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UNPRECEDENTED RESEARCH ON THE OCEAN'S GIANTS

SCIENCE RECAP – LYDIA

SCIENTIFIC PROCEDURES:

- Full measurements of Lydia (length, girth, fin size)
- Blood taken for various tests including:
  - Measurements of stress and overall health
  - Signs of contamination by environmental pollutants, such as oil, PCBs, mercury, and others
  - Reproductive condition (hormones and such)
  - Genetic comparison with great white sharks from other areas
- Ultrasound tests for signs of pregnancy (tests were negative for Lydia)
- Clips of fin tissue, again for genetic tests and contaminants
- Collection of external parasites around the body
- Muscle tissue for studies of what the shark is feeding on
- Attachment of four electronic devices to track the shark's movements:
  - Satellite tag on the first dorsal fin for real-time location ("SPOT" tag) – these are the locations that go up on the OCEARCH Shark Tracker
  - "Pop-up" satellite tag that in 6 months will transmit further information about the shark's travels, diving and temperature preferences
  - Acoustic "pinger" that will transmit position to underwater listening stations all over the world, wherever the shark may go
  - Accelerometer, a device that measures the shark's fine movements, position, swimming and other behaviors over the 24 hours after release
- Attachment of a conventional "visual" tag that has a unique number, to be reported if the shark is ever captured again

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