



PEW INSTITUTE FOR  
OCEAN SCIENCE

**Ellen K. Pikitch, Ph.D.**

Dr. Ellen K. Pikitch is Founder and Executive Director of the Pew Institute for Ocean Science, and Professor in Marine Biology and Fisheries at the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science.

Dr. Pikitch is an international expert in ocean conservation science and management with vast experience in shark population biology and conservation research. Her scientific work has informed significant policy decisions, including passage of the U.S. Shark Finning Prohibition Act of 2000 and control of the international trade in great white sharks under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

Dr. Pikitch initiated, designed and has led the Glover's Reef Shark Survey in Belize, the longest continuously running shark monitoring program in the Caribbean Sea. Results indicate that the Glover's Reef Marine Reserve has been effective in maintaining shark population abundance in this location -- more than a dozen shark species reside there -- in contrast to many other parts of the world where populations have plummeted. The scientific frameworks developed at Glover's Reef may be a model for designing effective conservation systems for sharks in the tropics. As part of this project, Dr. Pikitch has affixed tracking tags to Caribbean reef, nurse, lemon, and tiger sharks to better understand their movement patterns. The system remotely tracks sharks using "receivers" anchored around the reef that record the dates and times when sharks swim nearby.

Dr. Pikitch helped pioneer the development and application of DNA-based monitoring systems that enable shark species to be identified from a small piece of tissue, generally from a dried fin. These techniques played an important role in providing the first global estimate of the number of sharks killed annually in the fin trade, resolved several obstacles to effective international shark management, and have been used by enforcement agents to detect and prosecute illegal fishing activity.

Dr. Pikitch founded and directed the Marine Conservation Program at the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in New York. Prior to joining WCS, she was on the faculty of the University of Washington and directed its Fisheries Research Institute, and earlier, was a professor at Oregon State University. A recipient of the Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation in 2000, Dr. Pikitch has authored and edited over 100 articles and books on fisheries science and management, and is co-editor of *Sharks of the Open Ocean*. Dr. Pikitch earned a Ph.D. in Zoology from Indiana University in 1983, and M.A. and B.S. degrees in Mathematics from the City College of New York.

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