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## Book Review: Sharks In The Shallows: Attacks On The Carolina Coast

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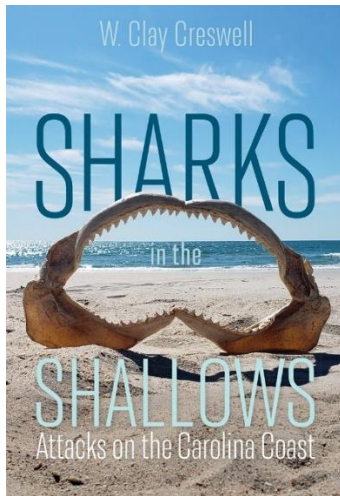
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### Abstract

Brittany Hickey reviews *Sharks in the Shallows: Attacks on the Carolina Coast* by W. Clay Creswell.

***Sharks in the Shallows: Attacks on the Carolina Coast***

W. Clay Creswell  
University of South Carolina Press  
June 14, 2021  
ISBN (Paperback) 978-1-61117-180-2  
ISBN (Ebook) 978-1-61117-181-9  
List Price \$19.99

Clay Creswell works for the Pender County Health Department in North Carolina and is a volunteer shark bite investigator for the Shark Research Institute Global Shark Attack File, a role that he has held since 2004. *Sharks in the Shallows* is Creswell's debut book, but he has long been a media resource for multiple local news outlets and has even appeared on National Geographic Channel's *When Sharks Attack*. Creswell is a champion for sharks. He attempts to instill a healthy respect for sharks without *Jaws*-induced fear, using a mix of scientific facts, personal observations, and fishermen's tales.

There are approximately five hundred shark species in the world today. Over fifty of those species call Carolina waters their home for at least part of the year. Creswell focuses on the top three predators in Carolina waters: "the legendary great white shark, the marauding tiger shark, and the pugnacious bull shark." However, it should be noted that although these three species are blamed for most Carolina attacks, both provoked and unprovoked, the actual species involved is unknown in most instances.

*Sharks in the Shallows* includes a number of incident reports directly from the Global Shark Attack File detailing human-shark interactions in the Carolinas. Some reports describe incidents that are more “interactions” than “attacks” and discuss bumps and scratches. However, some accounts record more severe attacks, such as limbs being bitten off, in detail. These accounts are easily skimmable for readers who would prefer not to read such elements. The descriptions of attacks are not as intense as those that appear in the popular shark attack book *Twelve Days of Terror*, in which Richard G. Fernicola investigates the series of horrific Jersey Shore shark attacks in 1916.

*Sharks in the Shallows* is not just a compilation of incident reports. It’s also data. Creswell dives into the incident reports and provides statistics, breaking down known shark attacks by month, time of day, county, the activity the victim was engaged in prior to the attack, and which body part was bitten. The final chapter is a chart of every recorded shark incident in the Carolinas from 1817-2019.

With its combination of shark tales and tips for avoiding attacks, *Sharks in the Shallows* is a suitable addition to coastal library collections.

Brittany Hickey is the Research & Instruction Librarian at Columbia College. She loves travel, photography, and all things ocean.