

Shark Tooth Diving



Want to Find the Big Ones?

Welcome to the Venice, Florida, the Shark's Tooth Capital of the World. Florida West Scuba School is "ground zero" for shark tooth diving! Whether from shore or from the charter boat "Hammerhead" we can help you! We are centrally located near Venice Beach and you can even visit us by boat. We have full rentals, over 100 tanks, and lots of tips for diving for sharks teeth. If you want to increase your chances to recover the "big ones" then go here: www.megalodoncharters.com They run the ONLY USCG certified dive boat in Sarasota County. They can also be reached by calling 941-483-3483. If you want to simply shore dive - no problem! We rent dive flags which are required for diving from the beach and we can direct you to the best spots. If you find

something unusual, you can bring it in and we will help you identify your finds, even if you only have a rock! Here are some tips for diving the Venice area.

- 1) If diving from the beach, use a dive flag as required by law.
- 2) Keep in mind our winter water temps - cold! Full wetsuits are required! Expect the water to be in the mid 50s-mid 60s. Rough seas are common in the winter!
- 3) During the summer, expect temperatures in the 80s with normally calm seas.
- 4) Average visibility is 4-6 feet while diving from shore and from 8-10 feet on the dive boat. However, visibility changes with the weather and it is not unusual for vis to increase to 20 feet or better during the late spring and early summer. The best months to dive for sharks teeth are from mid April-June, although they can be found year round.
- 5) When diving from shore, dive until you get to at least 18 feet and then look for exposed black gravel areas. When you find the "black gold" there will normally be fossil sharks teeth waiting for you to "rescue" them from boredom. Keep in mind to use common sense and reserve enough air for a return to the beach. It is normally much easier travelling back underwater than on the surface.
- 6) Early morning hours are generally better than the afternoon. We often get breezy on-shore winds during the afternoon, particularly during the summer months. Also, we get less t-storms in the morning here on the gulf coast.
- 7) No tools are required! You will do best simply picking sharks teeth up with your hands. Most divers do not use gloves, but during the cold winter months you may want them to help keep your hands warm.
- 8) A fine small mesh bag is perfect for finding teeth. We sell hundreds of these bags a year for \$9.95 so we will have them in stock.
- 9) Once you find your fossils, to clean them up, we use a dilute apple cider vinegar solution. Soak the tooth for a few hours, and you should be able to remove the incrustated carbonate with a tooth brush.
- 10) Get a compass if you don't already have one and learn how to use it.