

# **Best of Last Week—Boat hitting shark recorded, realistic rendering of fabrics, tiny heart deletions linked to AFib**

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Credit: *iScience* (2024). DOI: 10.1016/j.isci.2024.110395

It was a busy week for oceanic biology research as a small team of marine biologists from the U.S. and Ireland recorded the first-ever images and data of [a shark being struck by a boat](#)—the seven-meter-long

basking shark was struck by a boat and its fate is unknown. Also, another team, this one with members from Oregon State University, made the first scientific confirmation in Puget Sound of [two distinct shark species](#), one of them critically endangered. The sightings may indicate that sharks are adjusting to environmental changes. And a combined team of marine researchers from the University of Rhode Island and Nova Southeastern University in Florida found that a 26-foot [whale shark](#) made consistent migrations over four years of tracking.

In technology news, a combined team of AI researchers from Shandong and Nanjing universities used a lightweight neural network to enable [realistic rendering of woven fabrics](#) in real time. And a team of chemical engineers at MIT [produced hydrogen](#) by exposing aluminum soda cans to sea water—they subsequently sped up the process by adding caffeine. Meanwhile, an international team of scientists published a [commentary piece](#) in the journal *Joule* warning against giving in to the hype surrounding the development of green hydrogen from direct seawater electrolysis—they suggest a realistic approach is still years away. And a combined team of machine-learning researchers from MIT and Northeastern University found that allocating scarce resources with [AI randomization](#) can improve fairness.

In other news, a team of medical researchers affiliated with several institutions in Canada conducted a study showing no association between [moderate alcohol consumption and a longer life](#)—prior studies finding such a link were flawed. A team at NASA reported that a rock on Mars found by the Perseverance rover contains [potential evidence of life](#). And finally, a combined team of medical researchers from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the University of Illinois Chicago found a link between [tiny deletions in heart muscle protein](#) in baby zebrafish and human heart tissue and long-term effects on adult atrial fibrillation.

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