

## Shark Fishing in Iceland: Ocean Oral History

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**Abstract :** Shark fishing has been practiced for centuries in Iceland. The broad objective of this ongoing research is to study the history of shark fishing in Iceland from the high days of Icelandic shark fishing in the latter half of the 19th century to recent days. The main focus is on shark fishing in the 20th and 21st century. The research sheds light on how sharks have shaped the Icelandic society and how Icelandic society has shaped the lives of sharks, by providing historical context to the relationship between Icelanders and one of the top predators in the North Atlantic Ocean, the Greenland shark. It is important to explore this aspect of Icelandic history further, to enhance people's understanding of the marine ecosystem from the context of the past and the current increasing concerns about the status of sharks worldwide. Next to nothing has been written about shark fishing in the 20th and 21st Iceland, which shows the importance of interviewing shark fishermen - most of whom are at an old age today. The main methodology used in the research is oral history. Oral history is a large and growing field of research within history, which is based on obtaining oral sources through interviews, analyzing them, and presenting them. The video-poster sheds light on how oral history provides useful historical information on shark fishing and shark conservation in Iceland.

**Keywords :** oral history, shark fishing in Iceland, 19. and 21. century, shark conservation, marine environmental history

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