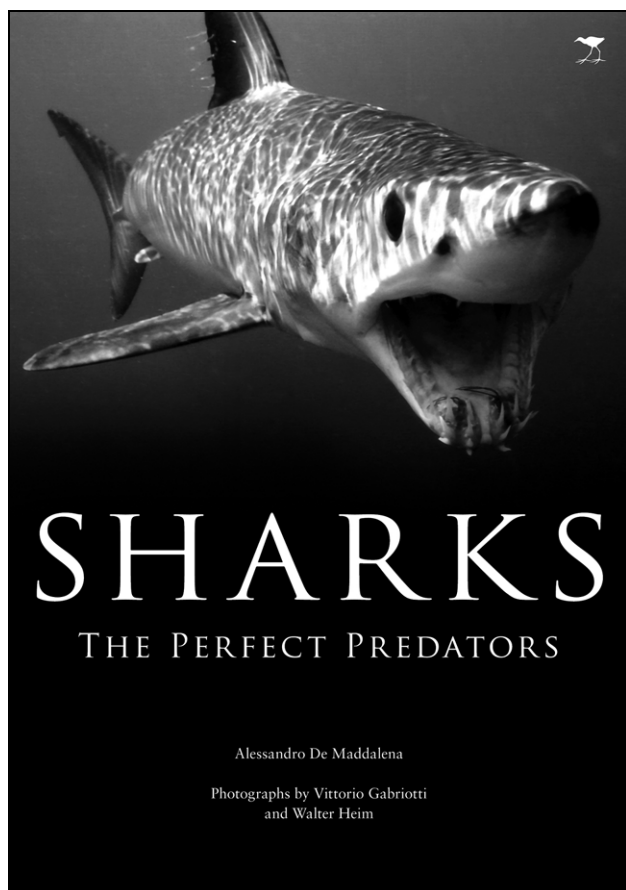


**OCENE IN POROČILA  
RECENSIONI E RELAZIONI  
REVIEWS AND REPORTS**

Alessandro De Maddalena: SHARKS – THE PERFECT  
PREDATORS  
Jacana Media, Auckland Park, 2008, 198 p.



Alessandro De Maddalena is driven by his passion for sharks and a quest to learn more about them. He has written numerous scientific publications and several books on sharks. It is a great pleasure for me to write the review to his latest book, in which he so aptly describes the shark as being the perfect predator.

The wide variety of prey eaten by many shark species is well documented. It is common knowledge, particularly in the case of the tiger sharks, that the diet does occasionally include terrestrial animals and a stunning variety of inedible or indigestible items. Undeniably more intriguing, but not as well known, is the manner in which the shark tracks down its prey. The author provides a stimulating insight into the factors that may motivate a shark in its quest for food, and the tactics it utilizes to hunt down its prey.

The author concedes that there are still large gaps in our knowledge of shark predatory strategies. This is because most species are very difficult to observe, let alone study in the wild, and because many of their activities are performed at night. I am sure that this publication will stimulate further academic discussion and research in this field. More importantly, it will arm the enormous number of amateur shark watchers, who travel the globe to dive with sharks, with the necessary tools and insight to be able to make meaningful observations of sharks in their pursuit of prey. I would urge readers to submit their observations, using the reporting form provided in Appendix I.

The book is greatly enhanced by numerous photographs, captured by Vittorio Gabriotti and Walter Heim. I am confident that it will inspire its readers to a greater level of respect and admiration for a group of animals that were once largely feared and despised.

**Jeremy Cliff**