

# Godzilla Shark

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**In News:** Seven years after the discovery of its “dragon-like jawline” in Mexican territory, an ancient, distinct shark species was given a formal name.

## About Godzilla Shark

- Seven years after the discovery of its “dragon-like jawline”, an ancient, distinct shark species was given a formal name.
- A bulletin that was published in the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science identified the marine species as **Dracopristis hoffmanorum, or Hoffman’s Dragon Shark**, in honour of the New Mexico family that owns the land in Albuquerque where the fossil of its teeth was first found in 2013.
- The name was given to the ancient species by John Paul-Hodnett who teamed up with a slew of other researchers for the process.

## The Fossil

- Over seven years ago, Hodnett unearthed the remains of the 300 million-year-old shark’s teeth.
- Describing the fossil, that the chompers were squatter and shorter, which made him believe that it belonged to a previously undiscovered species.
- Analyzing the structure of the teeth further, asserted that it was “great for grasping and crushing” prey rather than “piercing” it.
- Reckoned that it was the ancient teeth, which marked the first sign that it might belong to a distinct species.
- Name also harkens to the dragon-like jawline and 2.5-foot (0.75-meter) fin spines that inspired the discovery’s initial nickname, “Godzilla Shark.”
- Following the unearthing of 12 rows of teeth on the

shark's lower jaw, the researchers made subsequent discoveries, leading to the completion of the skeleton last week.

- Hodnett and his colleagues believe that Hoffman's dragon shark most likely lived in the shallows along the coast, stalking prey like crustaceans, fish and other sharks.