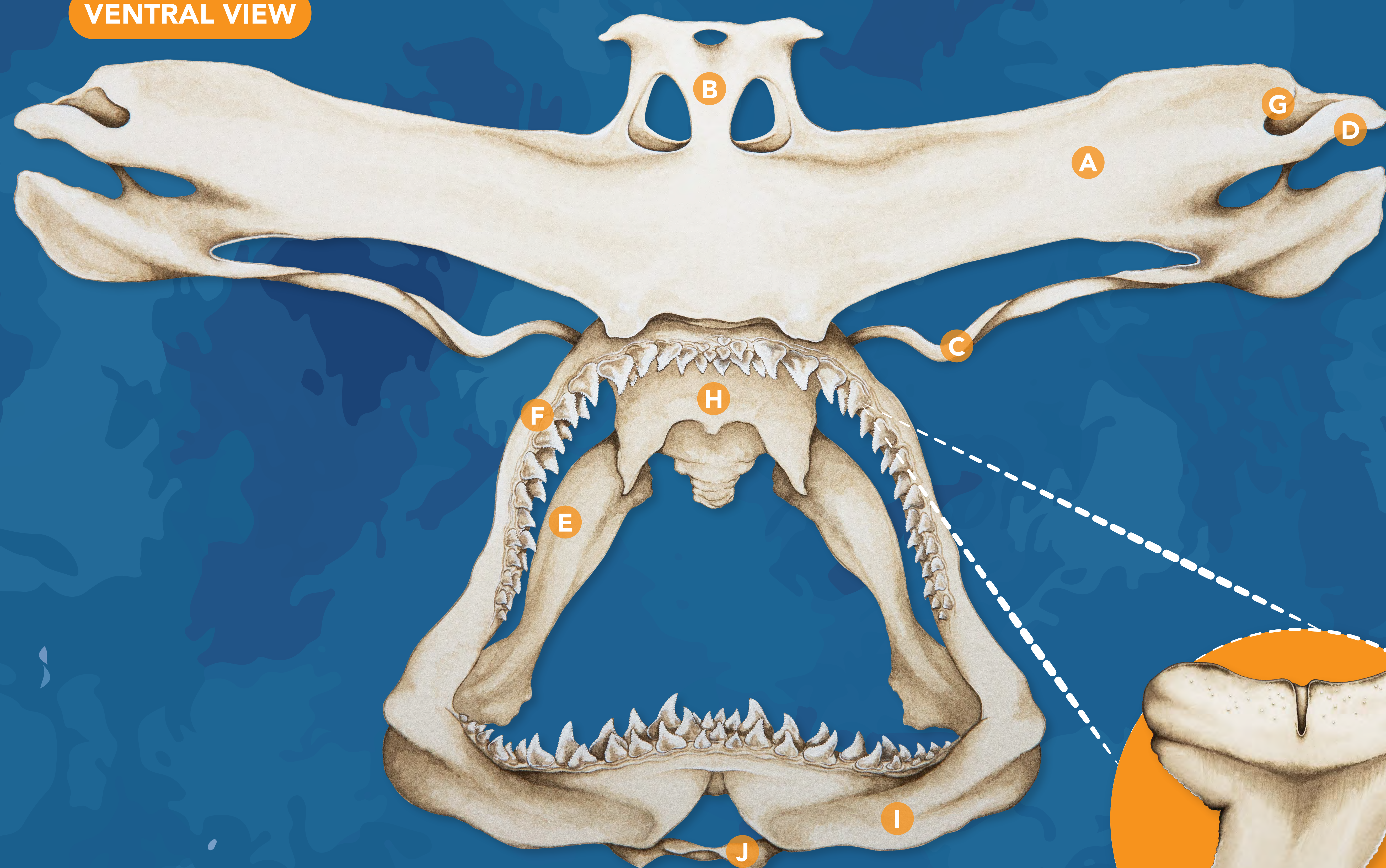


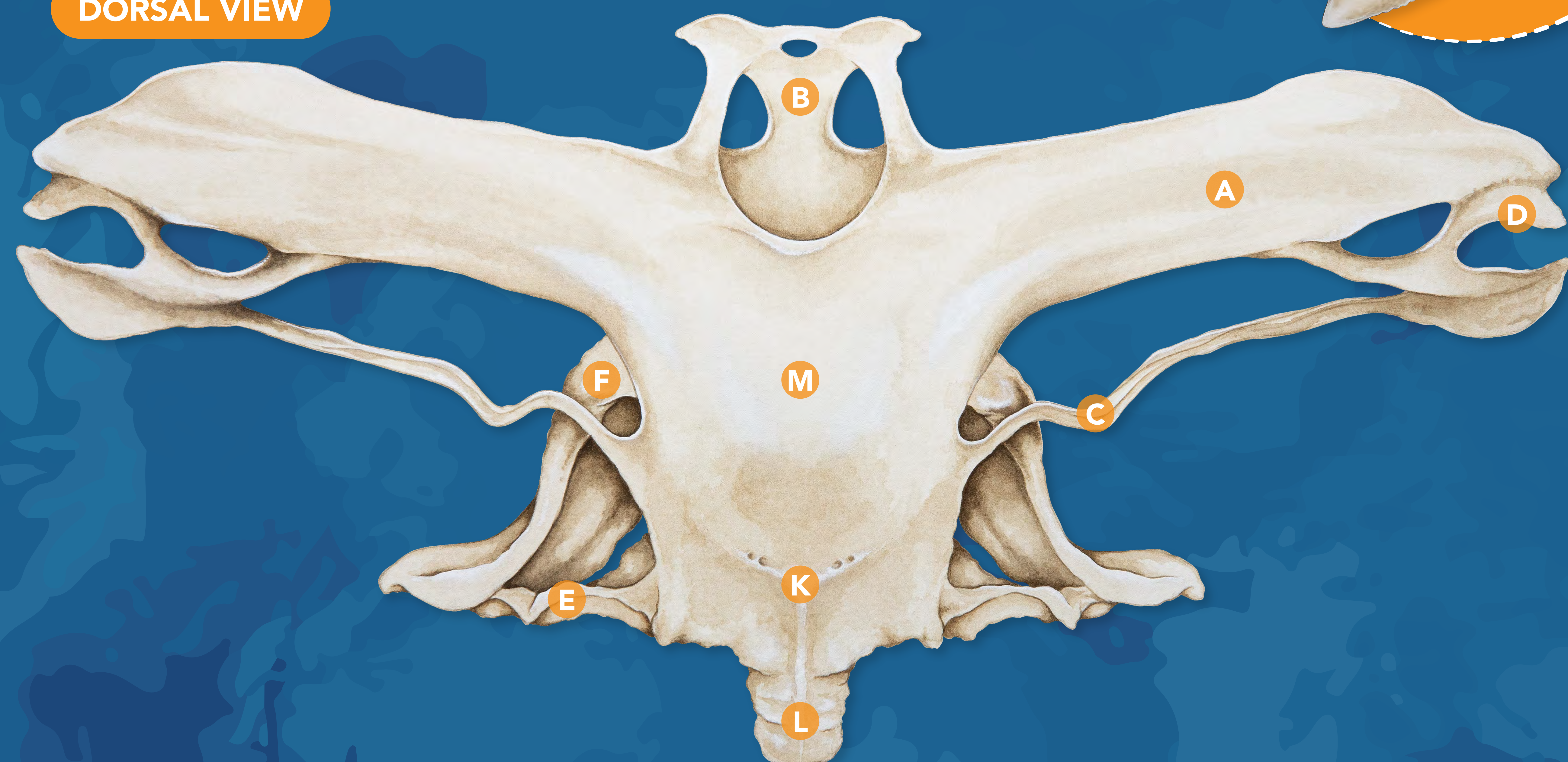
GREAT HAMMERHEAD SHARK

SPHYRNA MOKARRAN

VENTRAL VIEW

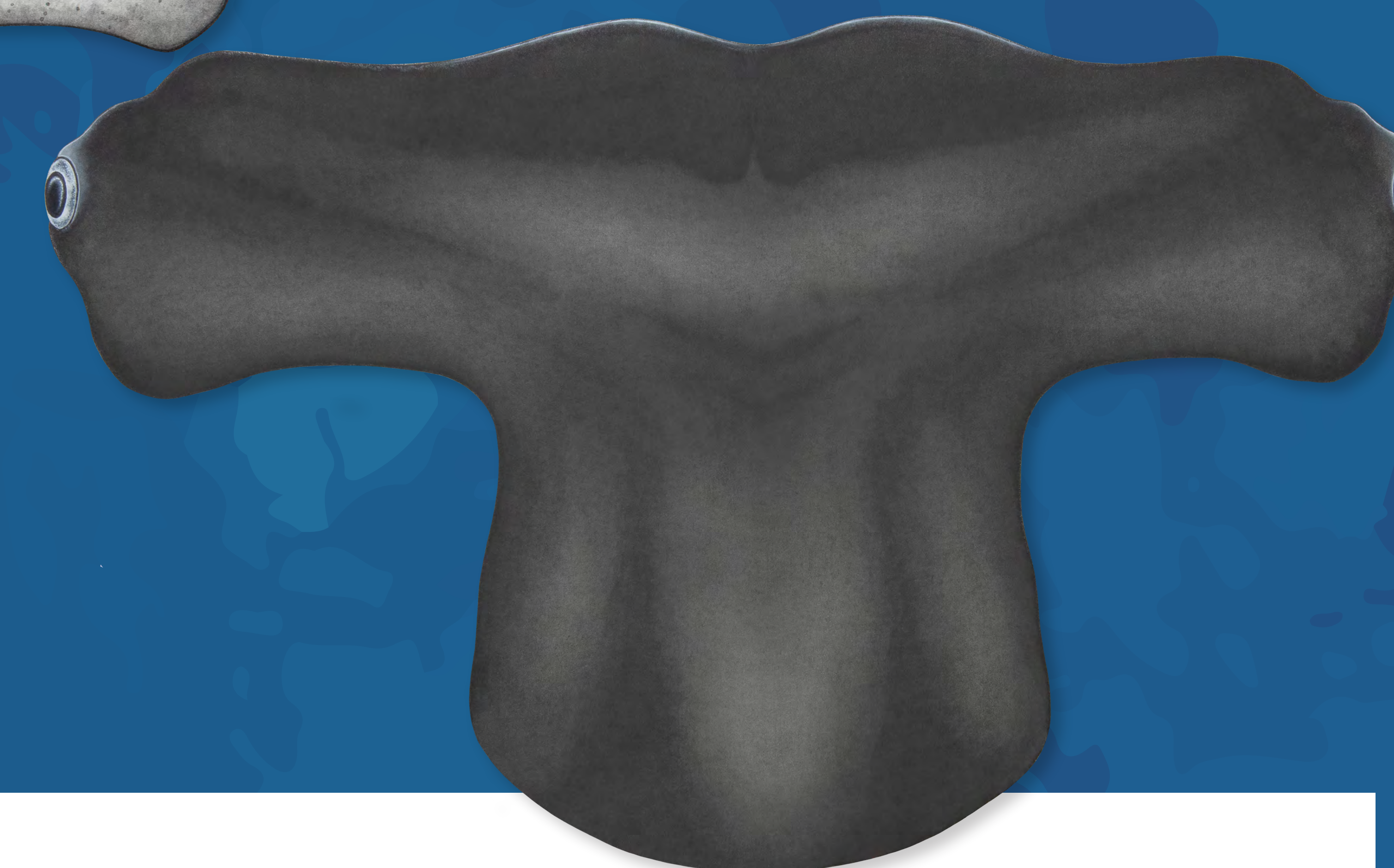


DORSAL VIEW



VENTRAL VIEW

DORSAL VIEW



KEY FEATURES OF THE CHONDROCRANIUM

- A CEPHALOFOIL:** This is the unique T-shaped “hammer” head. The cartilage extends in a wing-like fashion and creates a large surface area for the **nasal capsule**.
- B ROSTRAL CARTILAGE:** This part is composed of three branches of cartilage, supporting the snout. The upper hole is called the **rostral fenestra**.
- C POSTORBITAL PROCESS:** This provides support for the eye’s nerves and muscles which run along the cartilage. The eyes are supported with the **preorbital process**.
- D PREORBITAL PROCESS:** This cartilage, along with that of the **postorbital process**, provides support to the anterior part of the eye. The preorbital process is connected to the **nasal capsule** with tissue.
- E HYOMANDIBULAR CARTILAGE:** This cartilage supports movement of the jaw through ligament connections.
- F PALATOQUADRATE:** The paired cartilages that form the **upper jaw** of a shark.
- G NASAL CAPSULE:** This may look like it is the hammerhead’s eyes, but it is actually the location of their **olfactory organs**. Scent chemicals, like amino acids in blood, flow into the connected nostrils.
- H BASAL PLATE:** This is the ventral side of the **chondrocranium**, providing lower support for the brain.
- I MECKEL’S CARTILAGE:** The paired cartilages that form the **lower jaw** of a shark.
- J BASIHYAL CARTILAGE:** This is the **tongue cartilage** of the shark which supports jaw movement.
- K ENDOLYMPHATIC AND PERILYMPHATIC FORAMINA:** This is essentially the shark’s ears. The upper hole is the endolymphatic and lower is perilymphatic, both are connected to the **otic capsule**.
- L VERTEBRAE:** This is where the first vertebra attaches to the **occipital condyle**, which connects the skull to the body.
- M CRANIAL ROOF:** This is where the shark’s brain is encased. The entrance hole, called the **anterior fontanelle**, is covered by tissue, not cartilage.
- N TOOTH:** Great hammerhead teeth have small serrations on each side of the upper and lower teeth crown, and are cusped horizontally. These teeth are used to rip prey such as stingrays, which are among their favourite food.