

# Cryptozoology Meets Ecology A Look Into the Megalodon

Vinny Chloros



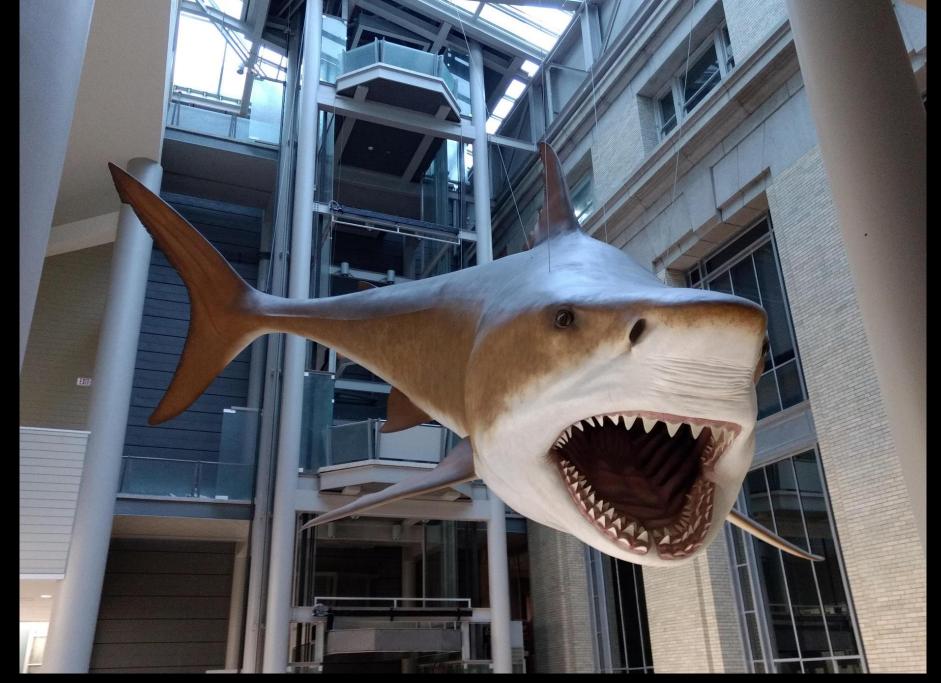
AMNH, Hall of Ocean Life







AMNH, Sharks Special Exhibit



© Dr. Nicholas Pyenson, National Museum of Natural History

# Collin Drake Marine Biologist

© George Monbiot, The Guardian

- Following report of boat disappearance off the coast of South Africa
- Features notable paleontologists







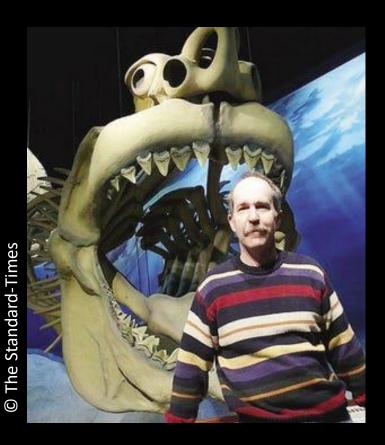
**Produced by** 

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ıg Glover	(as Douglas (	Glover)	
na Cradita (in alababa	tical order)		
n McLaughlin	(written by)		
Mike Bhana		Mike Bhana	
Clayton Evertson		Fisherman	
Katherine Kampko		Jess Okar (as	Katherine Crawford)
Jeremeo Le Cordeur		Hawaiian Boy	
Darron Meyer		Colin Drake	
Juliana Venter		Madelyn Joube	ert (uncredited)
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## Dr. Stephen J. Godfrey



"The extinct megatooth shark... Otodus megalodon."

Otodus-bitten sperm whale tooth from the Neogene of the Coastal Eastern United States (2021)

### Dr. Bretton W. Kent



© University of Maryland

Megatooth sharks framed in comparison to their extant (i.e. still living) relatives

The cartilaginous fishes of Calvert Cliffs, Maryland, USA in Smithsonian Contributions to Paleontology (2018)

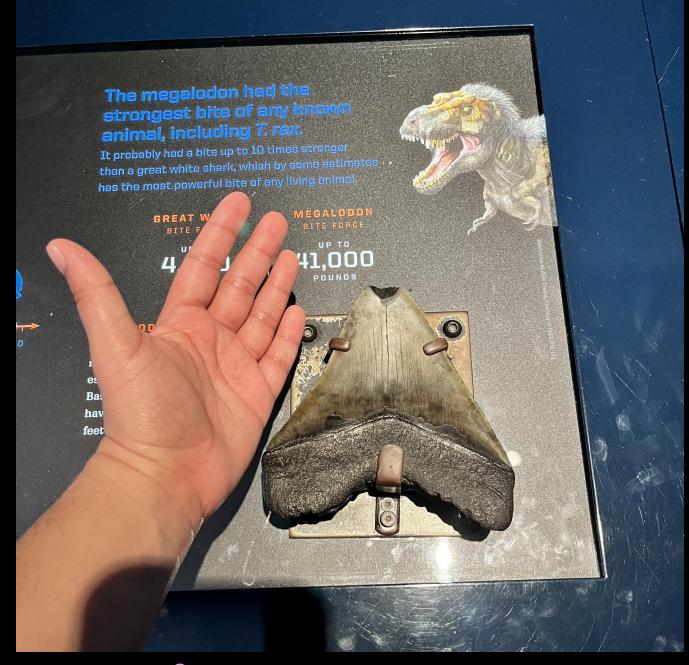


Newscast about Shark Week episode hosted by... Shark Week?

© Ben Winsor, Insider







AMNH, Sharks Special Exhibit

Use of shark teeth in estimating total length (TL) in great white sharks in relation to estimating maximum megalodon size

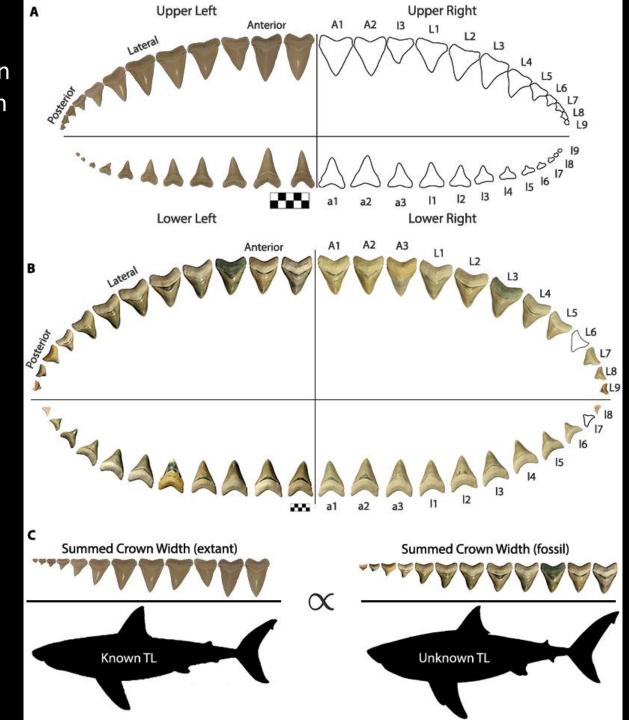
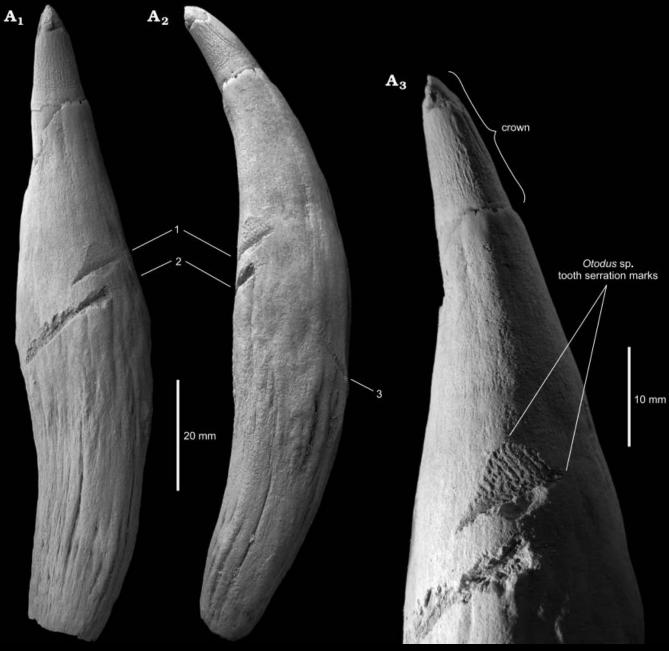


Figure 1 from Perez et al., 2019 Body length estimation of Neogene macrophagous lamniform sharks (Carcharodon and Otodus) derived from associated fossil dentitions



Samples of fossilized whale tooth with serrations from a megalodon

Figures 1 & 2 from Godfrey et al., 2021 *Otodus*-bitten sperm whale tooth from the Neogene of the Coastal Eastern United States

#### Artistic rendition of what the attack may have looked like



## Dr. Robert W. Boessenecker

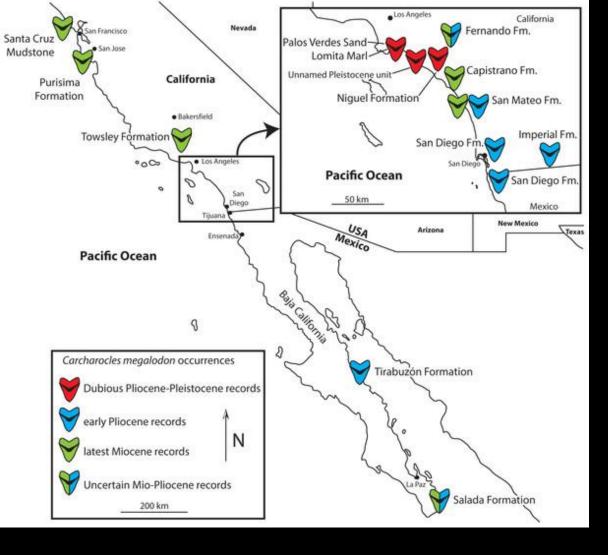
@CoastalPaleo



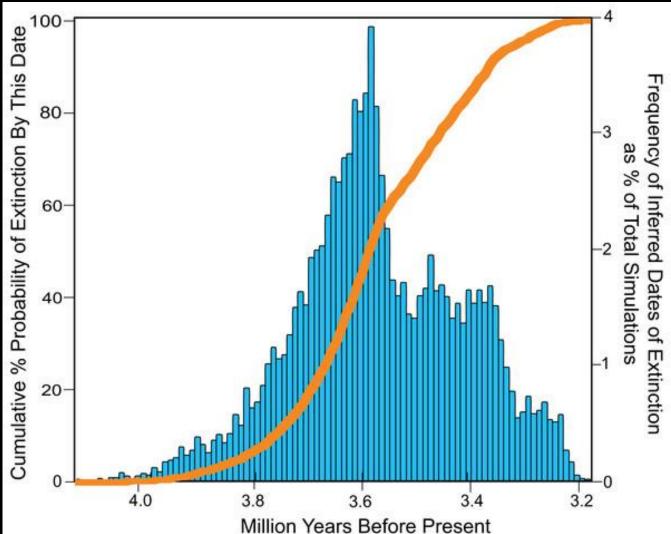
## Jack Cooper, PhD student

@CooperPalaeo



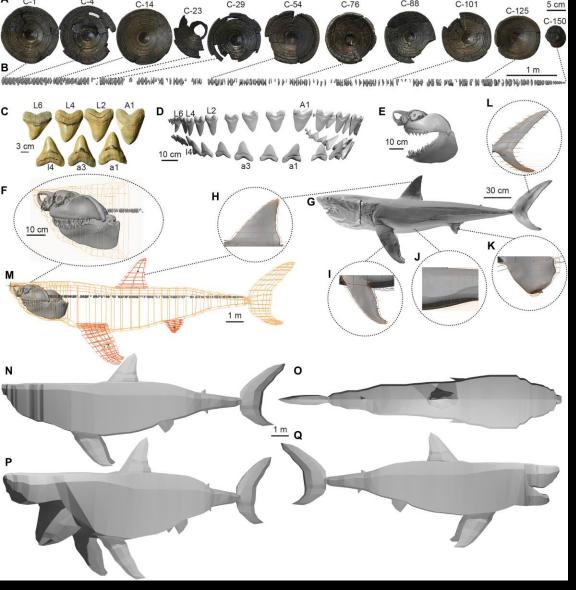


Redating tooth fossil samples from the west coast and using a mathematical model to estimate most likely extinction time Figures 1 & 9 from Boessenecker et al., 2019 The Early Pliocene extinction of the mega-toothed shark Otodus megalodon: a view from the eastern North Pacific





Juvenile Lemon Sharks under the mangrove trees they call home



3D model megalodon created in Blender

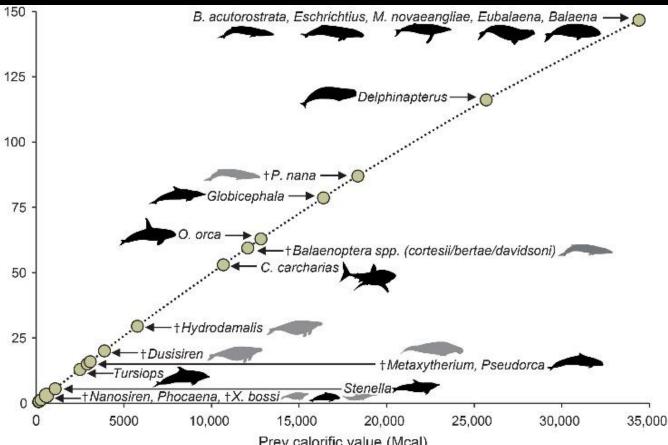
Figures 1 & 3 from Cooper et al., 2022 The extinct shark Otodus megalodon was a transoceanic superpredator: Inferences from 3D modeling

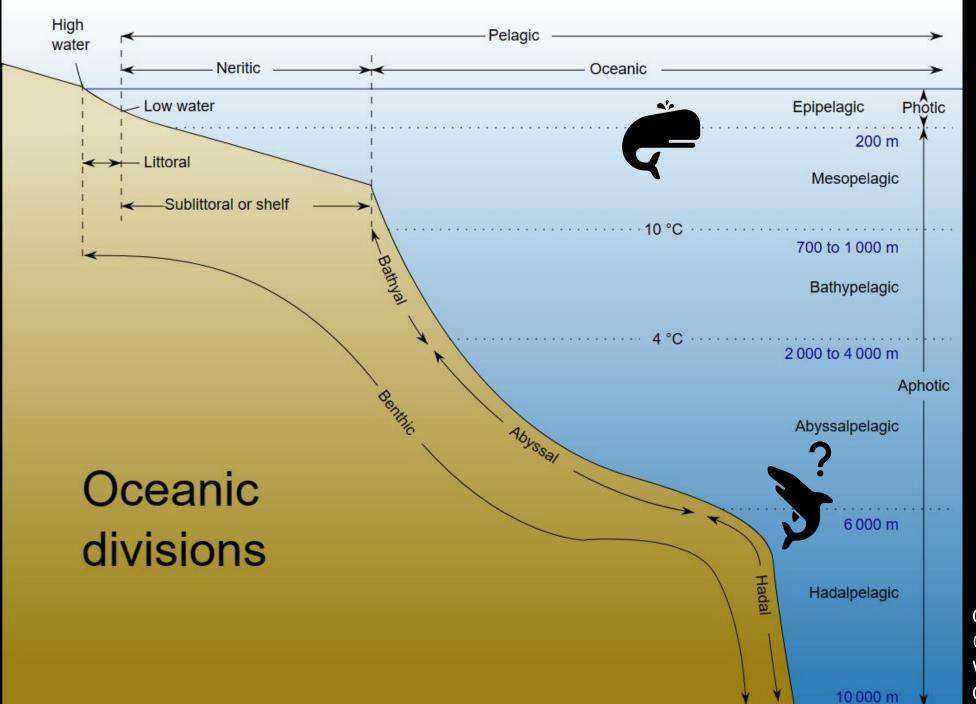
#### Chart comparing possible prey for megalodons

interval (days)

encounter

Mean prey





Original Image © Chris huh, Wikimedia Commons





KW5 releases bubbles as it pushed WS towards



KW5 attempts to invert WS and pushes it sideway







(a)

Drone footage of orca pod attacking and killing a great white shark

© Christiaan Stopforth

© World Wildlife Fund Thresher shark caught in a fishing net

14:27:06



- Study after study confirms that the megalodon is long gone
- False information can appear believable at a distance
- Accessibility to information & willingness to learn is vital

