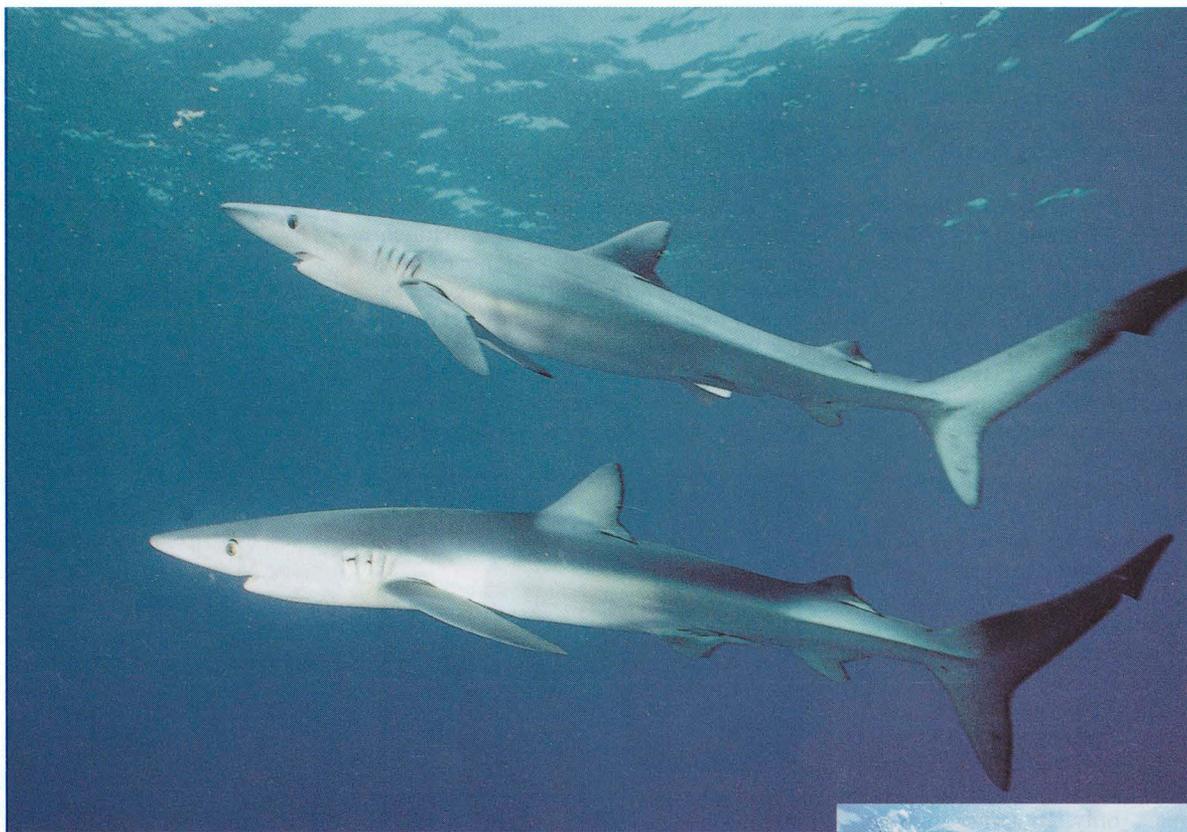




Eye to Eye



Like many people who have worked closely with sharks, Kevin McMurray will tell you their reputation as maneaters is greatly exaggerated.

"I've never really been afraid of them," says McMurray, a free-lance writer and photographer who specializes in underwater work, "although I have a great deal of respect for them."

A diver for nearly 20 years, McMurray combined the skill with his other passion—photography—a little more than decade ago, writing and photographing stories about such topics as the *Andrea Doria* shipwreck and a sunken German U-boat recently discovered off the coast of New Jersey. His work regularly appears in publications such as *Underwater USA* and *Skin Diver*, as well as the *New York Times* and *New York*.

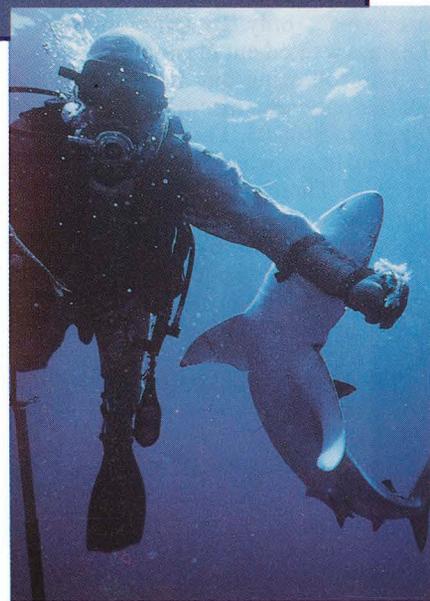
The photographs on this page resulted from one of his best shark dives ever, a year ago off the coast of San Clemente Island, with dozens of blue sharks in the water at a time. On assignment for

Northwest Airline's in-flight magazine, McMurray accompanied a group of amateur divers on a shark encounter, the latest in the way of thrill seeking, in which the water is baited to attract sharks and divers go down in shark cages for a face-to-face look.

"Sometimes the sharks would get really worked up and come at the cages and stick their heads inside," says McMurray, who earned his bachelor's degree in anthropology from SU in 1972. "You would have to push them out with your hands."

McMurray is gearing up for a great white shark expedition next September. He and his diving partner have located a hunting ground for great whites off the coast of Mexico and have already documented specimens up to 21 feet long.

In the process of securing sponsorship to film a nature documentary, McMurray says the discovery is an important one. "There's never been an area in the Northern Hemisphere where great whites can be counted on being found,"



he says. "The most common hunting ground for great whites is off Southern Australia. This is newsworthy because it's so close to the continental United States." —RENÉE GEARHART LEVY