

**From:** ozaccom@gmail.com  
**To:** [Committee, EC \(SEN\)](#)  
**Subject:** Info for Senator Urquhart  
**Date:** Wednesday, 22 March 2017 23:17:32

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Dear Christine McDonald,

Senator Urquhart asked me how I knew that sharks attacked the smaller of two objects when given a choice. I explained that I learned this through private correspondence with John West, who used to manage the *Australasian Shark Attack File*. Here is the relevant part of his email to me with the references listed below.

"It is documented that unbaited shark behaviour experiments involving varying shaped and sized inanimate objects - White sharks were attracted to a shape that was more environmentally common or familiar (seal shape compared to a square) they chose the smaller to the larger objects when given the choice between two of the same shapes (Strong, 1996a; Anderson, 1996; Collier, et al, 1996; Hammerschlag, et al, 2012)."

- N. Hammerschlag, R. Martin, C. Fallows, et al., "Investigatory behavior toward surface objects and non consumptive strikes on seabirds by white sharks, *Carcharodon carcharias*, at Seal Island, South Africa (1997–2010)," in *Global Perspective on the Biology and the Life History of the White Shark*, M. Domeier, Ed., pp. 91–103, CRC Press, Boca Raton, Fla, USA, 2012. [View at Google Scholar](#)
- W. R. Strong, "Shape discrimination and visual predatory tactics in white sharks," in *Great White Shark: The Biology of Carcharodon carcharias*, A. Klimley and D. G. Ainley, Eds., pp. 229–240, Academic Press, San Diego, Calif, USA, 1996. [View at Google Scholar](#)
- S. Anderson, R. Henderson, P. Pyle, and D. Ainley, "White shark reactions to unbaited decoys," in *Great White Shark: The Biology of Carcharodon carcharias*, A. Klimley and D. G. Ainley, Eds., pp. 223–228, Academic Press, San Diego, Calif, USA, 1996. [View at Google Scholar](#)
- R. S. Collier, M. A. Marks, and R. W. Warner, "White shark attacks on inanimate objects along the Pacific coast of North America," in *Great White Shark: The Biology of Carcharodon carcharias*, A. Klimley and D. G. Ainley, Eds., pp. 217–222, Academic Press, San Diego, Calif, USA, 1996. [View at Google Scholar](#)

Regards,

Dan Webber