WHITE SHARK RANGE

Skills
Observation
Map reading

Materials
Computer with internet

Learning Level Gr
4-8

Objectives
Using publicly available data, people explore the worldwide distribution and range of various species.

White Shark Range

Visit http://www.ocearch.org/

The OCEARCH Global Shark Tracker allows you to see "pings" from tracked Great White Sharks all over the world. Please note that the data are only from sharks that OCEARCH has tagged. This means that places that seem like 'hotspots' could just be places where OCEARCH has done a lot of tagging.
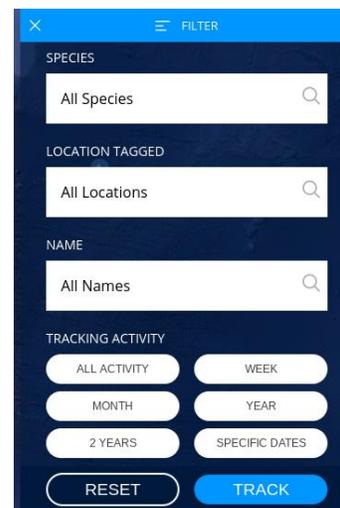
Sharks are tagged with satellite tags, which send a signal (called a ping) to a satellite every time they near the surface. By tagging sharks, OCEARCH is learning a lot about the range and impact of these apex predators around the world.

On the right hand of the screen, you will see options for how to view the data, which looks like the small image to the right. The top circle shows recent pings, the three horizontal lines allow you to filter, the circle with three dots lets you pick what kind of animal you want to view, and the heart is to go to your favorites. Click on the filter button (three horizontal lines) to change the species settings on the menu to see different sets of white sharks. That will be the top box when you open it, like the image to the right.

Explore the following questions:

1)   Choose a starting location. How far away from that location have white sharks gone?

2)   Is there a stage of life where white sharks are more likely to go long distances? Is there a stage of life where white sharks are less likely to go long distances?

3)   What else do you notice about shark behavior? What further questions would you explore if you were a shark researcher?

4)   Pull up Lydia's map. How far off shore did she swim? How many total miles has she travelled since being tagged?

5)   What is a migration? Would you say that white sharks are migratory? Why or why not?

6)   Lastly, clear your search and click on the animal button (circle with three dots) explore at least one other kind of animal. What things are similar or different?