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# Rare shark teeth, millions of years old, brought up by Gulf divers

By Heather Alexander | October 26, 2014 | Updated: October 27, 2014 8:45am

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A fossilized megalodon tooth pulled from the Gulf of Mexico near Venice, Florida. The now extinct sharks sometimes measured 60 feet long with a mouth six feet high and six feet wide.

Photos by Eco-Photo Explorers



doubt, bring it up and we'll have a look."

It did not take long for the expert divers to find their first fossil, thought to be from the legendary sharks.

"The first tooth that I found was pretty much laying on the surface. It was at an angle, one of the points of the triangle was sticking out of the sand," said Salvarezza.

The largest tooth found was 3 inches, from a megalodon that would have measured around 30 to 40 feet long, according to the team.

Megalodon sharks sometimes reached 60 to 70 feet long, according to the divers, who also write for specialty magazines like [California Diver](#). The sharks' mouths could measure 6 feet wide and 6 feet high.

The impressive creatures are thought to have become extinct around 2 million years ago. With no bones -- only quickly decaying cartilage making up their hefty frames -- the teeth are the only remains.

Florida's Gulf Coast is an ideal place to hunt for the fossils because the water stays shallow way out to sea, according to Salvarezza. Larger finds like a 5 inch megalodon tooth can sell for around \$1,000.

"Three inch teeth are also valuable with collectors but the value isn't really in the tooth, it's in the finding it, it's your own treasure," said Salvarezza.

Shallow depths of around 30 feet deep mean the dives are suitable even for beginners.

"It's a very cool dive that has the potential to find very cool things and it's available to any diver of any skill," said Salvarezza.

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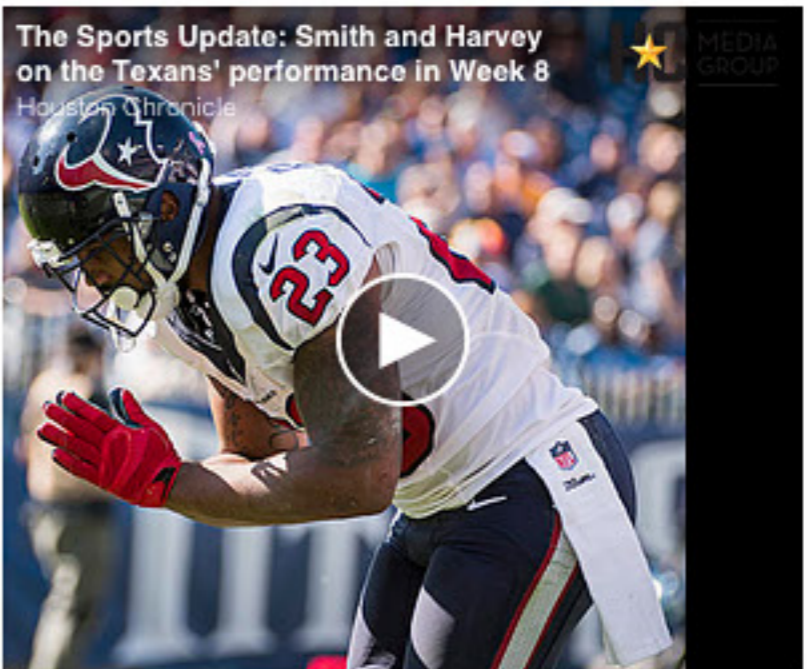
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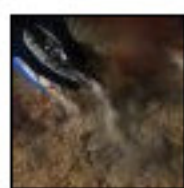
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