

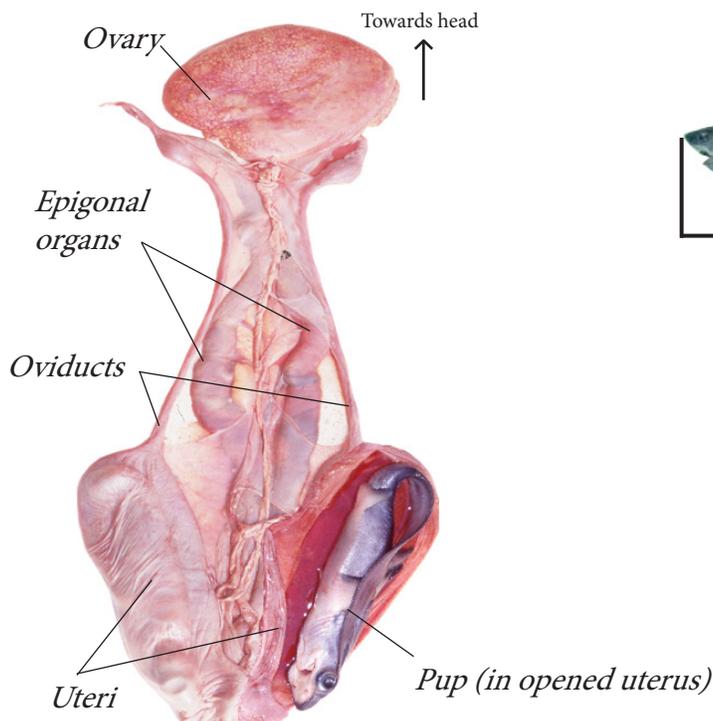
# - Thresher Sharks Needed -

## Reproductive Tracts and Pregnant Females

Southern California is a known pupping and nursery ground for the common thresher shark (*Alopias vulpinus*) and large pregnant threshers are sometimes caught by recreational anglers. The Southwest Fisheries Science Center conducts research on the reproductive biology of common thresher sharks and is looking for samples from **females 140 cm fork length (4.6 ft) or larger, preferably pregnant**. If you happen to keep a female common thresher, please provide a section of backbone, the reproductive system as shown in the figures below, and if possible, the whole head. If you are not sure what to remove, just include everything from the belly. Please keep thresher samples on ice or as cold as possible.

- **Entire female reproductive tract:**

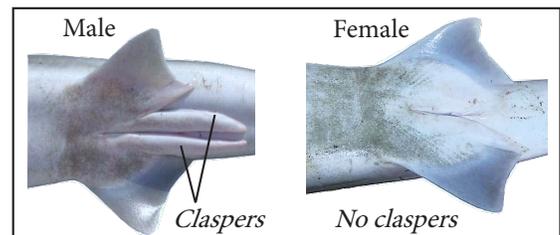
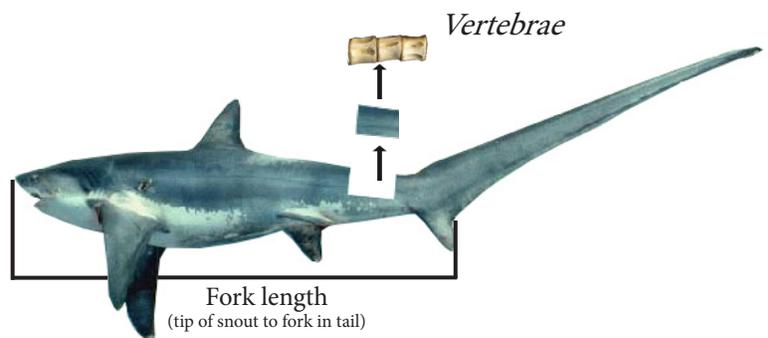
- Ovary
- Oviducts
- Epigonal organs
- Uteri
- Pups



- **Whole head**

- **Vertebrae:**

- 3 or 4 pieces of vertebrae removed from the back just before the tail (no need to remove flesh before donating)



This research is a collaboration between:



To donate thresher shark biological samples or to arrange for a pickup, please contact:

**swfsc-thresher@noaa.gov**  
**858-546-5640**

(Or 858-342-6372 and 619-743-9004)

Please do not kill threshers for the sole intent to donate samples.