



ZEBRA SHARK

Stegostoma fasciatum

A long slender shark with a short-rounded snout.

Tan in colour with lots of dark brown spots, adult Zebra Sharks are often confused for Leopard Sharks. But they're born dark brown with pale yellow stripes, and this is what gives them their name.

This pattern, along with the way they swim - in a snake-like wavy motion - is designed to make them look like banded sea-snakes. By mimicking these venomous snakes when they're young, vulnerable pups have a much greater chance of surviving.

Pups develop in shallow coastal waters including mudflat, mangrove and seagrass beds. As they get older, they move further offshore and can be found on, or around, coral and rocky reefs.

By day they're sluggish and can often be seen propped up on their fins, resting on the soft sandy seabed. Large spiracles pump water over their gills, enabling them to 'breathe' while not swimming.

At night they hunt. Extremely agile, they can wriggle

FAST FACTS

SIZE:

Matures at:

♀ 169-171cm

♂ 147-183cm

Max: 235cm

DIET:

Molluscs, crab, shrimp
& small fish.

RANGE:

Tropical Indo-Pacific.

HABITAT:

Coral & rocky reefs,
as well as sandy flats.
Found in shallow waters
up to depths of 62m.

STATUS: **Endangered**

into the smallest of nooks. And have barbels, similar to whiskers, which help them find their prey. Their powerful crushing teeth, are perfectly equipped for crunching through the hard shells of molluscs, crabs and shrimp.

Zebra Sharks reproduce by laying eggs, which they anchor to the sea-floor. Pups are born 20-36cm.

Remarkably female Zebra Sharks are capable of reproducing without a male to fertilise her eggs. A process known as parthenogenesis.

ZEBRA SHARK THREATS

Worldwide Zebra Sharks are Endangered. Targeted for their meat, fins and liver oil. But in Australia they face minimal threats and are considered Least Concern.

- **FISHERIES** - They're heavily fished throughout their range, except in Australia. Taken in demersal trawls, floating and fixed bottom gillnets and on baited hooks.
- **HABITAT DESTRUCTION** - Coastal developments and global warming is damaging coral reefs.

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We're proud to be working with Shark SUPs to create positive change for sharks.

www.sharksups.com

3 WAYS TO HELP SHARKS

1. Sign up to our newsletter - keep up to date with all the latest news and campaign updates.
2. If you see a shark, record your sighting on our Sightings Database.
3. Join us in safeguarding the future of sharks by becoming a Shark Trust member.

Safeguarding the future of sharks - www.sharktrust.org