



Spawn of Jaws Shark Week Discovery Channel

Maverick scientist Michael Domeier is on a dangerous mission to unravel the mystery of where Great White sharks give birth.

250 CHARACTERS

Maverick Scientist, Michael Domeier launches a dangerous mission. Helped by *Fast & Furious* star, Paul Walker he risks life and limb to unravel the mystery of where *Jaws* gives birth. To pull it off he needs to get within arm's reach of the ocean's fiercest predator with the biggest bite in the water.

100 WORDS

Labelled *White Death* and feared as a cold-blooded killer the Great White shark spawned the legend of *Jaws*. But the Ocean's fiercest predator is also one of the most mysterious of all sharks - no-one knows where they give birth. Maverick Scientist, Dr. Michael Domeier is on a mission to unravel this mystery using a revolutionary method of tracking. He assembles a crack team - including actor Paul Walker - and tries a radical, new approach. This way of tagging is safer for the sharks, but far more dangerous for the team who have to battle massive animals that are heavier than their boat.

300 WORDS

Labelled *White Death* and feared as a cold-blooded killer, the Great White shark spawned the legend of *Jaws*. But the ocean's fiercest predator is also one of the most mysterious of all sharks: no-one knows where they mate - or crucially - where they give birth.

Maverick Scientist, Dr. Michael Domeier is on a mission to unravel the greatest mysteries of these sharks - using a revolutionary method of tracking. Since 2000 he's developed the most comprehensive Great White research programme in the world - pioneering techniques that have already revealed these notorious predators are primarily an offshore species, not coastal.

Now, following a series of discoveries - including tantalising evidence of baby Great Whites in the Sea of Cortez, Mexico - Michael has a hunch he knows the answer to the central question of where Great Whites give birth. He assembles a crack team, including actor, Paul Walker. The *Fast and Furious* star has a long-held passion for the ocean, and Great Whites especially. Four years ago he assisted Michael using a controversial tagging method that involved hauling the animals out of the water; it was safer for the crew, but harsher on the sharks.

After 3 years' intensive R&D, Michael's worked out a series of innovations that are more humane on the sharks, yet far more dangerous for himself and his crew. So before daring to take on *Jaws* he tests his novel approach at home in Hawaii. The sharks here include the ferocious Tiger shark - an animal with a deserved reputation for brutal assaults on surfers.

With this dramatic experience under his belt Michael heads to Guadalupe Island, off Mexico's coast, and after discovering clear evidence this is where they mate he takes on a series of increasingly huge Great Whites, battling to fit the missing link in the life of *Jaws* and reveal, for the first time, where they're born.

TOP 10 FACTS

1. Great White sharks have around 240 serrated teeth in up to five rows.
2. Sharks smell with tiny structures called *lamellae* - located near the tip of their snout.
3. Great Whites have a warm body - their brain and muscles are up to 50 degrees Fahrenheit above the ambient water temperature.
4. During an attack Great Whites cover their eyes back, leaving them temporarily blind at the moment of impact.
5. Like cats, sharks have a reflective layer at the back of the retina - giving better vision in murky water.
6. Female Great Whites are bigger than males - some over 3 feet longer than the longest male.
7. The global population of Great Whites is estimated to have reduced by up to 95% in the last 50 years.
8. Great Whites have ears - 2 tiny openings behind and above their eyes.
9. Great Whites have taste buds inside their mouths to detect if their victim is food before they swallow.
10. A line along the length of a Great White's body - called the Lateral Line - allows them to feel vibrations. It detects their prey's amount of movement and direction of travel.

Biogs for Key on-screen contributors

Dr. Michael Domeier

Dr. Michael Domeier is renowned for his work with pelagic fishes, White sharks, and coral reef fishes, and is a pioneer in the field of electronic tagging. His on-going work, centred on the sharks found at Guadalupe Island, Mexico is the most comprehensive Great White research project in the world. He has tagged and tracked individual Great Whites since 2000, providing the first data showing they migrate from Mexico as far away as Hawaii, before returning to Guadalupe Island - revealing that this species is primarily pelagic rather than coastal. Making shark welfare the highest priority he's spent 3 years devising new techniques to attach satellite tags while leaving the sharks in their element - an approach that makes it far more dangerous for him and his team.

Paul Walker

'A' list Hollywood actor, 39 year old Paul Walker became well known after the hit film *Varsity Blues*, but became a bona fide star on the back of the *Fast and Furious* franchise. Growing up outside Los Angeles - his mother a fashion model, his father a sewer contractor - Paul spent much time surfing the West coast. This ocean lifestyle spawned his passion for marine science, particularly shark biology - a subject he majored in after High School. Despite a hugely successful acting career he maintains this passion - working with Dr. Michael Domeier in 2009 at Guadalupe Island, Mexico helping him catch and tag Great White sharks