



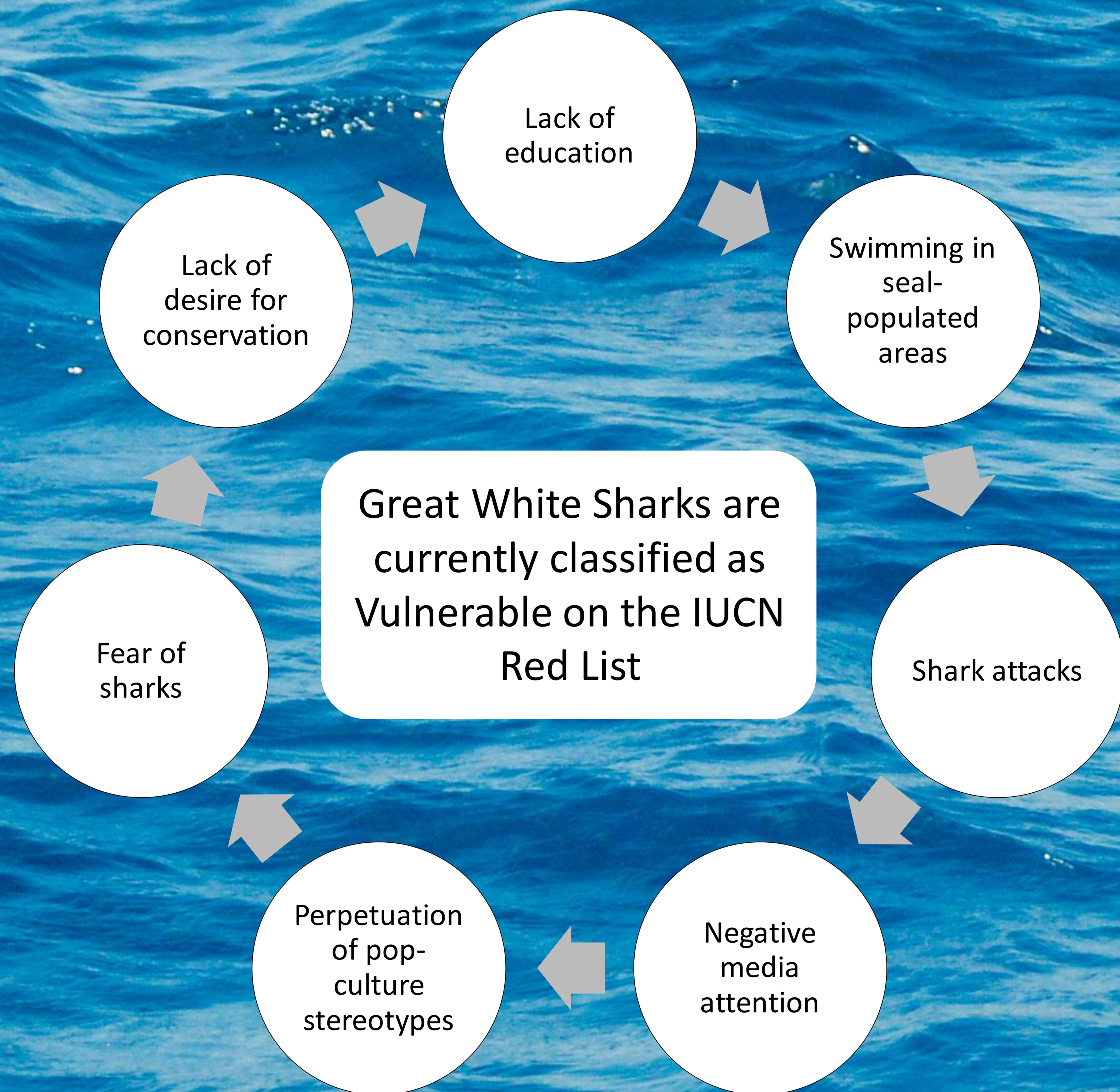
Students Combatting Shark Misconceptions

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Abstract

For years, Great White Sharks have been the subject of negative media attention and general public fear due to countless shark movies and news articles centered around gruesome shark attacks. Because of these general fears, convincing the public to work to conserve Great White Sharks is difficult. Great White Sharks are apex predators in many ecosystems, and their position at the top of the food chain means that they play an important role in limiting the populations of their prey animals. Losing great white sharks could cause catastrophic trophic cascades, as without them their prey, such as seals, could grow without limits, meaning that they could depopulate the organisms they eat.

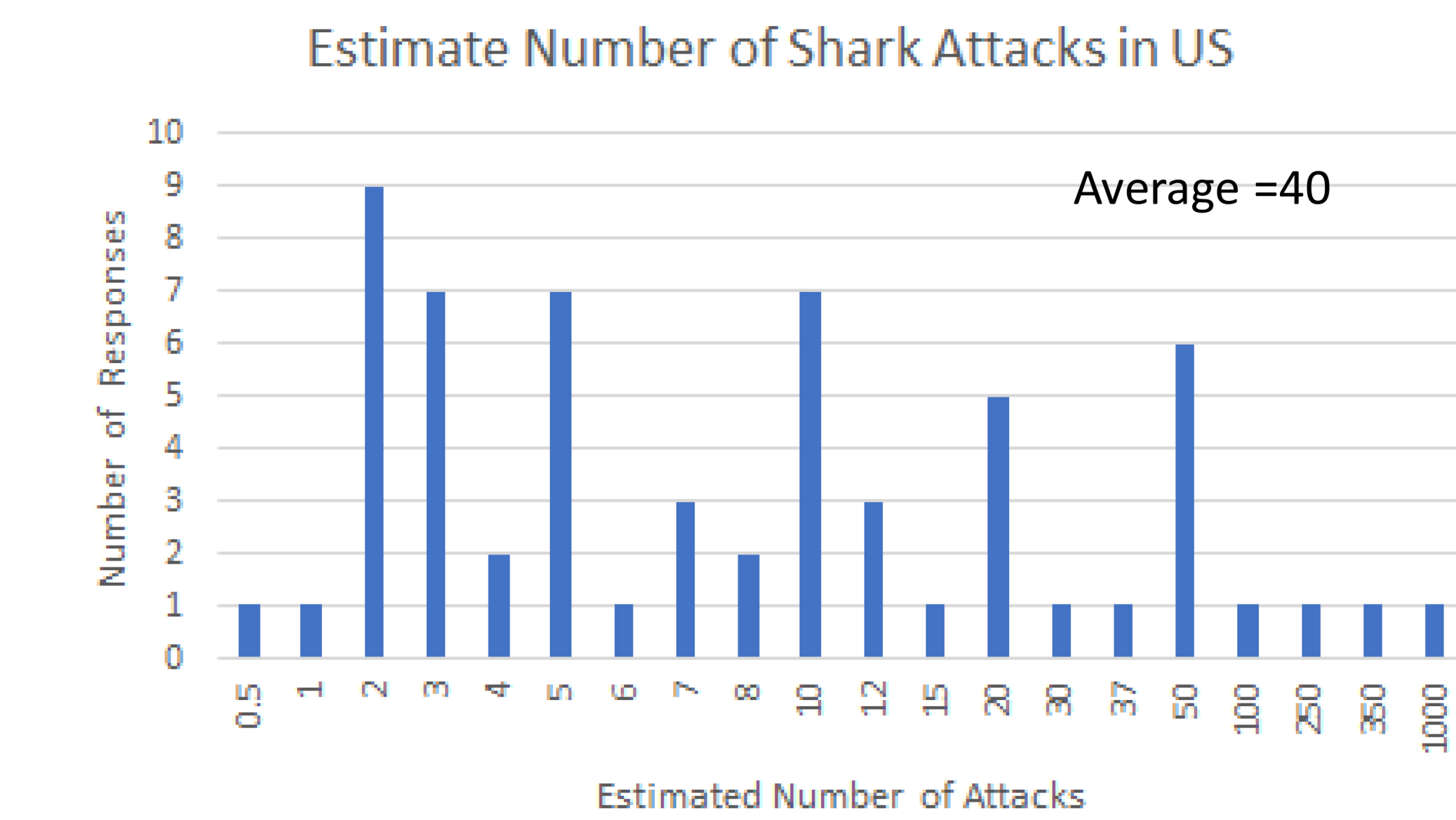


Contacts

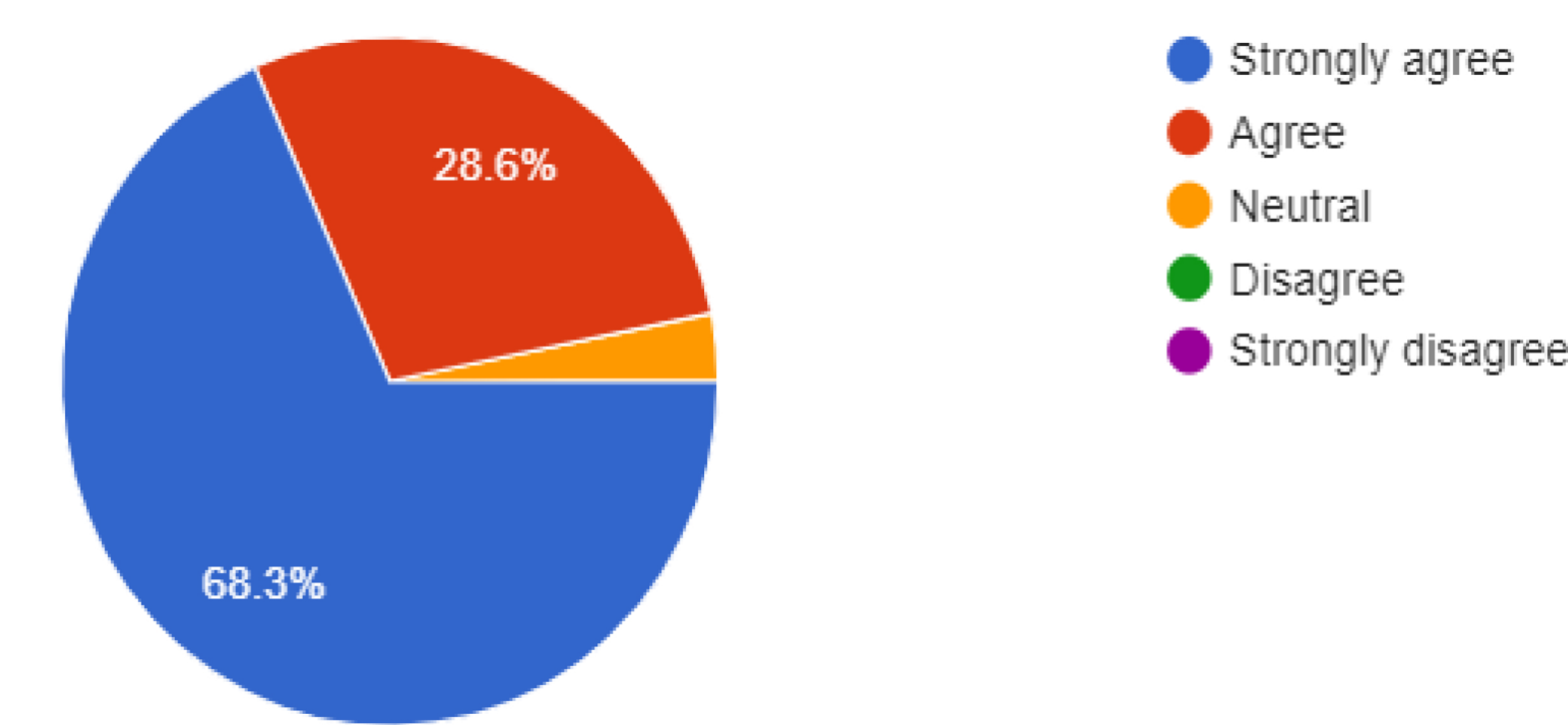
Bryan Legare – Center for Coastal Studies
 Marianne Long – Atlantic White Shark Conservancy
 Kyle Lang – Past GPS Student



Survey Results



The danger of sharks is exaggerated by entertainment media
 63 responses



There is an average of 19 shark attacks in the US per year.

On average, there is one fatal shark attack every two years.

50% of shark attacks are on surfers.

For every human killed by a shark, two million sharks are killed by humans.

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Possible methods of public education

College campus movie nights

Info sessions

Social media outreach

Elementary school lessons

Staying safe around sharks

Avoid large seal populations

Don't enter water while bleeding

Swim in groups

Stay out of the water between dusk and dawn