the top  
   b) Notch in the middle section

**Figure 4:** Top view of the left and right pectoral fin

I: Left pectoral fin  
   a) Distinct notch pattern in the trailing edge close to the body  
   b) Notch in the trailing edge  
   c) Pigmentation patch with two distinguishable brighter spots in the middle  

II: Right pectoral fin  
   d) Four relatively large notches in the trailing edge  
   e) Pigmentation patch on the top side

4.4. **Pelvic and anal fins**

**Figure 5:** Lateral view of the left and right pelvic fin and right lateral view of the anal fin

I: Left pelvic fin  
   a) Distinguishable notches in the trailing edge of the left pelvic fin  

II: Right pelvic fin  
   b) Distinguishable notches in the trailing edge of the right pelvic fin  

III: Anal fin  
   c) Distinct notch in the trailing edge of the anal fin
4.5. **Caudal fin**
No distinctive characteristics found

4.6. **Cephalofoil**
No distinctive characteristics found

4.7. **Ventral view**
No distinctive characteristics found

4.8. **Miscellaneous**

*Figure 6*: Location, shape and number of Casey tag
I: Location of the Casey tag on the right base of D1
II: Casey tag
III: Detail view of the Casey tag, the Casey tag # was: 353157

Important note: this Casey tag was lost after season 2016. What remains is the monofilament that sticks out. The capsule is missing.
Name: Tethys (ID-Nr.: #19)

1. **Sex:** Female  
   **Size:** approx. 300.0 cm (total length)

2. **Tags and location:**

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3. **First sighting:** Season 2014  
   **Last sighting:** Season 2019

4. **Photo-ID characteristics:**

   4.1. **Overview**

   ![Figure 6: Shark-ID #19 “Tethys” – Left lateral view](image)

   a) “Blunt” end of the anal fin  
   b) Distinguishable notch in the trailing edge of the left pectoral fin

   4.2 **Dorsal fins**

   ![Figure 7: Left lateral view of the 1st dorsal fin „D1”](image)

   The trailing edge of D1 shows a relatively smooth outline, with few and only minor notches
4.2. Pectoral fins

Figure 8: Left lateral view of the 2nd dorsal fin „D2“

a) Small notch in the outline of the trailing edge of D2

4.3. Pelvic and anal fins

Figure 9: Top view of the left and right pectoral fin

I: Left pectoral fin
   a) Distinguishable notches in the trailing edge
II: Right pectoral fin
   b) Distinctive notch pattern of the trailing edge

Figure 10: Lateral view of the right pelvic and anal fin

a) Blunt end of the anal fin
b) Notch in the trailing edge of the anal fin
c) Two distinct notches in the trailing edge of the right pelvic fin

4.4. Caudal fin

Figure 11: Right lateral view of the upper and lower lobe of the caudal fin

a) Two notches in trailing edge the lower lobe
b) Notch in the trailing edge of the upper lobe close to the fork
4.5. Cephalofoil
No distinctive characteristics found

4.6. Ventral view
No distinctive characteristics found

4.7. Miscellaneous
No distinctive characteristics found
Name: Atlas (ID-Nr.: #20)

1. Sex: Male
   Size: 297.0 cm (total length)

2. Tags and location:

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3. First sighting: Season 2013    Last sighting: Season 2019

4. Photo-ID characteristics:

4.1. Overview

Figure 12: Shark-ID #20 “Atlas” – Right lateral view

- a) Distinct shape of anal fin
- b) Small notch at the top of the second dorsal fin “D2”
- c) White mark/scar tissue on the top/right side of the body

4.2. Dorsal fins

Figure 13: Right lateral view of the 1st dorsal fin „D1“

- a) Small notch in the upper half of the trailing edge of D1
- b) Two small notches in the middle of the trailing edge of D1

Figure 14: Right lateral view of the 2nd dorsal fin „D2“

- a) Notch next to the top of the trailing edge of D2
4.3. Pectoral fins

4.4. Pelvic and anal fins

4.5. Caudal fin
No distinctive characteristics found

4.6. Cephalofoil
No distinctive characteristics found

4.7. Ventral view
No distinctive characteristics found

4.8. Miscellaneous

Figure 15: Detail top view of the right pectoral fin
   a) Notch located in the middle of the trailing edge
   b) Small notch in the outermost third of the trailing edge

Figure 16: Right lateral detail view of the anal fin
   a) Distinct shape of the anal fin, compared to other anal fins. Atlas’ anal fin seems shorter and mutilated
   b) Relatively large notch in the trailing edge

Figure 17: Left lateral view of the base of D1
   a) The Casey tag is located at the left base of D1. The colour-code of the tag is “red-white-blue” that resembles the colours of the French flag.
Name: Chaos (ID-Nr.: #21)

1. **Sex:** Male  
   **Size:** 288.0 cm (total length)

2. **Tags and location:**

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3. **First sighting:** Season 2010  
   **Last sighting:** Season 2017

4. **Photo-ID characteristics:**

   4.1. **Overview**

   Figure 18: Shark-ID #21 “Chaos” – Right lateral view

   a) Several notches in the trailing edge and rounded tip of the first dorsal fin “D1”
   b) Distinct shape of anal fin
   c) Characteristic shape of the upper lobe of the caudal fin
   d) Casey tag at the right base of the 1st dorsal fin “D1”

4.2. **Dorsal fins**

   Figure 19: Right lateral view of the 1st dorsal fin “D1”

   a) Rounded tip of D1
   b) Notch close to the top of D1
   c) Several notches in the trailing edge
   d) Partially cleaned Casey tag at the right base of D1
4.3. Pectoral fins

![Figure 20: Detail views of pectoral fins]

I: Top view of the right pectoral fin
   a) Notch close to body
   b) Two notches around the middle of the fin
   c) Two notches in outermost third of the fin

II: Ventral view of the left pectoral fin
   d) Bulge in the trailing edge close to the body
   e) Notch at the beginning of the outermost third

4.4. Pelvic and anal fins

![Figure 21: Left lateral view of left pelvic fin and anal fin]

a) Characteristic shape of the anal fin
   b) Notch in the trailing edge of the left pelvic fin

4.5. Caudal fin

![Figure 22: Left lateral view of the upper and lower lobe of the caudal fin]

a) Distinct shape of the end of the upper lobe
   b) Notch in the trailing edge of the lower lobe, close to the fork

1The fork is the region where the caudal fin divides into a upper and a lower lobe

4.6. Cephalofoil

No distinctive characteristics found

4.7. Ventral view

![Figure 23: Ventral view]

a) Grey coloured areas close to the trailing edge of the cephalofoil
   b) The right grey coloured area shows a rectangular shape, with the outline running parallel to the trailing edge
   c) Two grey coloured spots on the right and left ventral side of the cephalofoil
4.8. Miscellaneous

No distinctive characteristics found
Name: Scylla (ID-Nr.: #24)

1. **Sex**: Female
   **Size**: 331.0 cm (total length)

2. **Tags and location:**

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3. **First sighting**: Season 2013
   **Last sighting**: Season 2017

4. **Photo-ID characteristics:**

   4.1. **Overview**

   ![Figure 24: Shark-ID #24 “Scylla” – Left lateral view](image)

   a) Distinguishable ventral patterning
   b) Bulge in the outline of the trailing edge of the right pelvic fin
   c) Notch at the top of the trailing edge of the 2nd dorsal fin “D2”

4.2. **Dorsal fins**

   ![Figure 25: Right lateral view of the 1st dorsal fin „D1“](image)

   a) External tag at the right base of D1. This tag was cut off by divers and is missing now.

   ![Figure 26: Right lateral view of the 2nd dorsal fin „D2“](image)

   a) Distinguishable notch in the trailing edge close to the tip of D2
4.3. Pectoral fins

Figure 27: Top view of the left and right pectoral fin and a ventral detail view of the right pectoral fin

I: Top view of the left and right pectoral fin
   a) Three distinguishable notches in the trailing edge of the left pectoral fin
   b) Three distinguishable notches in the trailing edge of the right pectoral fin
   c) Bulge in the outline of the trailing edge of the right pectoral fin

II: Ventral view of the right pectoral fin
   d) Three distinguishable notches in the trailing edge
   e) Bulge in the outline of the trailing edge

4.4. Pelvic and anal fins

Figure 28: Right lateral view of the right pelvic and anal fin

   a) Distinguishable outline of the trailing edge of the right pelvic fin
   b) Notch in the trailing edge of the anal fin

4.5. Caudal fin

No distinctive characteristics found

4.6. Cephalofoil

Figure 29: Ventral view of the cephalofoil

The picture shows the ventral patterning of the cephalofoil
4.7. Ventral view

![Ventral View Image]

**Figure 7**: Ventral view

- a) Distinguishable ventral patterning of the area posterior to the hammer up to the base of the right and left pectoral fin
- b) White patch between the pelvic fins
- c) Ventral patterning of the cephalofoil

4.8. Miscellaneous

![Top View Image]

**Figure 8**: Top view

- a) White marking on the top of Scylla’s body, posterior to the 1st dorsal fin “D1″