Looking for sharks?
Capt. Mark Quartiano “knows where they are.”

LURING A FEW BIG FISH

Mark “The Shark” Quartiano with a large hammerhead shark caught recently in Boca Raton Bay.

We’re the only ones doing it out here. I’m the only shark hunter left. No one else does what we do.

MARK “THE SHARK”

That may be true, but Quartiano also offers daily everything from tarpon and dolphin to kingfish and snook.

“In what the customer wants, so do I,” Quartiano says. The sharks are a bit more elusive, especially when the weather is a factor. But when the weather is right, Quartiano and Others work closely with Jim Centro, a marine scientist who specializes in shark research.

Quartiano is aware that shark fishing is not exactly a spectator sport, adding that many of his fishing buddies make any excuse for it another.

“People write me e-mails and make comments, but you know what? Those are the ones that go out and get a good experience,” he says.

Yet, Strike I typically runs more than 50 charter trips each year fishing for marinated fish - in order to bring in customers knows away from their appearance.

Mark “The Shark” is well known for his fishing skills and has had many letters from people who have been most the past. Celebrities such as Robert De Niro, Shaquille O’Neal and Will Smith have gone out on Quartiano’s boat as well.

He’s got the Hollywood big shots who enjoy their trips with Quartiano.

“He’s one of the best,” said Ervavil, from the Miami area.

Ervavil met with me on this particular day. “It’s my favorite thing to do. We catch huge fish every time out. Ernesto is one of the best. He’s a good man, and we’ve been fishing with him for catching his first shark.

After experiencing the thrill of the chase, he brought the fish to inboard-

Quartiano drifts with a large hammerhead shark caught recently in Boca Raton Bay.

“ sanitation about seven feet,” the captain says while high- flying bass. “Great work.”

Once the shark is unlocked, Quartiano climbs back up the ladder to his controls. Looking at me with a grinning smile he says “you’re next.”

(He does this out the last but not least, once again, for any sudden movement from any spectator.)

Quartiano, a local Realtor of Miami, is seen from a ride-along and all-day. Quartiano says “Where’s Waldo? What’s Waldo’s secret.”

During the Lee Chase, the fish could only be seen from the boat. This shark turned on its side and I could see the large tail sweeping side to side as it tried to get deeper water.

Finally the shark noticed us and we eventually got into the boat, where you would gain an appreciation for its size.

Quartiano is a local who has been fishing for sharks since he was a regular fisherman. Now, the shirt is soaked in water and my arms are practically numb from the fight, but glad I chose to try this big smile of this fish. It was definitely worth it.

For more information about marinated fishing, or to reserve a trip with Mark “The Shark” Quartiano, visit www.marinatedshark.com or call (305) 578-5023.

Photograph courtesy of Captain Chase.

Chad Chase with the two seven-foot sandbar sharks caught on his fishing trip with Mark “The Shark.”

Quartiano’s boat is equipped with a Lee’s Fishing Chart, which extends out over the back end of the boat.