

SHARKS AND RAYS OF BANGLADESH

A guide to identifying protected species and their commonly traded parts



Shark and rays of Bangladesh - a guide to identifying protected species and their commonly traded parts

Bangladesh Forest Department
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bangladesh
Wildlife Conservation Society, Bangladesh

Sharks and Rays of Bangladesh - A guide to identifying protected species and their commonly traded parts

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WHAT ARE SHARKS AND RAYS?

Sharks and rays are closely related fish. They have soft bones like the ones in our ears. They also have a big oily liver that helps them control their buoyancy. Sharks and rays breathe through gills in uncovered gill slits located on the side of the head in sharks and on the underside of rays. Some have special muscles that pump water through their gills, while others keep moving to breathe.

Whale sharks and devil rays have feathery gills that filter tiny creatures from the water for them to feed on. But most sharks and rays are powerful hunters that use smell, sight, touch, and sound to find their prey. They have strong jaws with sharp teeth to catch them.

The bodies of sharks and rays are covered with tiny scales that form a tough outer skin protecting them against predators and helping them swim fast.

Some species move in groups, others prefer staying on their own. Most sharks and rays take a long time to mature and produce low numbers

of young called pups. Shark mothers produce fully developed pups. Some sharks and most rays hatch from eggs inside the mother's body. The pups get food from the large egg yolk that they are connected to and are born when the yolk is finished. Other shark and ray mothers lay egg cases that one or more pups grow in and finally hatch from. Many sharks and rays give birth in sheltered nursery grounds with few predators. The pups require no further care from their mother after birth.



Microscopic scales of Great hammerhead *Sphyrna mokarran*.

WHY ARE SHARKS AND RAYS IN TROUBLE?

Sharks and rays are vulnerable to overfishing because they reproduce late in life, have few pups, and grow slowly. This means there are naturally fewer sharks and rays than other fishes in our waters.

Overfishing is by far the biggest threat to sharks and rays in the world. About a third of all known shark and ray species in the world and more than half of all species known or suspected to occur in Bangladesh are threatened with extinction.

The fins, gill plates and skins of sharks and rays are highly valued in other countries, and some people in Bangladesh eat their meat. This pushes fishers to keep or even target sharks and rays, even if they could release them safely back into the water.



Critically Endangered guitarfishes *Glaucostegus* spp.
at a fish landing center in Cox's Bazar.

WHY DO WE CARE ABOUT SHARKS AND RAYS?

Sharks and rays contribute to a healthy ocean in many different ways that in turn supports healthy people. But without protection, they will likely disappear forever. The loss of sharks and rays impacts not only the fish we eat or their availability for future generations, but also the livelihoods of those who put fish on our plates.

HOW CAN WE PROTECT SHARKS AND RAYS IN BANGLADESH?

Sharks and rays that are globally threatened with extinction are protected under the Bangladesh Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act 2012. It is a crime to kill, land or trade them or their parts punishable with up to one year imprisonment and a fine of up to 50,000 taka, unless you have an official trade permit.

This guide helps identify which species are protected and must be released safely at sea. Do not sell, buy or eat protected wildlife, including sharks and rays or their parts.



Bull sharks *Carcharhinus leucas* are strictly protected in Bangladesh.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide describes and depicts diagnostic features for the visual identification of sharks and rays, and their commonly traded parts, which are protected under the Bangladesh Wildlife Act 2012 and regulated for trade across international borders by CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) along with look-alike species.

An overview of legal regulations is provided on pages 12-13, and instructions for the safe release of protected species at sea on page 107-108.

Local Bangla Name/Alternative Names

ব্যাঙ হাঙ্গর/গোলনাক পিতাম্বরি

English Name (Alternative Name)

Bowmouth guitarfish (Shark ray)

Scientific Name

Rhina ancylostoma

Global IUCN Red List Status, National Legal Status, International Trade Status (CITES)



Total Length (TL) or Disc Width (DW) at Birth, Adult Male ♂, Adult Female ♀, Maximum Length (ML) or Maximum Width (MW) in cm
Unknown (?)

TL: Birth = 46-48, Adult ♂ = 150-175,
Adult ♀ = 180, ML = 270

Habitat Preference



Threatened



CONSERVATION STATUS GLOBAL IUCN RED LIST*



Critically Endangered (CR)
Extremely high risk of extinction



Endangered (EN)
Very high risk of extinction



Vulnerable (VU)
High risk of extinction



Near Threatened (NT)
Likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future



Least Concern (LC)
Widespread and abundant



Data Deficient (DD)
Inadequate information available for assessment of extinction risk

Species without an IUCN Red List status have not yet been assessed for extinction risk.

*as per June 2022.



NATIONAL PROTECTION STATUS WILDLIFE (CONSERVATION AND SECURITY) ACT, 2012



Schedule I: Strictly Protected
No killing, trade, consumption permitted.



Schedule II: Strictly Regulated
Permit from Forest Department required for killing, possession, and trade.



CITES CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA*



CITES Appendix I
Strictly protected, no trade



CITES Appendix II
Strictly regulated, CITES trade permit required

*Provisional identification of specimens or parts originating from CITES listed species suffice as probable cause to detain shipments without the appropriate CITES permits.

HABITAT PREFERENCE



Freshwater rivers – Spend all or a part of life in a naturally flowing watercourse, usually freshwater, flowing towards the ocean.



Brackish water – Spend all or part of life in the estuarine zone where freshwater rivers and salty ocean water mix.



Mangrove associated – Spend all or part of life in the tidal waterways of mangrove forests.



Open marine water – Spend all or part of life in the ocean area far from the coast.

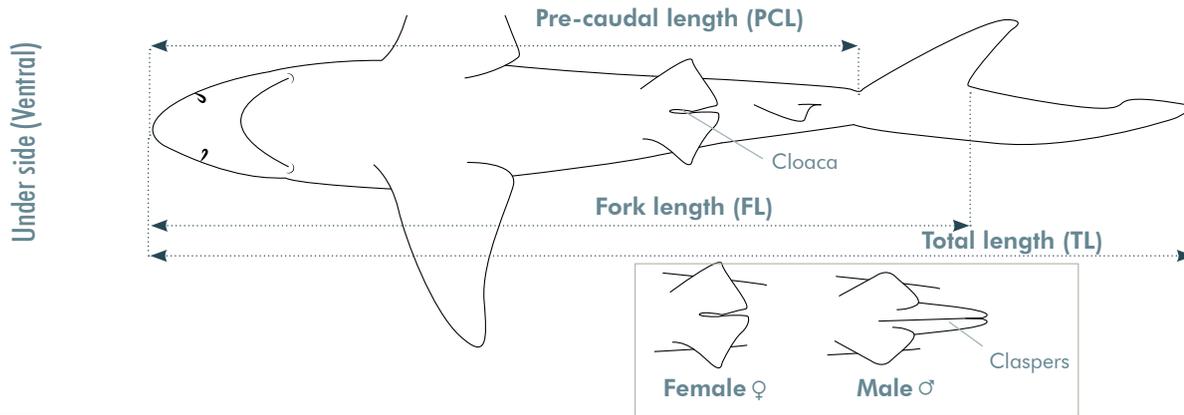
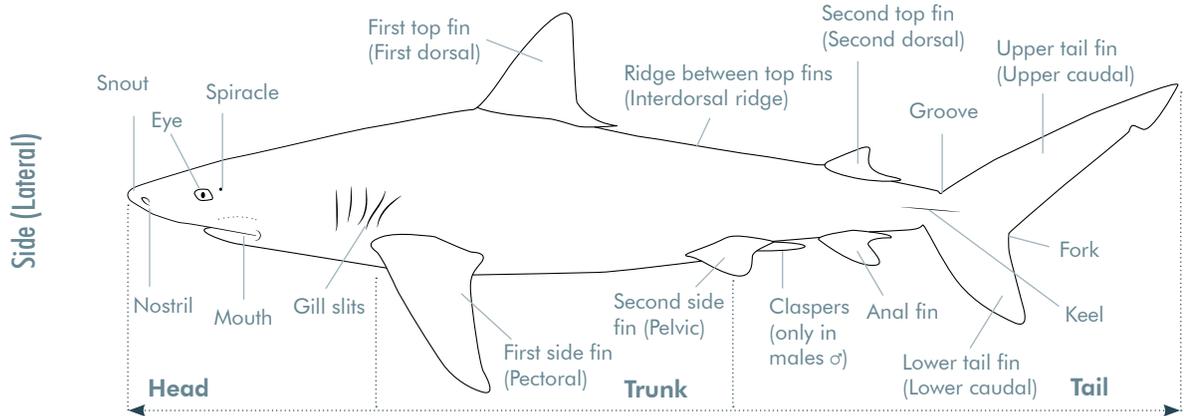


Reef associated – Spend all or part of life around corals.

UNIT CONVERSION

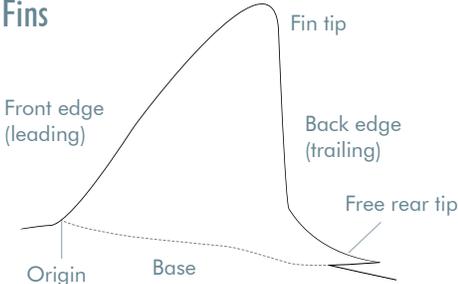
| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Bam = 3.5 Hands | 1 Inch = 2.5 Centimeters |
| 1 Hand = 1.5 Feet | 1 Meter = 39.4 Inches |
| 1 Foot = 12 Inches | 1 Meter = 100 Centimeters |

IDENTIFYING FEATURES OF SHARKS

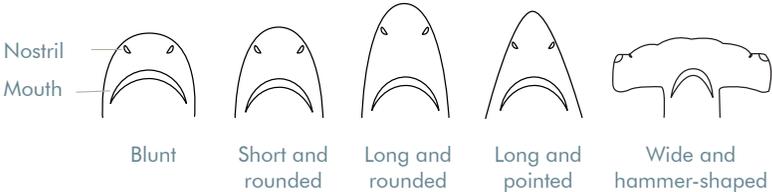


IDENTIFYING FEATURES OF SHARKS

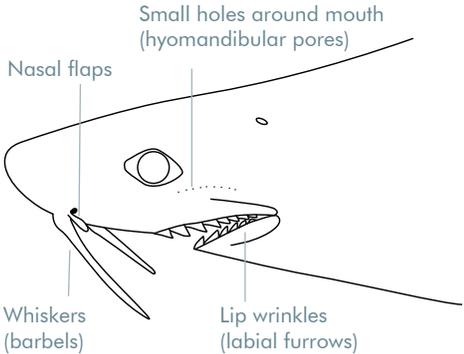
Fins



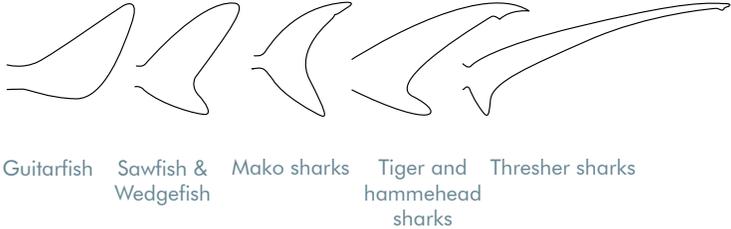
Snout Shapes



Snout Features

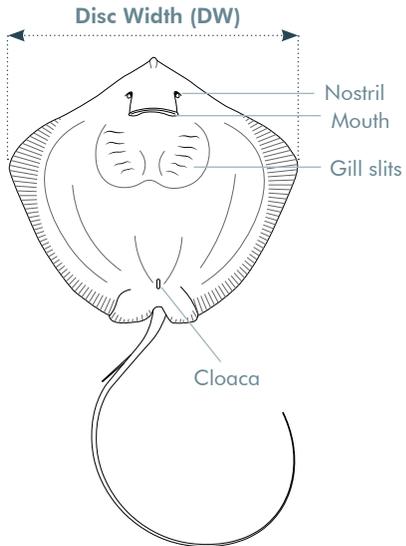


Tail Fin Shapes

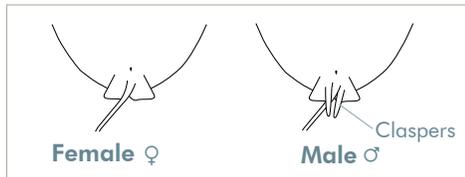
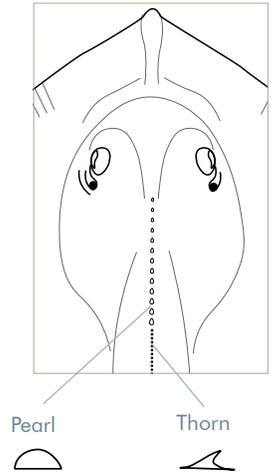
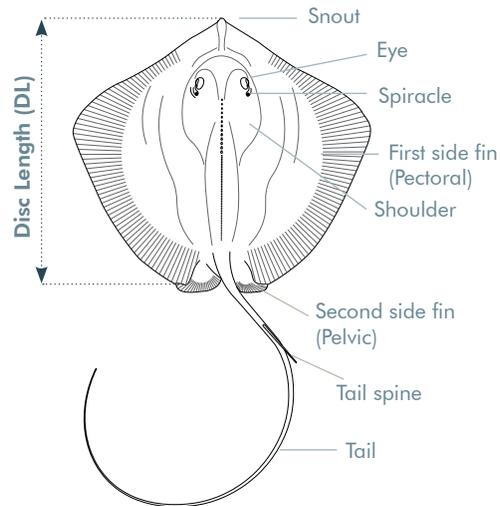


IDENTIFYING FEATURES OF RAYS

Underside (Ventral)



Upper side (Dorsal)

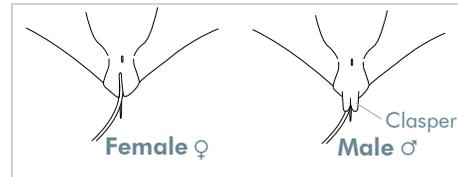
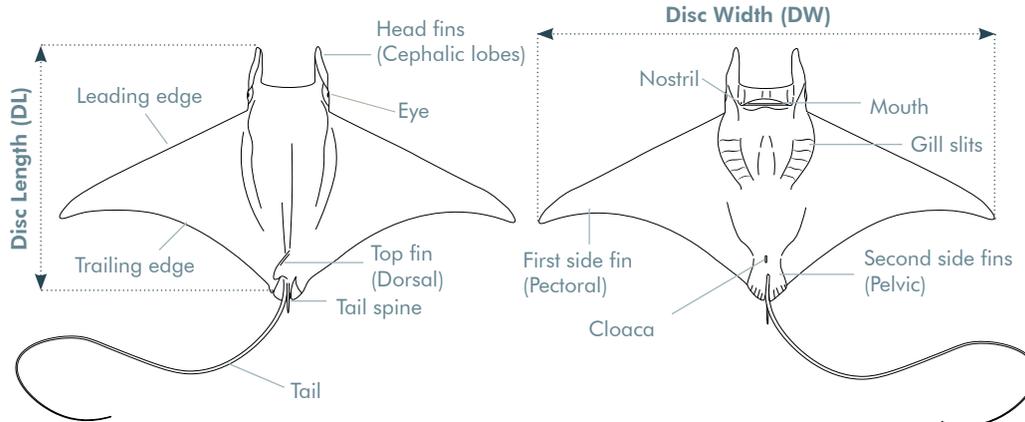


IDENTIFYING FEATURES OF RAYS

MOBULIDS

Upper side (Dorsal)

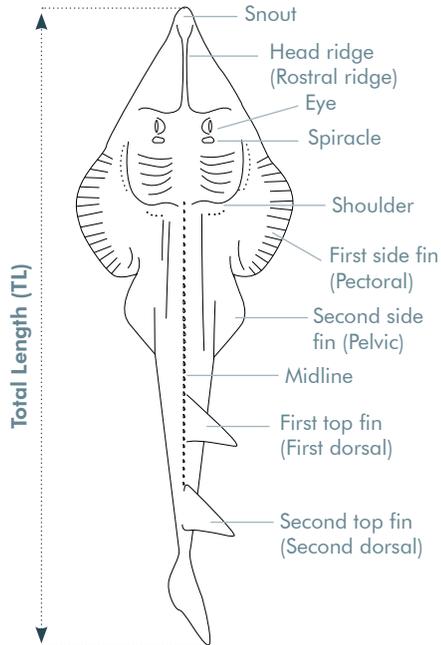
Underside (Ventral)



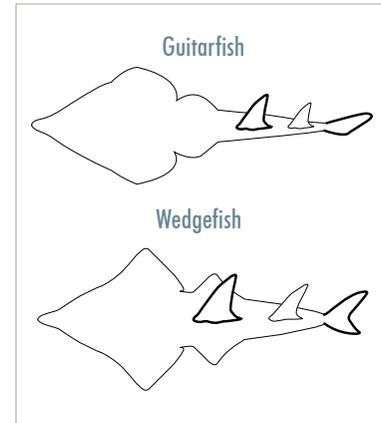
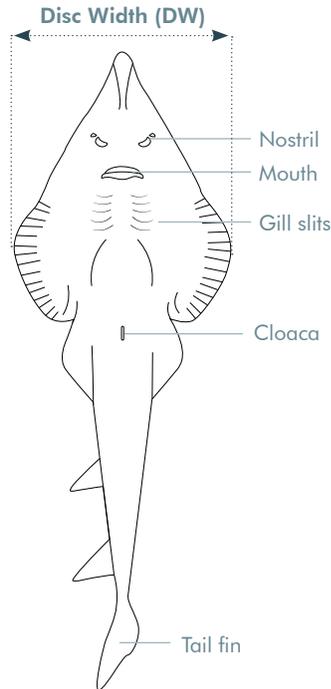
IDENTIFYING FEATURES OF RAYS

RAJIFORMES, TORPEDINIFORMES

Upper side (Dorsal)



Underside (Ventral)



TERMINOLOGY

| English term | Bangla term | Definition/Description |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Free rear tip | পিছনের মুক্ত প্রান্ত | Corner of fin that is separated from the trunk or tail |
| Barbel/Whisker | দাঁড়ি | Threadlike sensory organ sticks out from the corner of mouth helps detecting prey or food |
| Hyomandibular pores | মুখের চারপাশের ছোট ছিদ্র | Many small holes or pores around the corners of the mouth that produce sensory afferent excitation |
| Rough skin patches | কাঁটায়ুক্ত অমসৃণ চামড়া | When the tooth-like scales or denticles are bigger or closer together |
| Spiracles | শ্বাসরন্ধ্র | Two openings between the eyes for moving water across gills |
| Ridge | উঁচু রেখা | An elevated line - if between first and second top fin, called interdorsal ridge |
| Groove | খাঁজ | Indentation or dent - if at tail base, called pre-caudal pit |
| Keel | সুউচ রেখা | Expansion on the sides of the body to increase stability, similar to keel on the underside of a boat |
| Mid-line | মধ্যরেখা | Line from front to back along the middle of the back or snout |
| Mark | চিহ্ন/দাগ | Not well-defined blotch or area of color |
| Spot | ফোঁটা | Well defined area of color |
| Stripe | ডোরাকাটা দাগ | A linear mark of a different color from the background |
| Schooling | দলবদ্ধ হয়ে চলাচল | When they all move together in the same direction, at the same speed, at the same time |
| Pregnant, gravid | গর্ভবতী | Female expecting babies |
| Cloaca | পায়ু ও স্ত্রী জননাস্র | Common opening for digestive, reproductive, and urinary system on underside near anal fin |

PROTECTED SHARKS AND RAYS OF BANGLADESH

Species protection regulations aim to reduce extinction risks for globally threatened sharks and rays.

Threatened sharks and rays are protected under the Bangladesh Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act 2012. Killing, landing or trading species or their parts listed under Schedule I is prohibited, and requires an official trade permit for those listed under Schedule II.

Species listed under CITES Appendix II or their parts or derived products can only be exported with a valid CITES permit.

By learning which species are protected and stopping their killing, trade, and consumption, you can help ensure their survival.

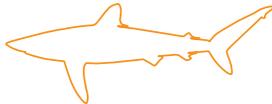


BANGLADESH WILDLIFE ACT SCHEDULE II SPECIES

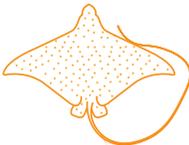
KILLING AND TRADING OF SCHEDULE II LISTED SPECIES WITHOUT A PERMIT IS A PUNISHABLE OFFENCE.

রেশমি/সিল্কি হাঙ্গর
SILKY SHARK

Carcharhinus falciformis



চিত্র ঠোঁট্যা/ফুল টুইটা ঘাপরি
SPOTTED EAGLE RAY
Aetobatus ocellatus



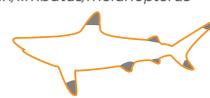
বাঘা/চিত্রা হাঙ্গর
TIGER SHARK
Galeocerdo cuvier



ডোরাকাটা ঠোঁট্যা/টুইটা ঘাপরি/শঙ্খচিল
BANDED EAGLE RAY
Aetomylaeus nichofii



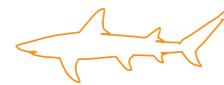
সাদা/কালো/ফোঁটালেজী/লতা বলি/বলি হাঙ্গর
REQUIEM SHARKS
Carcharhinus amblyrhynchoides/brevipinna/sorrah/limbatus/melanopterus



চিত্রা/বাঘা শাপলাপাতা
PATTERNED STING RAYS
Himantura leoparda/uarnak/undulata



শাঁখাদাঁত/শিয়াল বলি হাঙ্গর
SNAGGLETEOTH SHARK
Hemipristis elongata



পদুনি/প্রজাপতি শাপলাপাতা
BUTTERFLY RAYS
Gymnura spp.



সজার শাপলাপাতা
PORCUPINE RAY
Urogymnus asperrim



কারেন্ট মাছ
PATTERNED NUMBFISHES
Narcine spp.





BANGLADESH WILDLIFE ACT SCHEDULE I SPECIES

KILLING AND TRADING OF SCHEDULE I LISTED SPECIES IS A PUNISHABLE OFFENCE.

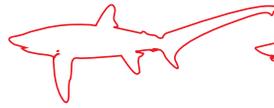
করাত মাছ/খটক/খাদা মাপর/আইস্যা
SAWFISHES
Anoxypristis cuspidata/Pristis spp.



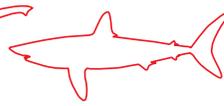
হাতুড়ি/কাউন্না হাসর
HAMMERHEAD SHARKS
Sphyrna spp./Eusphyrna blochii



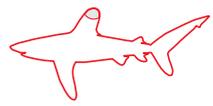
কান্তে হাসর
THRESHER SHARKS
Alopias spp.



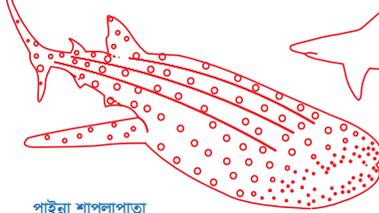
ম্যাকো হাসর
MAKO SHARKS
Isurus spp.



সাদাটুপি হাসর
OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK
Carcharhinus longimanus



তিমি হাসর
WHALE SHARK
Rhincodon typus



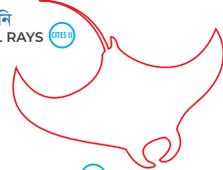
গাঙ্গের/বড়পাখ চিনারি হাসর
GANGES/BROADFIN SHARK
Glyphis gangeticus/Lamiopsis temminckii



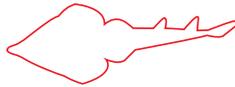
ভোঁতা/ঘ-বলি হাসর
PIGEYE/BULL SHARK
Carcharhinus amboinensis/leucas



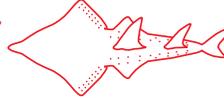
শিংচোয়াইন/লুইমনি
MANTA & DEVIL RAYS
Mobula spp.



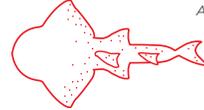
পিতাখরি/নাঙলা
GUITARFISHES
Glaucostegus/Rhinobatos spp.



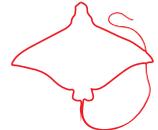
পিতাখরি/নাঙলা
WEDGEFISHES
Rhynchobatus spp.



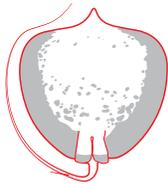
ব্যাঙ হাসর
BOWMOUTH GUITARFISH
Rhina ancylostoma



বড়মাথা ঠোঁট্যা/টুইটা ঘাপরি
LONGHEAD EAGLE RAY
Aetobatus flagellum



পাইয়া শাপলাপাতা
GIANT FRESHWATER WHIPRAY
Urogyminus polylepis



রান্নি/চিনি শাপলাপাতা
BLEEKER'S WHIPRAY
Pateobatus bleekeri



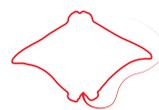
খ্যাবড়ানাক খাইন/হাঙরাইল
ROUGHNOSE COWTAIL RAY
Pastinachus solocirostris



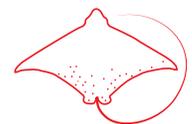
ফুল/জাতি শাপলাপাতা
WHITESPOTTED WHIPRAY
Maculabatis gerrardi



ভোঁতা ঘাপরি
COWNOSE RAYS
Rhinoptera spp.



চিত্রা/ফুল ঠোঁট্যা/টুইটা ঘাপরি
MOTTLED/OCELLATE EAGLE RAY
Aetomylaeus spp.





খাঁজকাটা হাতুড়ি হাঙ্গর
Scalloped hammerheads
Sphyrna lewini

KEY TO SHARK ORDERS AND FAMILIES OF BANGLADESH

Mackerel Sharks LAMNIFORMES

5 gill slits, 2 top fins, anal fin, mouth extends beyond eyes,
no see-through inner eyelid

THRESHER SHARKS

কাণ্ডে হাঙ্গর
Alopiidae



- Extremely long upper tail fin
- Second side fins almost same size as first top fin
- No elevated lines

Thresher sharks are large sharks with an unusually long sickle-shaped upper tail fin - as long or longer than their body. These strong swimmers have relatively large eyes, a small mouth, and long first side fins.

Threshers prefer deep open ocean water but give birth to pups annually along the coast. Young threshers stay in shallow waters until maturity. They usually prey on schooling fish, squid and sometimes cuttlefish. They use their long tail to slap their prey.

(See page 22-23)

MACKEREL SHARKS

ম্যাকো হাঙ্গর
Lamnidae



- Half-moon shaped tail
- Teeth visible even when mouth closed
- Mouth extends beyond eyes
- Five pairs of gill slits extending onto upper head
- Strong keel along side of body

Mackerel sharks are fast sharks easily recognized by their slender teeth visible even when the mouth is closed. The mouth extends behind the eyes, and the long gill slits extend onto the upper part of the head. Their tall first top fin is large and the second top fin very small in comparison. They have a strong keel on their side forward from their half-moon shaped tail.

Mackerel sharks inhabit temperate oceans and prey on schooling fish. Females often come close to shore to give birth.

(See page 24-25)

SAND SHARKS

ধূসর হাঙ্গর
Odontaspidae



- Teeth visible even when mouth closed
- Top fins and anal fin same size
- Very short lower tail fin

Sand tiger sharks are large, slow-moving sharks with scattered dark spots on their light brown upper body side.

These migratory sharks live mostly in shallow near or inshore coastal waters, often near coral reefs. They hunt fish, shrimp, and other soft-bodied animals.

Female sand tigers produce two pups, one from each uterus, every other year.

(See page 25)

Ground Sharks CARCHARHINIFORMES

5 gill slits, 2 top fins, anal fin, mouth extends beyond eyes,
see-through inner eyelid

HAMMERHEAD SHARKS

হাতুড়ি হাঙ্গর
Sphyrnidae



- Head flattened in front and expanded sideways
- Large first top and tail fins

These big sharks get their name from their hammer-shaped head. They have an all-around view thanks to their eyes being on the outer edges of the wide head that helps them hunt and pin down prey. Their large fins, highly prized in trade, allow them to make sudden and sharp turns.

Hammerheads inhabit coastal and offshore marine waters up to 500 meters deep. They use nearshore and mangrove areas as nursery grounds. Hammerheads feed on fishes, octopus and squid, as well as on dolphins, rays, and other sharks.

(See page 26-27)

REQUIEM SHARKS

বলি হাঙ্গর
Carcharhinidae



- Groove on upper and underside of tail base
- Rounded snout
- Short lip wrinkles

Requiem sharks vary greatly in size. Their markings on their first side fins differ. Most have round eyes and no spiracles.

Except when migrating, most requiem sharks prefer shallow waters. They live in our rivers, along the coast in estuaries, and in deeper marine waters. Requiem sharks eat mostly fishes, octopus and squid, but some hunt turtles, dolphins, or other sharks and rays.

(See page 28-38)

WEASEL SHARKS

শিয়াল বলি হাঙ্গর
Hemigaleidae



- Oval eyes
- Long lip wrinkles and no whiskers around mouth
- Large second top fin
- Wavy edge on tail fin
- All fins are incurved

Weasel sharks are small to medium size sharks with small spiracles, a mouth that reaches the eyes, and relatively long lip wrinkles.

They live mostly in coastal areas to a depth of up to 100 meters and feed on small fishes, squid, shrimp, mussels, and clams.

(See page 39)

Carpet Sharks ORECTOLOBIFORMES

5 gill slits, 2 top fins, anal fin, mouth ends in front of eyes

WHALE SHARKS

তিমি হাঙ্গর

Rhincodontidae



- Checkerboard pattern on very large body
- Huge mouth
- Very large gill slits
- Tail with strong keels

Whale sharks are the largest fish in the world. They can grow to a length of 15-20 meters. Each animal has a unique pattern of white or yellowish spots and stripes.

Slow moving whale sharks move alone or in schools in marine waters. They feed by filtering tiny fishes, fish eggs and shrimp through their gills.

(See page 40)

CARPET SHARKS

গুলে হাঙ্গর

Hemiscylliidae



- Short whiskers
- Tail longer than body
- Large spiracles below eye

Bamboo sharks are small, up to one meter long, and slender sharks that live in shallow river mouths, estuaries and coastal waters. The young have strong patterns that disappear as they grow older.

Bamboo sharks spend most of their time alone resting along the bottom or feeding on small fishes and soft animals with or without shells.

(See page 42-43)

ZEBRA SHARKS

চিত্রা হাঙ্গর

Stegostomatidae



- Ridges on sides and back
- Upper tail fin as long as the body
- Short whiskers

Zebra sharks are small, strongly patterned, night-active sharks that live mostly around corals and in shallow coastal waters up to 60 meters deep. They hunt and snatch or suck up small fishes, snails, sea urchins, and crabs.

(See page 44)

NURSE SHARKS

একশাখালেজী হাঙ্গর

Ginglymostomatidae



- Wide head with a pair of whiskers between the nostrils
- Rounded top and first side fins
- Wide single tail fin

Nurse sharks vary in size, but they all have whiskers around their small mouths and small spiracles behind their eyes. They live around corals and mangroves in mostly 5–30 meter deep coastal waters. They hunt and feed at night on small animals living along the bottom, including fishes, crabs, shrimp, lobsters, squid, and octopus.

(See page 44)

KEY TO RAY ORDERS AND FAMILIES OF BANGLADESH

Sawfishes and Guitarfishes

RAJIFORMES

Flattened body with first side fins fused to small disc, two top fins, spiracles close to the eyes, no spine on tail

Sawfishes

PRISTIDAE

Saw-like long snout

SAWFISHES

করাত মাছ

Pristidae



- Snout looks like a saw
- Wide side fins
- Lower tail fin of large tail differs between species

An only slightly flattened head and trunk give sawfishes a shark-like appearance. Sawfishes generally live in shallow nearshore waters less than ten meters deep, but some adults move further offshore. Most move into estuaries, mangroves, and river mouths to pup and grow. Sawfishes feed on fishes, crabs, shrimp, clams and snails along the bottom.

(See page 50-51)

Guitarfishes, Wedgefishes and Shark rays

RHINOBATIFORMES

Flattened snout, top fin and tail fin pairs are large

WEDGEFISHES

শাখালেজী পিতাম্বরী

Rhinidae



- Thick, shark-like body
- Pale spade-shaped snout
- Large sickle-shaped first top fin set over first side fins
- Lower tail fin defined

Wedgefishes have a large body with flattened, long and almost see-through snouts. Most have white or black markings that can disappear in adults.

They occur in shallow nearshore and estuarine waters near river mouths, and sometimes in deeper offshore areas, but not in freshwater. They rest on the muddy or sandy bottom and eat crabs and shrimp.

(See page 54)

SHARK RAY/BOWMOUTH

GUITARFISH

গোলনাক পিতাম্বরী

Rhinidae



- Wide round head and snout
- Indentation separates head from first side fins

Bowmouth guitarfish are the only sharkrays known to occur in Bangladesh. They live in shallow nearshore and inshore waters with a soft bottom along which they feed on crabs and shrimp.

(See page 58)

GUITARFISHES & GIANT GUITARFISHES

পিতাম্বরী ও বড় পিতাম্বরী

Rhinobatidae & Glaucostegiidae



- Shovel-shaped snout
- First top fin set far behind second side fins
- Tail fins fused
- Fins of guitarfishes are smooth but giant guitarfishes have a rough texture.

Guitarfishes have a large triangular snout that differs among species. Many guitarfishes have patterns and lines or patches of small thorns on their back, shoulders, snout or near the eyes. Guitarfishes are found in estuaries and near river mouths, but not in freshwater. Some prefer deeper offshore waters, but most enter estuaries for mating and pupping. They rest and feed along the bottom on worms, crabs, clams, and smaller fishes.

(See page 55-58)

Electric rays TORPEDINIFORMES

Body rounded, top fins are placed on strong tail, can generate an electric shock

NUMBFISHES

কারেন্ট মাছ

Narcinidae



- Small round disc and snout
- Large kidney shaped electric organs visible on disc
- Deep groove around mouth

Numbfishes are small rays with a thick smooth disc with different color patterns. Their tail is as long or longer than their body. They are thought to pup in brackish waters, but adults live in open marine water. The slow swimming bottom-dwellers feed on worms and small fishes.

(See page 59-61)

SLEEPER RAYS

একপাখানা কারেন্ট মাছ

Narkidae



- Small flattened round disc, snout and side fins
- Nasal openings just in front of mouth
- Usually only one top fin
- Shallow groove around mouth

Sleeper rays are very small rays that look like numbfish but are more uniformly colored. Like numbfishes, they can generate an electric shock to defend themselves or stun their prey.

(See page 61)

Eagle, Manta, and Stingrays MYLIOBATIFORMES

Flat body with very large first side fins fused with head and disc,
small or no dorsal fin, whip-like tail.

EAGLE RAYS

ঠুইট্যা ঘাপরি
Myliobatidae



- Short head
- Short and rounded snout
- No spine on tail

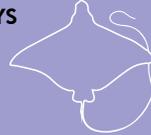
Eagle rays are medium to large rays with wide triangular first side fins fused to the head just below the eyes. Their head is narrow with a beak-like snout. The tail is very long, thin, and spine-less.

Eagle rays live alone or in schools in coastal and brackish waters. They move along the bottom and feed on hard-shelled mussels, clams and shrimps, as well as worms and small bony fishes.

(See page 62-63)

PELAGIC EAGLE RAYS

ফুল ঠুইট্যা ঘাপরি
Aetobatidae



- Long head
- Short and beak-like snout
- Large spine on tail

The inside of the nostrils of pelagic eagle rays have a deep V-shaped groove, which is not there in other eagle rays. The free rear tip of the large first side fins is rounded.

Pelagic eagle rays are found in coastal or open marine waters and around corals. They feed mainly on mussels, clams, oysters, crabs, shrimps, and small fishes.

(See page 64)

DEVIL RAYS

শিংচোয়াইন
Mobulidae



- Pair of horn-like lobes extend from front of head
- Very wide mouth
- Large wing-like side fins with pointed tips.

Devil rays, also known as mobulids, have two horn-like fins at the front of their head. They use these to funnel water into their mouth. Their large diamond-shaped body has wide triangular fins that move gracefully like wings. Devil rays use special gills to filter small creatures that they feed on from deep open marine waters.

(See page 66-68)

COWNOSE RAYS

ভোঁতানাক ঘাপরি

Rhinopteridae



- Snout with two large bulges separated by a deep groove
- One or more short tail spines

The medium-sized bodies of cownose rays are wider than long with a deep groove in the snout. They have a small top fin, a long tail with one or more short stings at the base, but no thorns on their smooth skin.

Cownose rays inhabit nearshore, estuarine and open waters. They mainly feed on hard shelled animals which they crush with their powerful jaws.

(See page 69)

BUTTERFLY RAYS

পদুনি

Gymnuridae



- Disc is much wider than long
- Black tail bands differ between species

These relatively small rays have a wide butterfly-shaped body. Their short slender tail usually has dark bands which help distinguish species. They have smooth skin, a small dorsal fin at the tail base and some have spines.

Butterfly rays live in shallow coastal areas and at river mouths, with nursery grounds in estuaries. They feed on shrimps, crabs and clams.

(See page 70-71)

STINGRAYS & WHIPRAYS

শাপলাপাতা মাছ

Dasyatidae



- Round, oval or diamond-shaped body is longer than wide.
- Slender tail is longer than disc and thinner at tip
- No top or tail fins

Members of this large family of rays vary in size, shape, and coloration. Their head is part of the disc. Many have one or more stings on their long, slender tail with small second side fins at the base.

Stingrays and whiprays mostly inhabit nearshore and open waters up to 400 meters deep. Some live in rivers and estuaries. They feed mostly on shrimps, crabs, worms and small fishes.

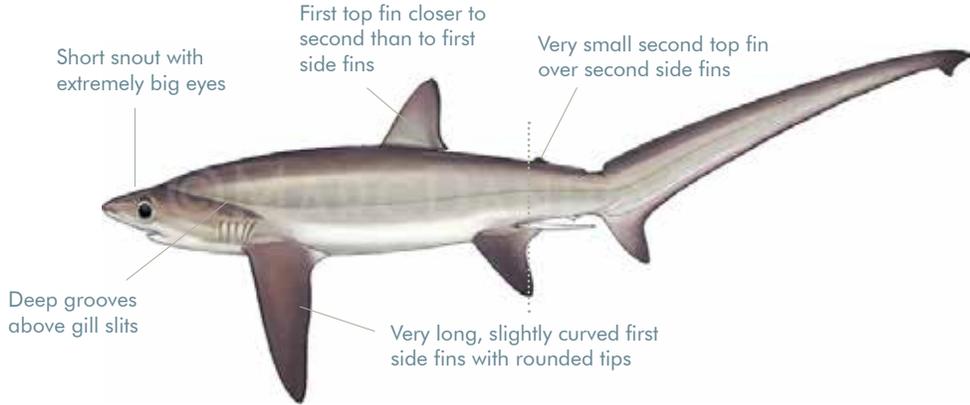
(See page 72-84)

KEY TO SHARK SPECIES IN BANGLADESH

বড়চোখা কান্তে হাঙ্গর
Bigeye thresher
Alopias superciliosus



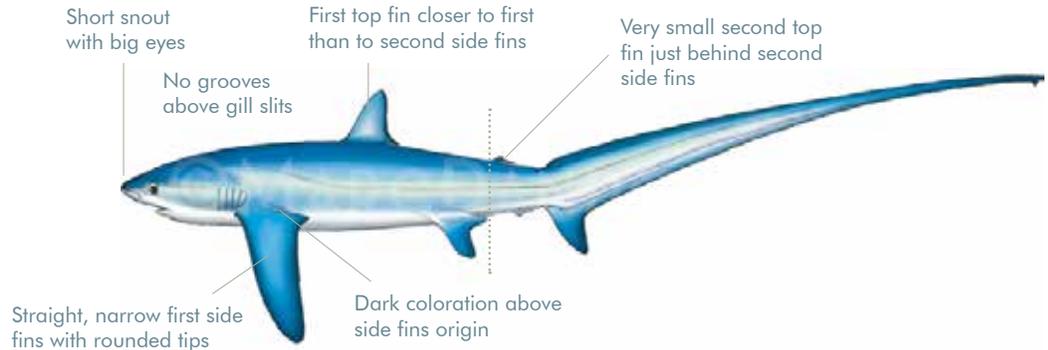
TL: Birth = 64-140,
 Adult ♂ = 245-300,
 Adult ♀ = 282-355,
 ML = 484



নীল কান্তে হাঙ্গর
Pelagic thresher
Alopias pelagicus



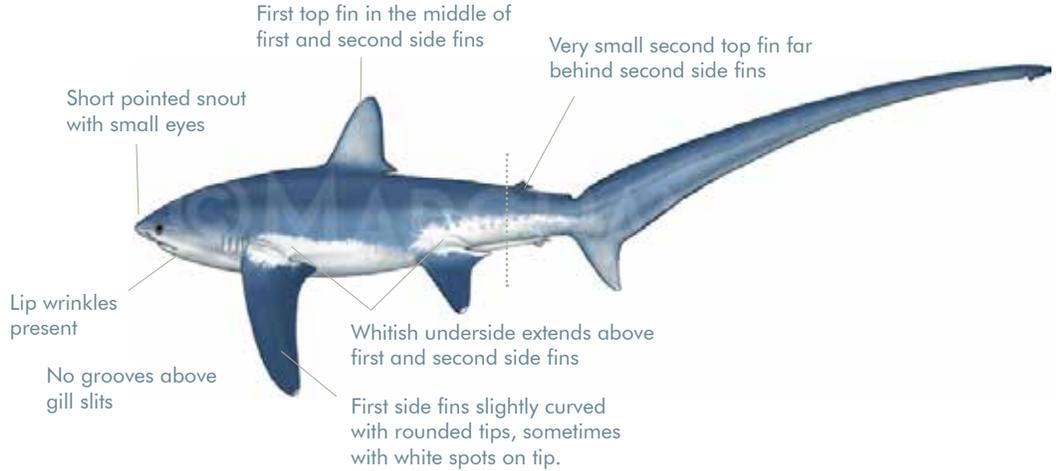
TL: Birth = 158-190,
 Adult ♂ = 250-300,
 Adult ♀ = 250-300,
 ML = 365



সাদাপাখ কাস্তে হাঙ্গর
Common thresher
Alopias vulpinus



TL: Birth = 120-150,
Adult ♂ = 260-420,
Adult ♀ = 260-465,
ML = 573



বড়চোখা কাস্তে হাঙ্গর
Bigeye thresher
Alopias superciliosus

ছোটপাখ ম্যাকো হাঙ্গর

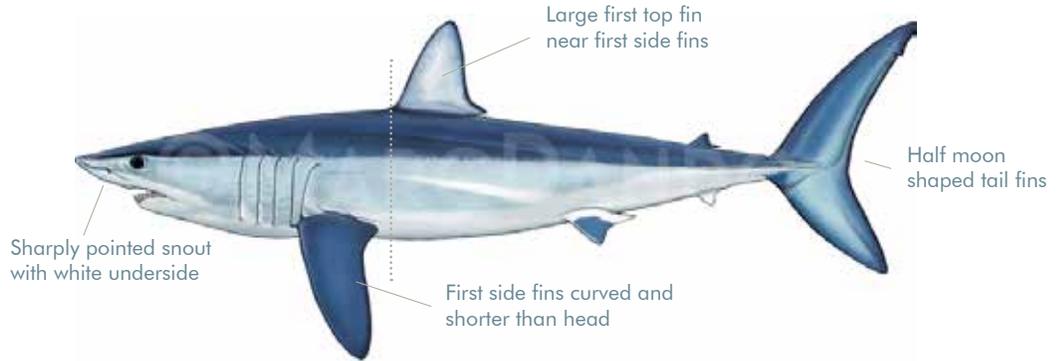
Shortfin mako*Isurus oxyrinchus*

EN



CITES II

TL: Birth = 60-70,
 Adult ♂ = 166-204,
 Adult ♀ = 265-312,
 ML = 445



বড়পাখ ম্যাকো হাঙ্গর

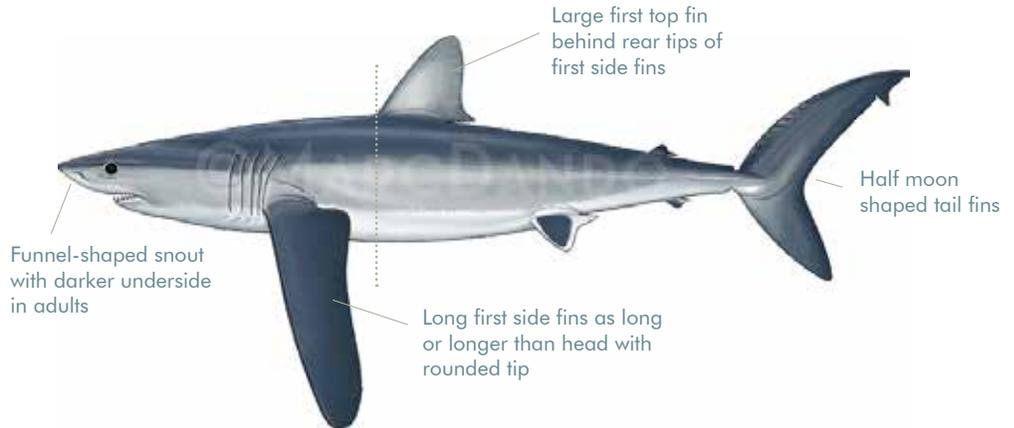
Longfin mako*Isurus paucus*

EN



CITES II

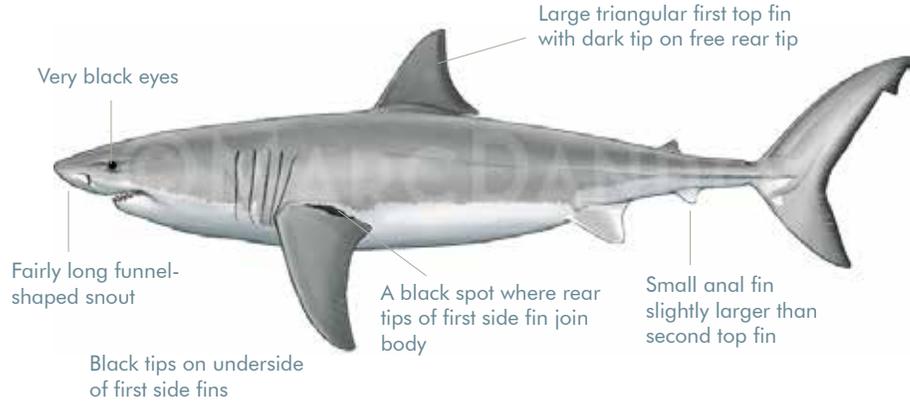
TL: Birth = 97-120,
 Adult ♂ = 225-245,
 Adult ♀ > 245,
 ML = 427



সাদা হাঙ্গর
White shark
Carcharodon carcharias



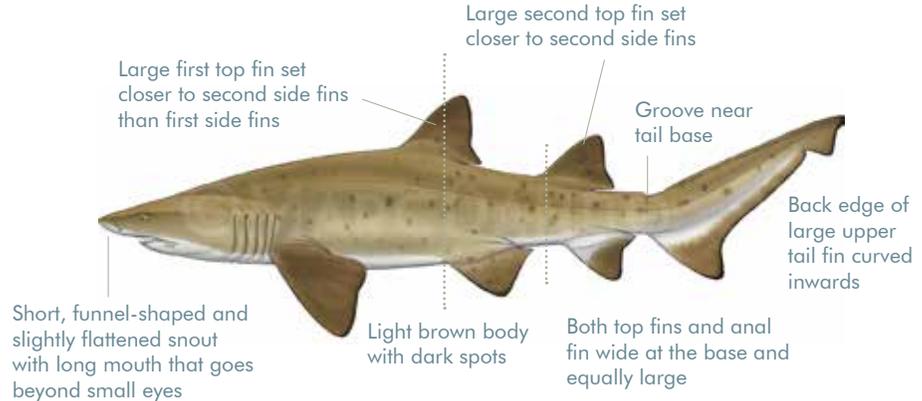
TL: Birth = 120-150,
 Adult ♂ = 310-410,
 Adult ♀ = 400-500,
 ML = 600-640



ধূসর বাঘা হাঙ্গর
Sand tiger shark
Carcharias taurus



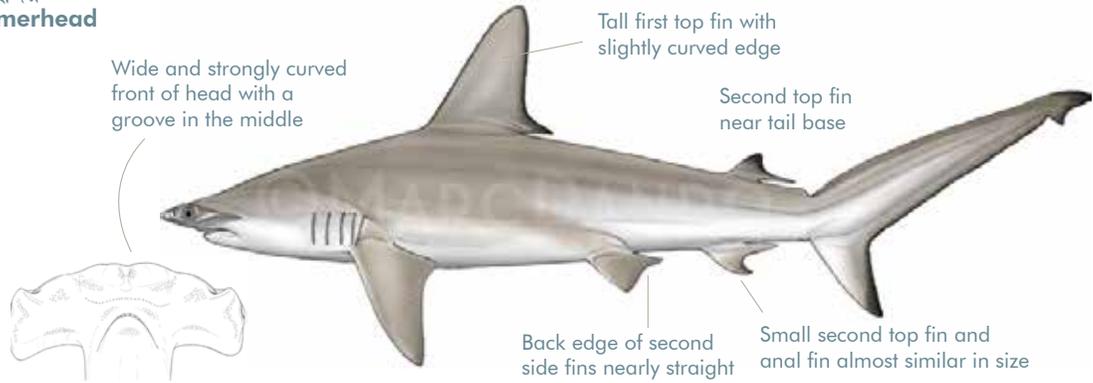
TL: Birth = 85-105,
 Adult ♂ = 190-200,
 Adult ♀ = 220-235,
 ML = 325



খাঁজকাটা হাতুড়ি হাঙ্গর
Scalloped hammerhead
Sphyrna lewini



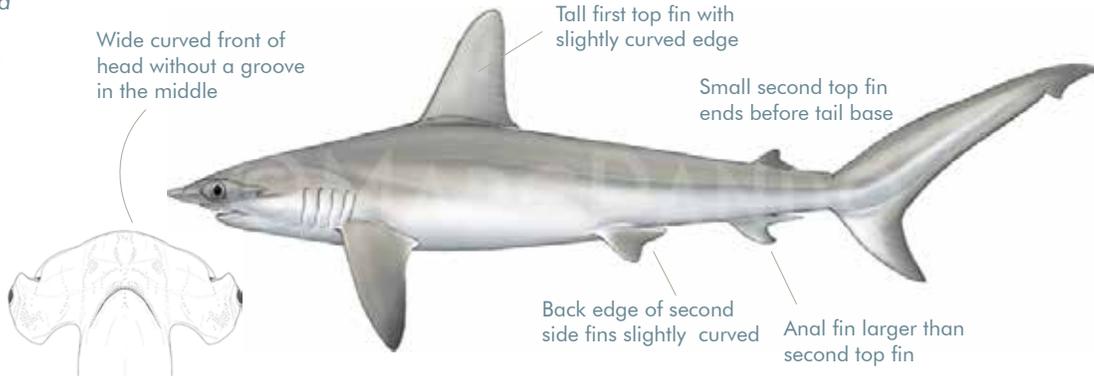
TL: Birth = 31-57,
 Adult ♂ = 140-198,
 Adult ♀ = 200-250,
 ML = 370-420



খাঁজহীন হাতুড়ি হাঙ্গর
Smooth hammerhead
Sphyrna zygaena



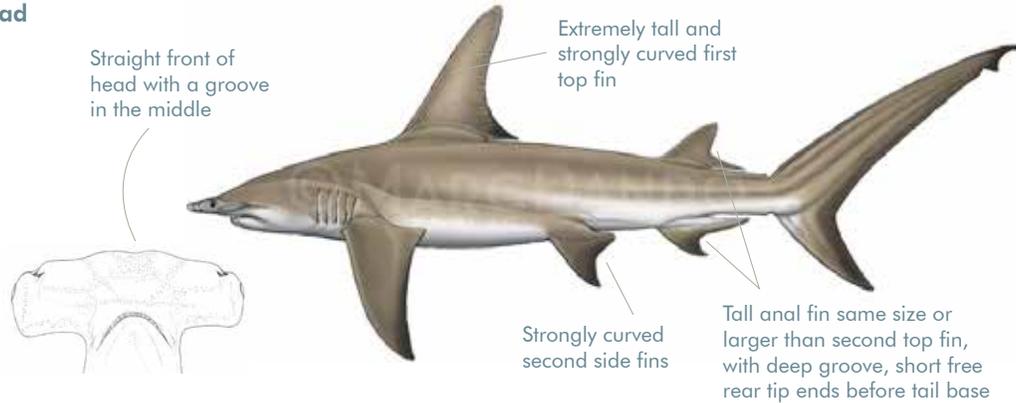
TL: Birth = 49-63,
 Adult ♂ = 250-260,
 Adult ♀ = 246-265,
 ML = 370-400



বড়পাখ হাতুড়ি হাঙ্গর
Great hammerhead
Sphyrna mokarran



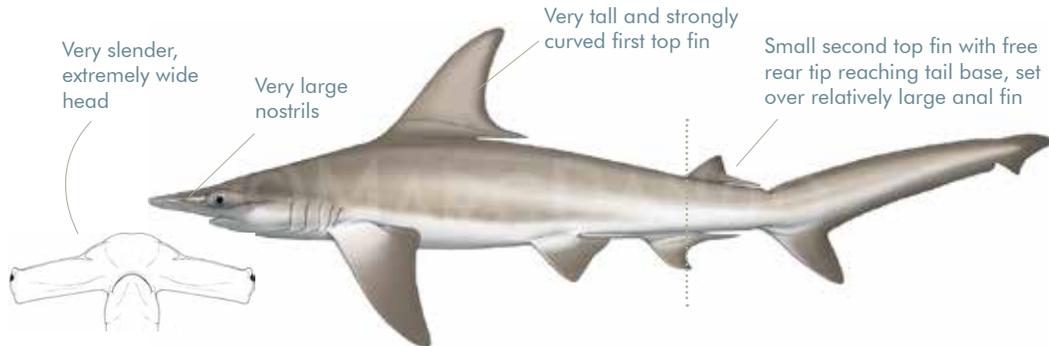
TL: Birth = 50-70,
 Adult ♂ = 225-269,
 Adult ♀ = 210-300,
 ML = 550-610



লম্বামাথা হাতুড়ি হাঙ্গর
Winghead shark
Eusphyra blochii



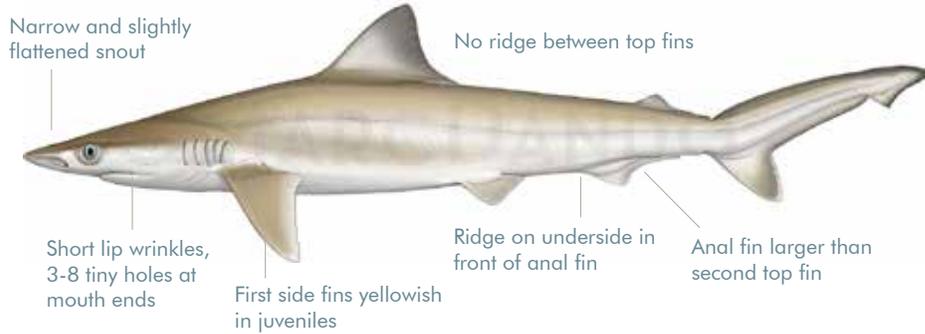
TL: Birth = 45,
 Adult ♂ = 108,
 Adult ♀ = 120,
 ML = 186



আঠাইল্যা/সোনালী লতাবলি হাঙ্গর
Grey sharpnose shark
Rhizoprionodon oligoinx

NT

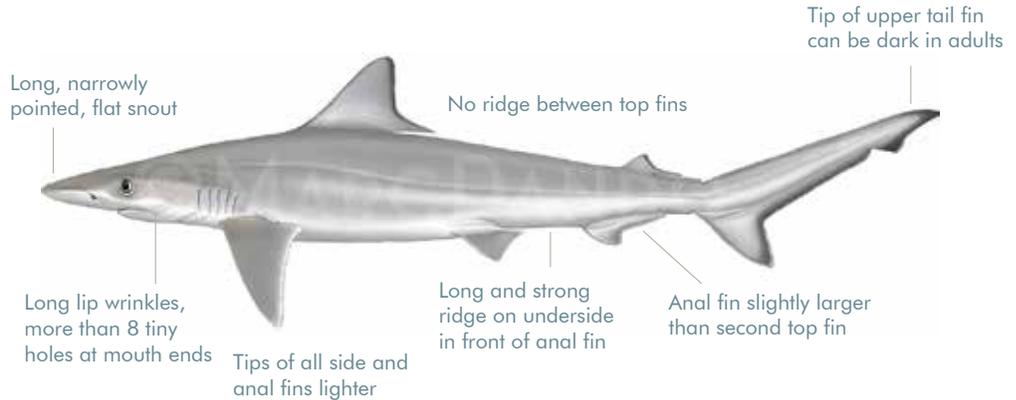
TL: Birth = 21-30,
 Adult ♂ = 29-53,
 Adult ♀ = 32-41,
 ML = 93



সাদা লতাবলি হাঙ্গর
Milk Shark
Rhizoprionodon acutus

VU

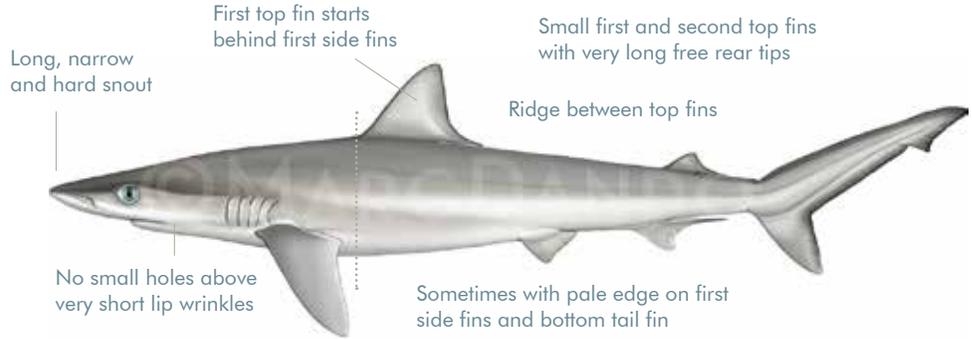
TL: Birth = 25-45,
 Adult ♂ = 54-82,
 Adult ♀ = 62-92,
 ML < 110



শক্তমাথা লতাবলি হাঙ্গর
Hardnose shark
Carcharhinus macloti

NT

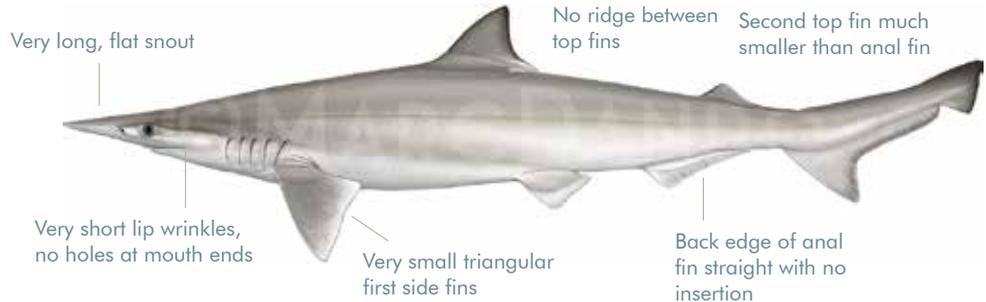
TL: Birth = 40-49,
 Adult ♂ = 69-74,
 Adult ♀ = 70-89,
 ML = 110



ছুরি/কোদালনাক হাঙ্গর
Spadenose shark
Scoliodon laticaudus

NT

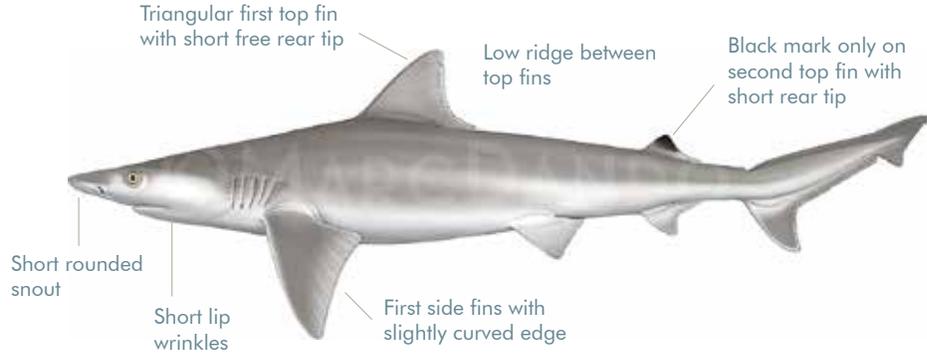
TL: Birth = 12-15,
 Adult ♂ = 24-36,
 Adult ♀ = 33-35,
 ML = 91



সাদাখুতনি হাঙ্গর
Whitecheek shark
Carcharhinus dussumieri



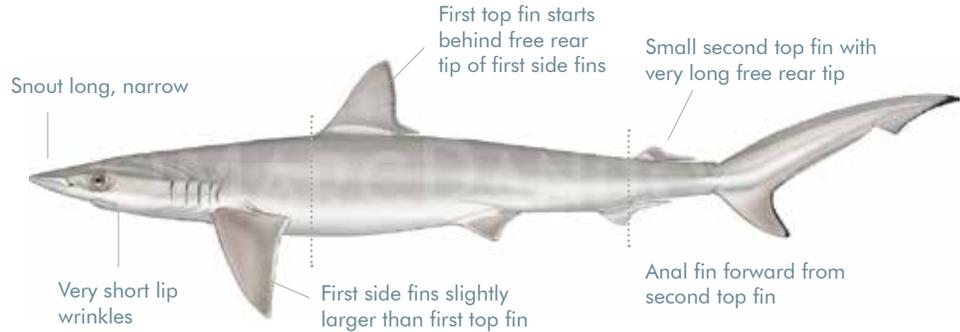
TL: Birth = 28-40,
 Adult ♂ = 72,
 Adult ♀ = 80,
 ML = 100



অঞ্জলিচোখা হাঙ্গর
Sliteye shark
Loxodon macrorhinus



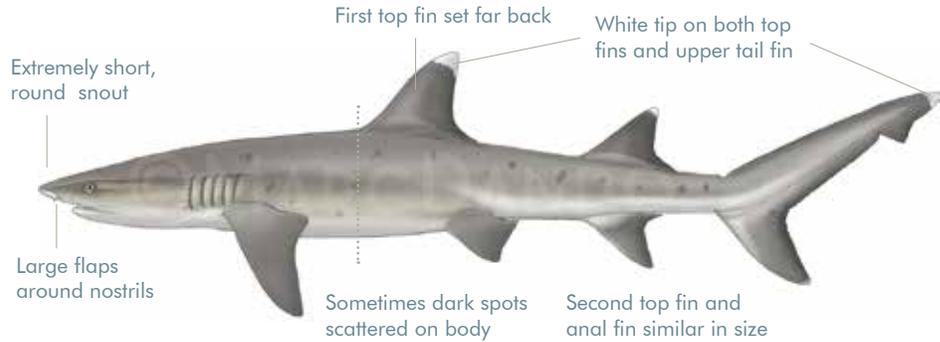
TL: Birth = 40-45,
 Adult ♂ = 62-66,
 Adult ♀ = 79,
 ML = 99



সাদাপাখ বলি হাঙ্গর
Whitetip reef shark
Triaenodon obesus



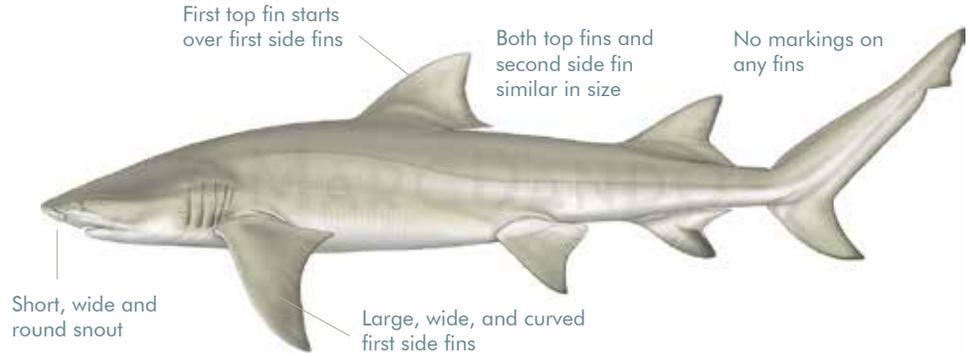
TL: Birth = 52-60,
 Adult ♂ = 105,
 Adult ♀ = 105,
 ML = 200



দাগহীন বলি হাঙ্গর
Sharptooth lemon shark
Negaprion acutidens



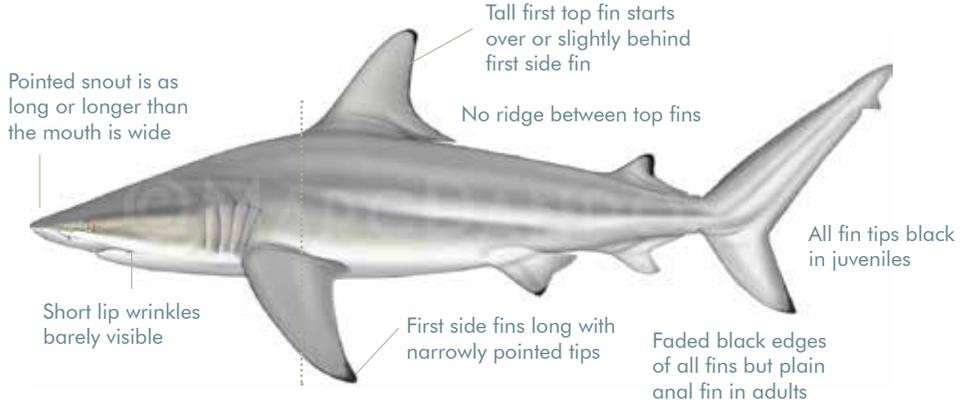
TL: Birth = 60,
 Adult ♂ = 220-240,
 Adult ♀ = 220-240,
 ML = 340



লতাবলি হাঙ্গর
Blacktip shark
Carcharhinus limbatus



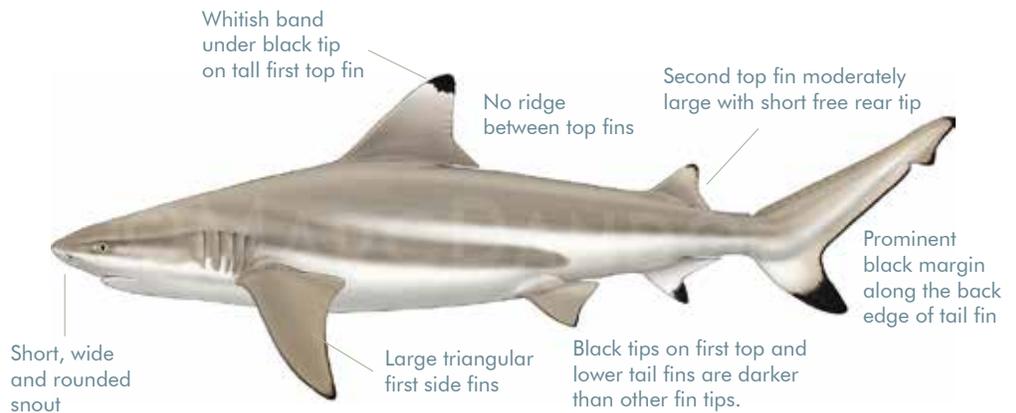
TL: Birth = 38-72,
 Adult ♂ = 125-201,
 Adult ♀ = 145-207,
 ML = 286



কালোডগা লতাবলি হাঙ্গর
Blacktip reef shark
Carcharhinus melanopterus



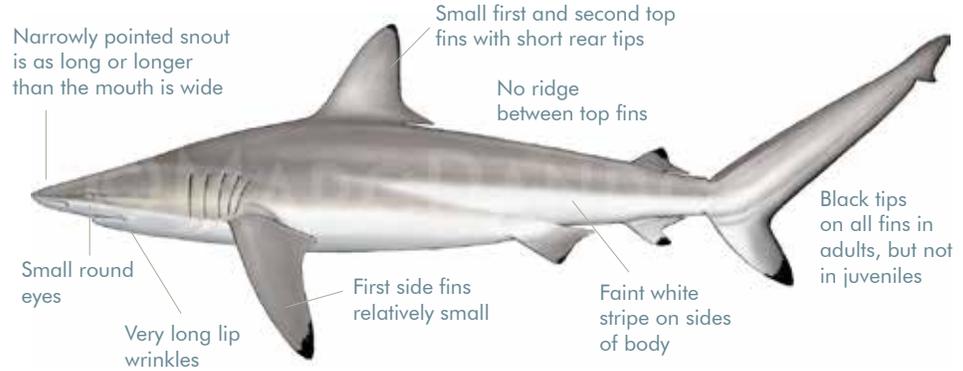
TL: Birth = 30-50,
 Adult ♂ = 90-134,
 Adult ♀ = 90-134,
 ML = 180



কালো লতাবলি হাঙ্গর
Spinner shark
Carcharhinus brevipinna



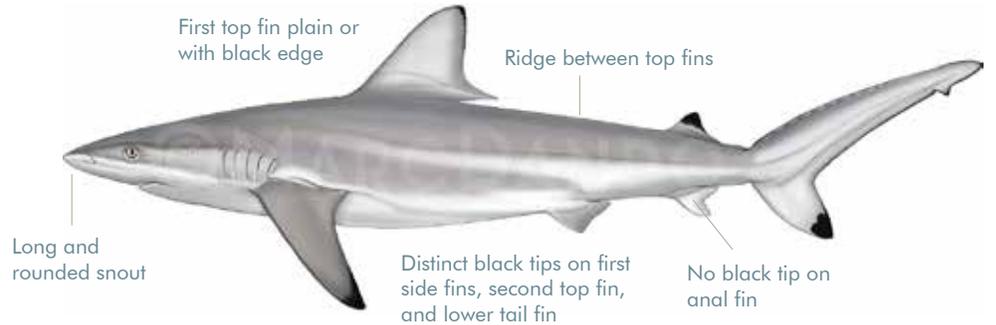
TL: Birth = 48-80,
 Adult ♂ = 170-220,
 Adult ♀ = 160-222,
 ML = 304



কালোলেজী লতাবলি হাঙ্গর
Spottail shark
Carcharhinus sorrah



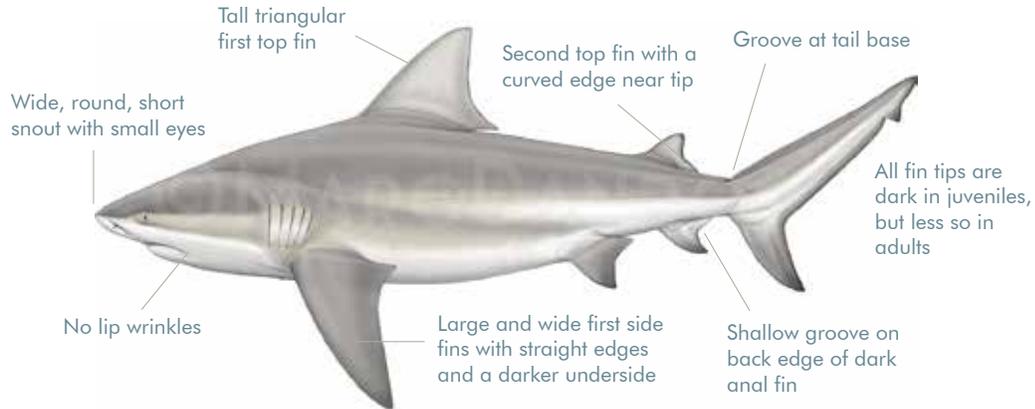
TL: Birth = 44-72,
 Adult ♂ = 106-109,
 Adult ♀ = 110-118,
 ML = 196



বলি/ঘ-বলি হাঙ্গর
Bull shark
Carcharhinus leucas



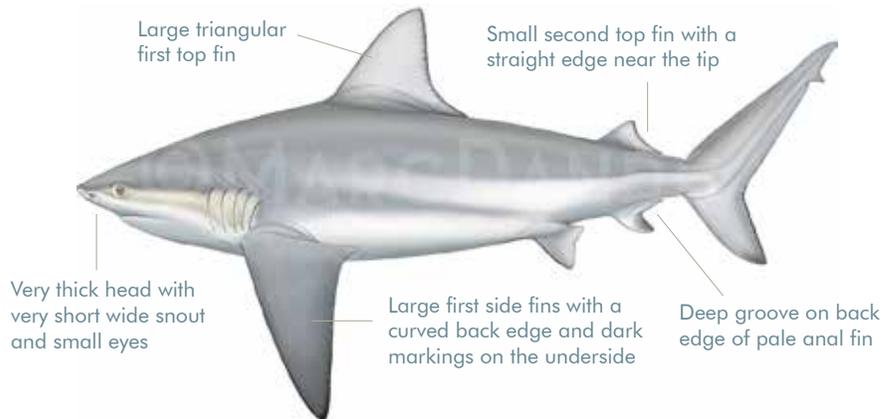
TL: Birth = 56-81,
 Adult ♂ = 157-226,
 Adult ♀ = 180-230,
 ML = 340-366



ভোঁতা বলি হাঙ্গর
Pigeye shark
Carcharhinus amboinensis



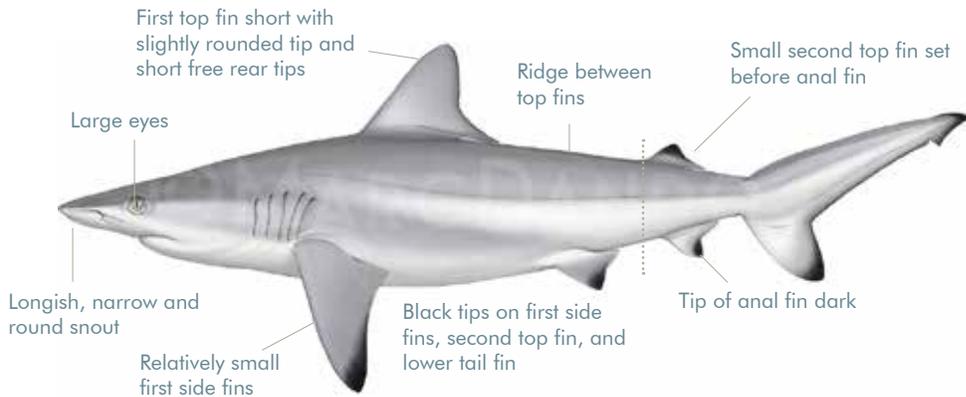
TL: Birth = 48-72,
 Adult ♂ = 195-227,
 Adult ♀ = 195-224,
 ML = 280



বড়চোখা বলি হাঙ্গর
Pondicherry shark
Carcharhinus hemiodon



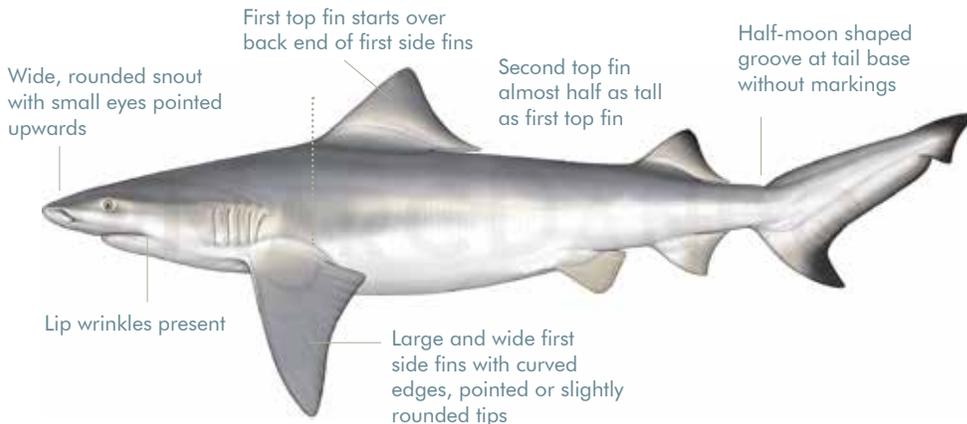
TL: Birth < 32,
 Adult ♂ = ?,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 ML = 102



গাঙ্গেয় চিনারি হাঙ্গর
Ganges shark
Glyphis gangeticus



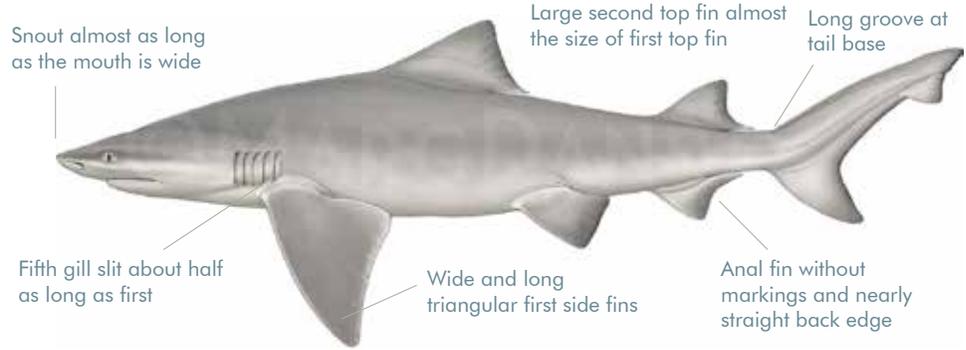
TL: Birth = 56-61,
 Adult ♂ = 178,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 ML = 266



বড়পাখ চিনারি হাঙ্গর
Broadfin shark
Lamiopsis temminckii



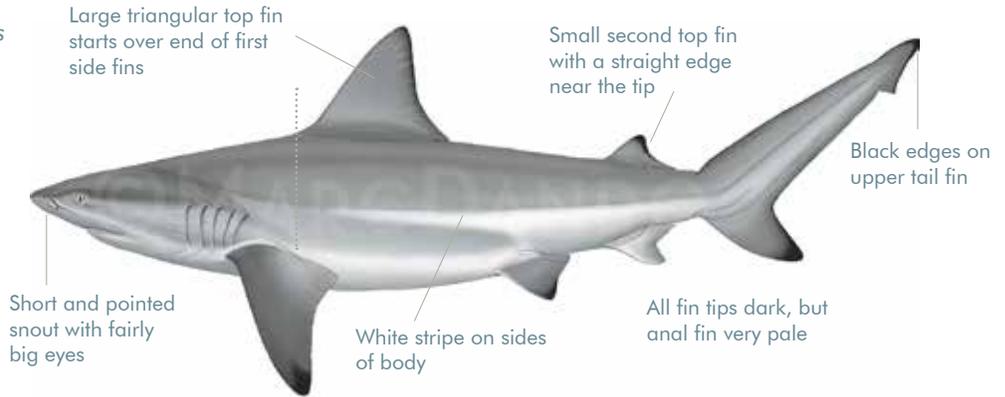
TL: Birth = 42-65,
 Adult ♂ = 137,
 Adult ♀ = 143,
 ML = 178



সাদা লতাবলি হাঙ্গর
Graceful shark
Carcharhinus amblyrhynchoides



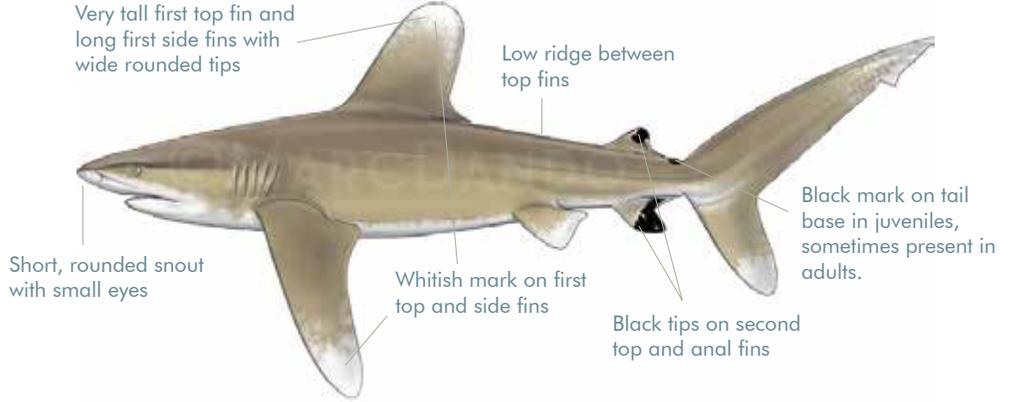
TL: Birth = 50-60,
 Adult ♂ = 140,
 Adult ♀ = 167,
 ML = 178



সাদাডগা হাঙ্গর
Oceanic whitetip shark
Carcharhinus longimanus



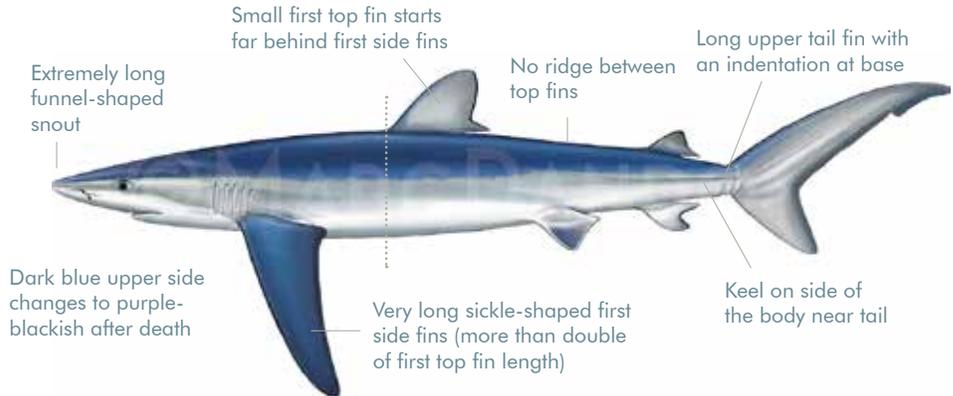
TL: Birth = 57-77,
 Adult ♂ = 168-198,
 Adult ♀ = 175-224,
 ML = 350



নীল হাঙ্গর
Blue shark
Prionace glauca



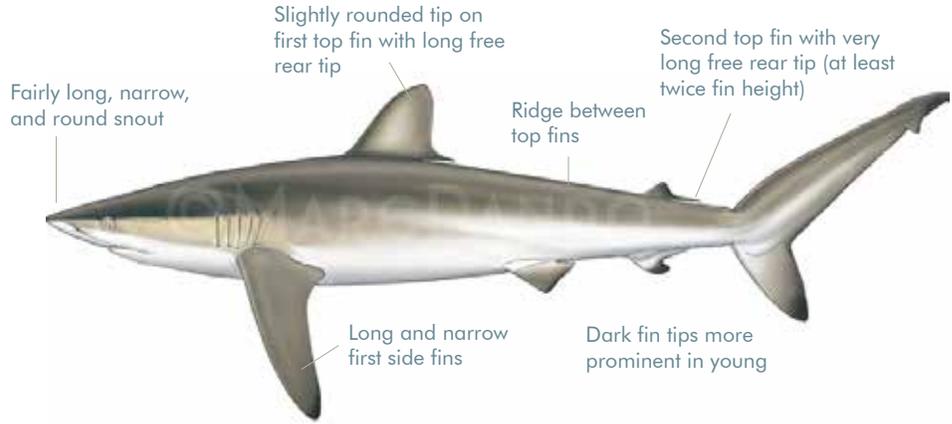
TL: Birth = 35-60,
 Adult ♂ = 183-218,
 Adult ♀ = 183-221,
 ML = 380



রেশমি হাঙ্গর
Silky shark
Carcharhinus falciformis



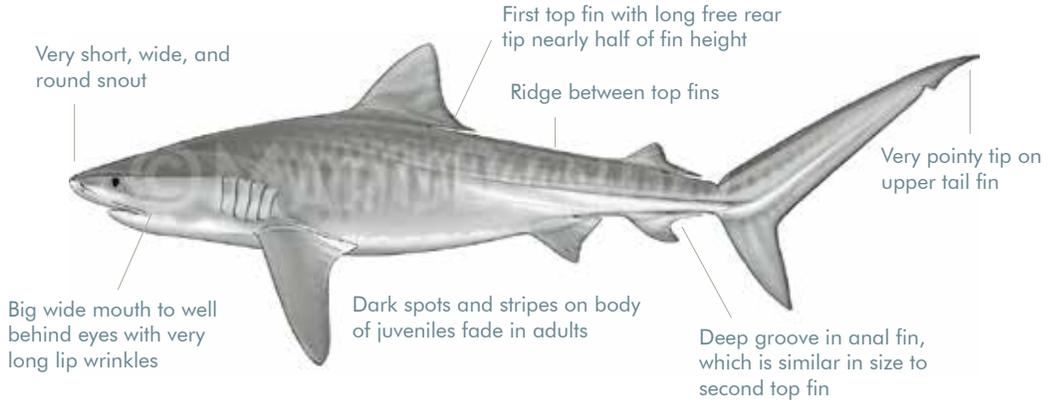
TL: Birth = 65-81,
 Adult ♂ = 180-230,
 Adult ♀ = 180-246,
 ML = 229-371



বাঘা/চিত্রা বলি হাঙ্গর
Tiger shark
Galeocerdo cuvier



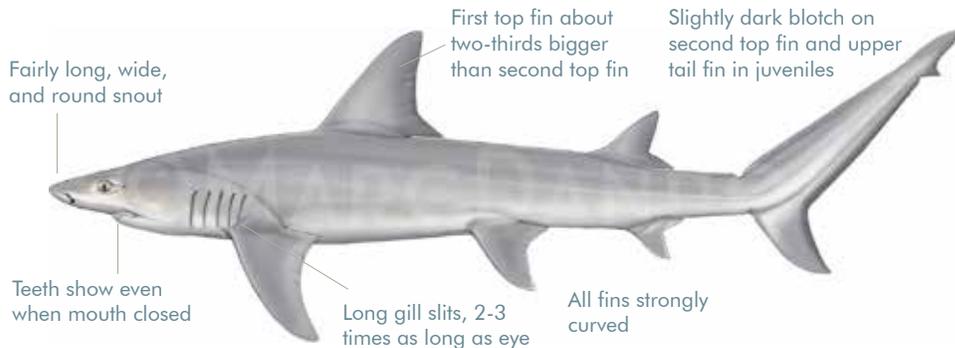
TL: Birth = 51-90,
 Adult ♂ = 250-305,
 Adult ♀ = 274-345,
 ML = 740



শিয়াল বালি হাঙ্গর
Snaggletooth shark
Hemipristis elongata



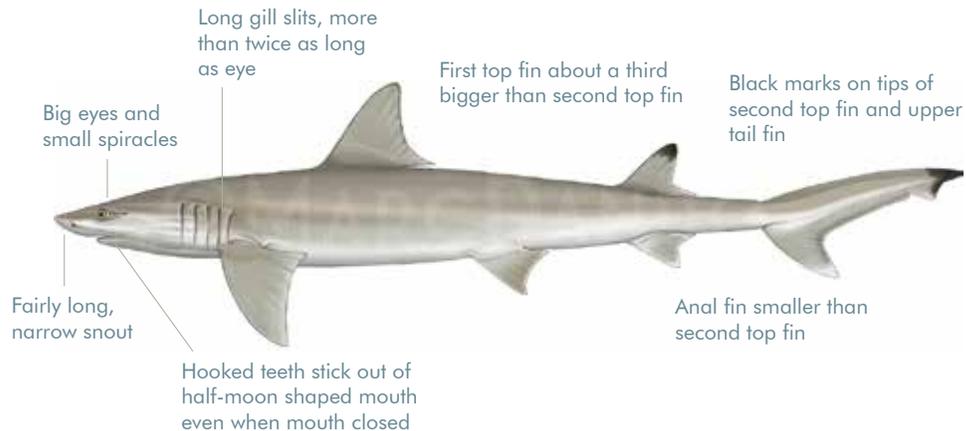
TL: Birth = 45-53,
 Adult ♂ = 110-145,
 Adult ♀ = 110-170,
 ML = 230-240



বঁড়শিদাতী হাঙ্গর
Hooktooth shark
Chaenogaleus macrostoma



TL: Birth = 20,
 Adult ♂ = 72,
 Adult ♀ = 68-97,
 ML = 125



তিমি হাঙ্গর

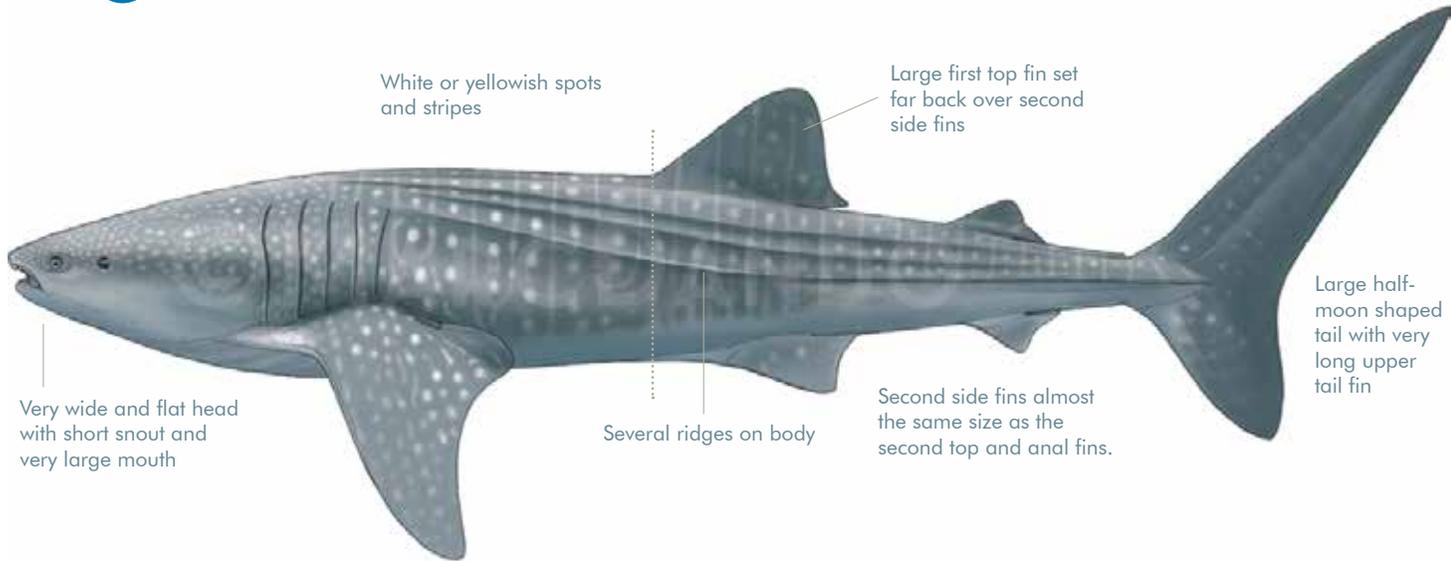
Whale shark
Rhincodon typus



TL: Birth = 55-64,
Adult ♂ = 800-1000,
Adult ♀ = 600-900,
ML = 1700-2100



Whale sharks are extremely slow growing. Males become adults when they are about 7 - 9 meters long and around 25 years old, and females at about 9 meters in length at the age of 30-40 years.



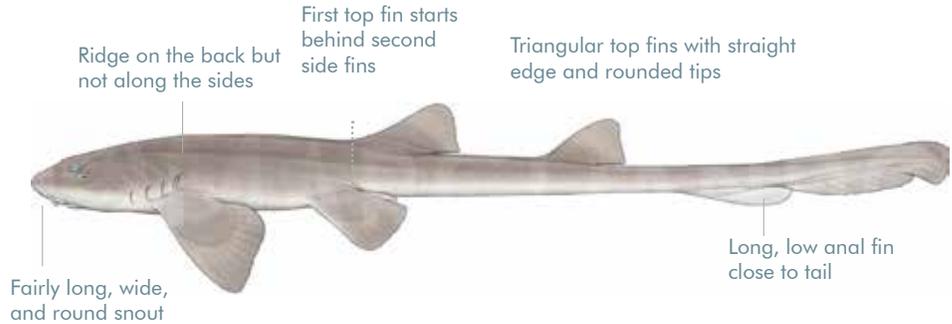


তিমি হাঙ্গর
Whale shark
Rhincodon typus

খাঁজওয়ালা গুলে হাঙ্গর
Burmese bambooshark
Chiloscyllium burmensis

VU

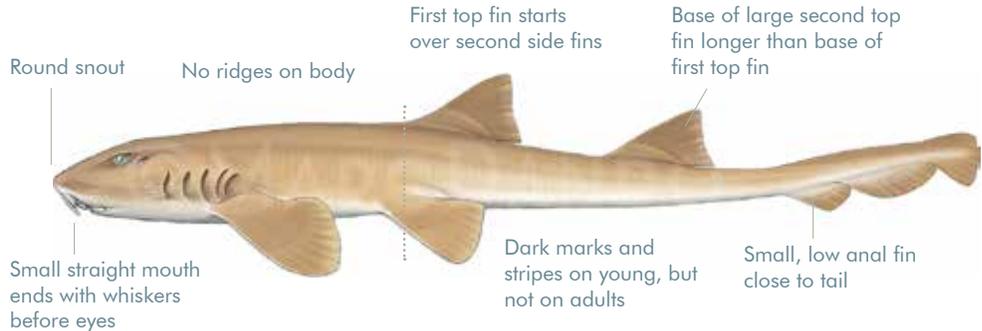
TL: Birth = ?,
 Adult ♂ = 64.5,
 Adult ♀ = 54.6,
 ML = ?



ধূসর গুলে হাঙ্গর
Grey bambooshark
Chiloscyllium griseum

VU

TL: Birth < 12,
 Adult ♂ = 45-55,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 ML = 77



ইন্দোনেশিয়ান গুলে হাঙ্গর
Indonesian Bambooshark
(Hasselt's Bambooshark)
Chiloscyllium hasselti

EN

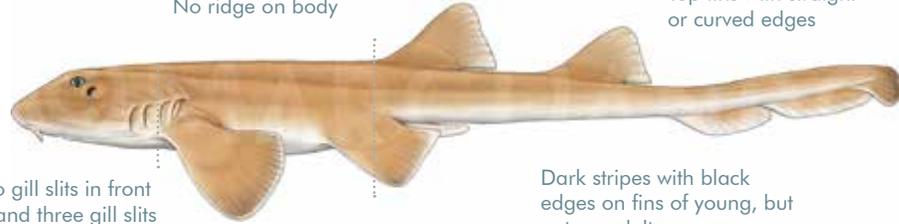
TL: Birth = 9-12,
Adult ♂ = ?,
Adult ♀ = 44-54,
ML = 88



First top fin starts over
back half of second
side fins

No ridge on body

Top fins with straight
or curved edges



Two gill slits in front
of and three gill slits
over first side fins

Dark stripes with black
edges on fins of young, but
not on adults



VU

খাঁজওয়াল গুলে হাঙ্গর
Burmese bambooshark
Chiloscyllium burmense

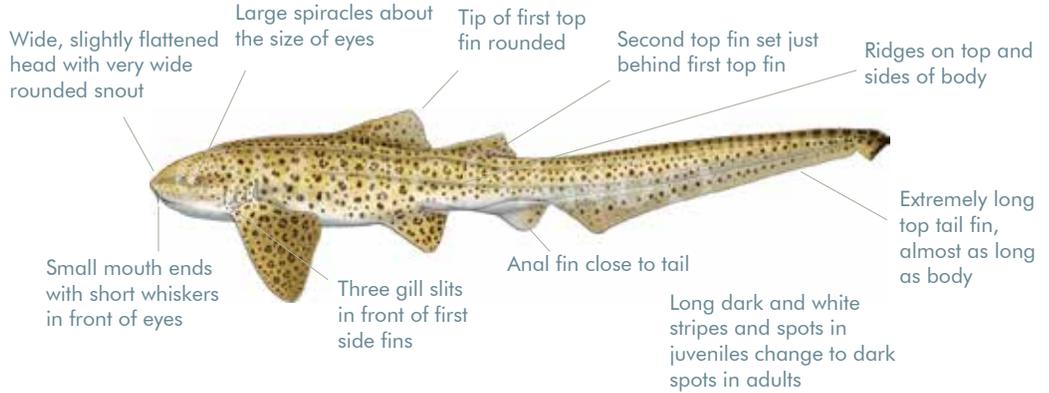
হলদে চিত্রা হাঙ্গর

Zebra shark

Stegostoma fasciatum



TL: Birth = 20-36,
Adult ♂ = 147-183,
Adult ♀ = 169-171,
ML = 235



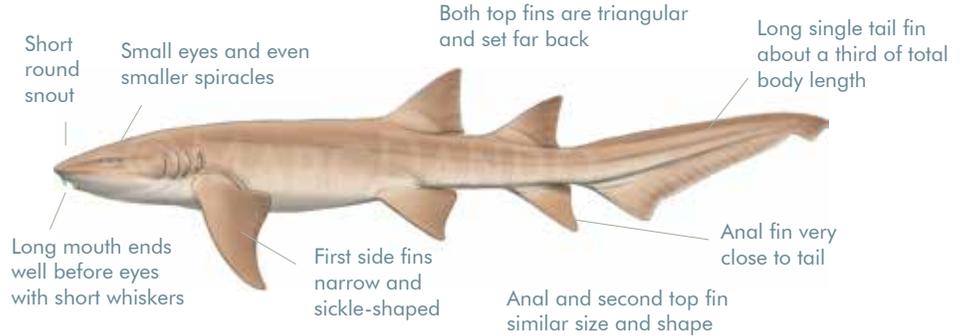
একশাখালেজী তামাটে হাঙ্গর

Tawny nurse shark

Nebrius ferrugineus



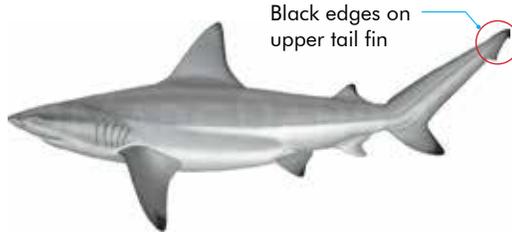
TL: Birth = 40-60,
Adult ♂ = 225-250,
Adult ♀ = 230-290,
ML = 320



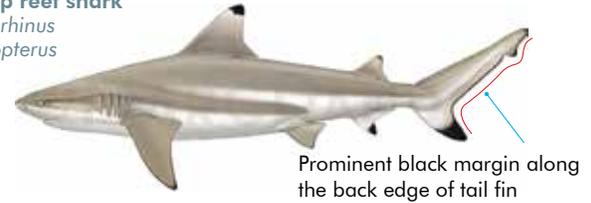
IDENTIFICATION OF LOOK-ALIKE SHARKS

Tip of upper tail fin black

সাদা লতাবলি হাঙ্গর
Graceful shark
Carcharhinus amblyrhynchoides

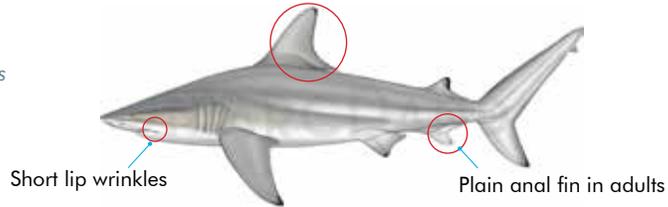


কালোডগা লতাবলি হাঙ্গর
Blacktip reef shark
Carcharhinus melanopterus



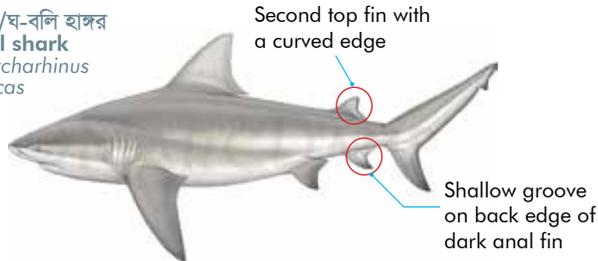
No black tip on upper tail fin

লতাবলি হাঙ্গর
Blacktip shark
Carcharhinus limbatus

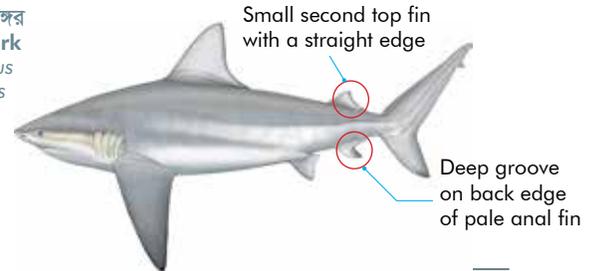


No black fin tips

বলি/ঘ-বলি হাঙ্গর
Bull shark
Carcharhinus leucas



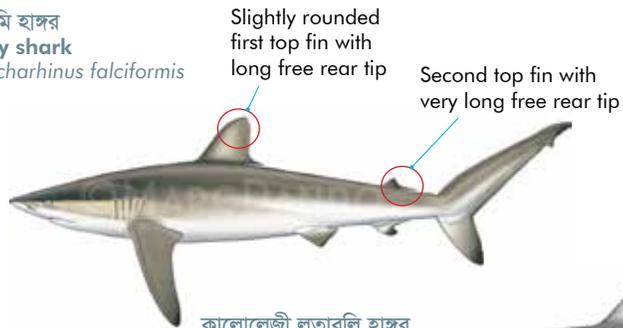
ভোঁতা বলি হাঙ্গর
Pigeye shark
Carcharhinus amboinensis



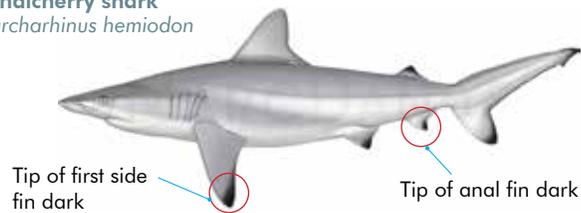
IDENTIFICATION OF LOOK-ALIKE SHARKS

Ridge between top fins present, lip wrinkles absent

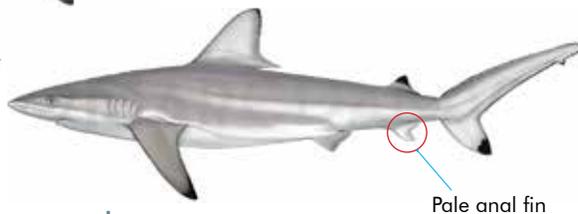
রেশমি হাঙ্গর
Silky shark
Carcharhinus falciformis



বড়চোখা বলি হাঙ্গর
Pondicherry shark
Carcharhinus hemiodon

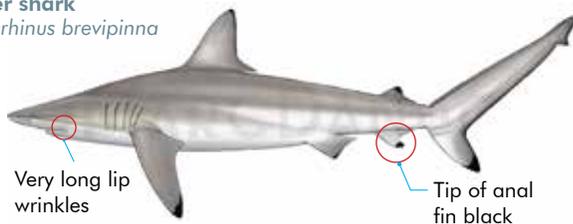


কালোলেজী লতাবলি হাঙ্গর
Spottail shark
Carcharhinus sorrah

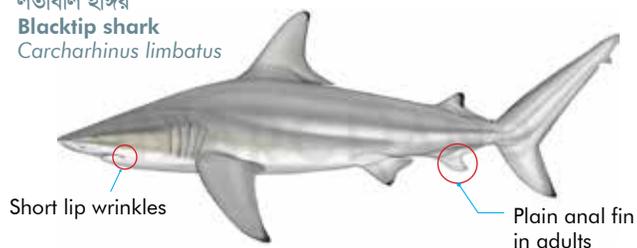


Ridge between top fins absent, lip wrinkles present

কালো লতাবলি হাঙ্গর
Spinner shark
Carcharhinus brevipinna

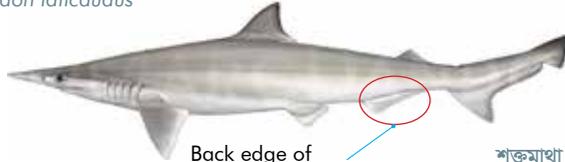


লতাবলি হাঙ্গর
Blacktip shark
Carcharhinus limbatus



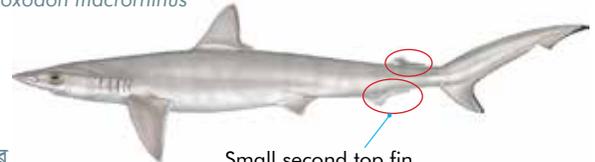
Small holes at mouth ends absent

ছুরি/কোদালনাক হাঙ্গর
Spadenose shark
Scoliodon laticaudus



Back edge of anal fin straight with no insertion

অঞ্জলিচোখা হাঙ্গর
Sliteye shark
Loxodon macrorhinus



Small second top fin and anal fin with very long free rear tip

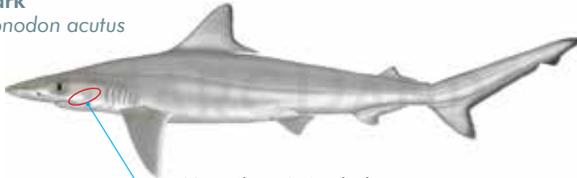
শক্তমাথা লতাবলি হাঙ্গর
Hardnose shark
Carcharhinus macloti



Long, narrow and hard snout

Small holes at mouth ends present

সাদা লতাবলি হাঙ্গর
Milk Shark
Rhizoprionodon acutus



More than 8 tiny holes at mouth ends

আঠাইল্যা/সোনালী লতাবলি হাঙ্গর
Grey sharpnose shark
Rhizoprionodon oligoinx

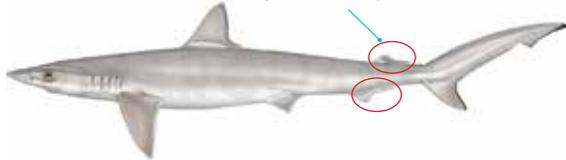


3-8 tiny holes at mouth ends

IDENTIFICATION OF LOOK-ALIKE SHARKS

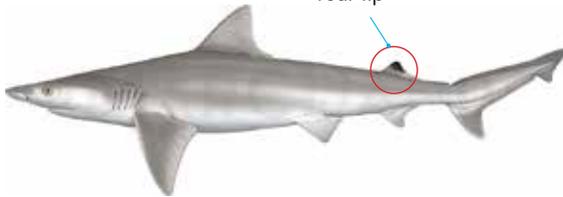
অঞ্জলিচোখা হাঙ্গর
Sliteye shark
Loxodon macrorhinus

Small second top fin
and anal fin with very
long free rear tip



সাদাখুতনি হাঙ্গর
Whitecheek shark
Carcharhinus dussumieri

Black mark only on
second top fin with short
rear tip



বুঁড়শিদাতী হাঙ্গর
Hooktooth shark
*Chaenogaleus
macrostoma*

Tip of second
top and upper
tail black



শিয়াল বালি হাঙ্গর
Snaggletooth shark
Hemipristis elongata

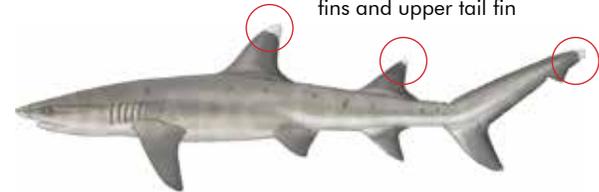
All fins strongly curved



Teeth shown even
when mouth closed

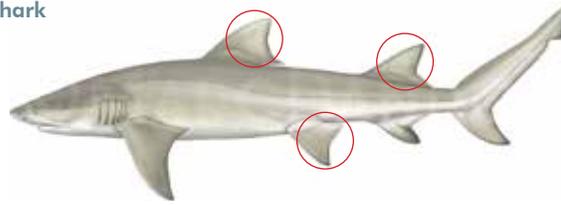
সাদাপাখ বালি হাঙ্গর
Whitetip reef shark
Triaenodon obesus

White tip on both top
fins and upper tail fin



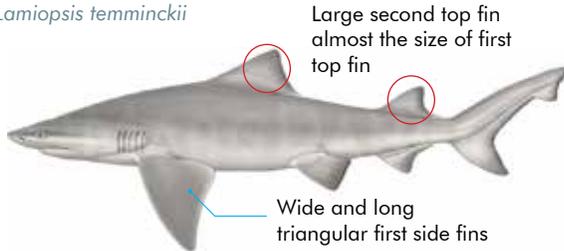
Top fins and second side fin same size

দাগহীন বলি হাঙ্গর
Sharptooth lemon shark
Negaprion acutidens

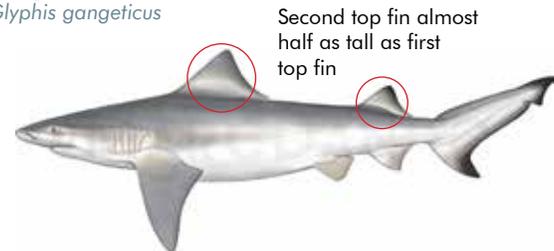


Top fins and second side fin not same size

বড়পাখ চিনারি হাঙ্গর
Broadfin shark
Lamiopsis temminckii



গাঙ্গেয় চিনারি হাঙ্গর
Ganges shark
Glyphis gangeticus

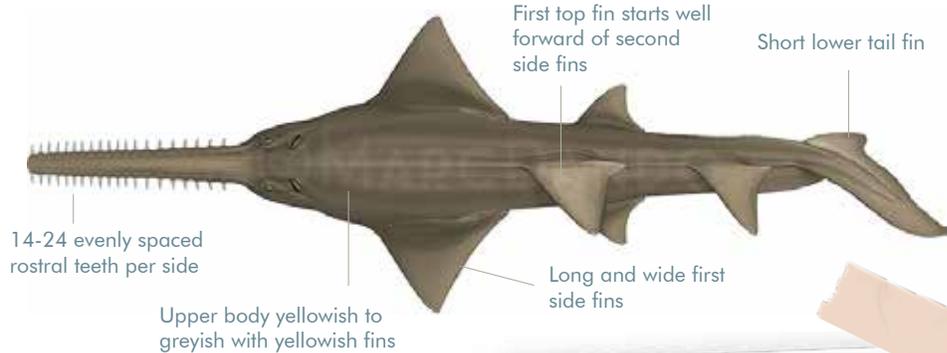


KEY TO RAY SPECIES IN BANGLADESH

বড়দাঁতী করাত মাছ
Largetooth sawfish
Pristis pristis



TL: Birth = 72-90,
 Adult ♂ = 280-300,
 Adult ♀ = 300,
 ML = 700



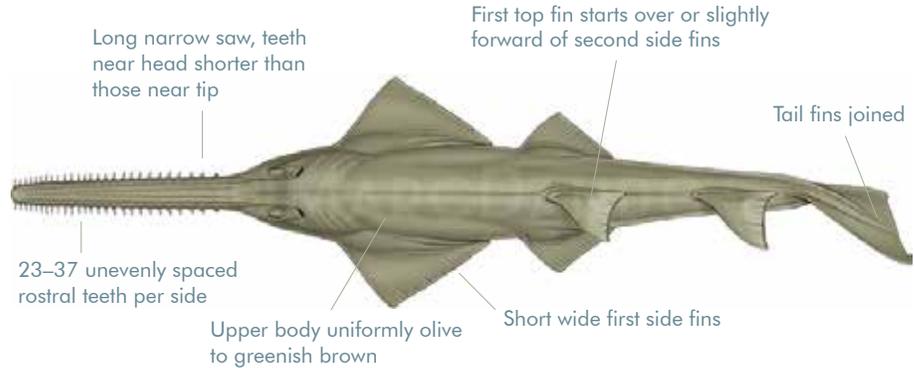
Largetooth sawfish can grow up to seven meters long and live for about thirty years. They start giving birth after the age of ten. A long, flat, and saw-shaped snout helps sawfish find and stun prey. It easily gets entangled in fishing gear.

Sawfish are among the most endangered animals in the world. Bangladesh is a last stronghold for sawfish in the Indian Ocean. They are strictly protected in Bangladesh.

সবুজ করাত মাছ
Green Sawfish
Pristis zijsron



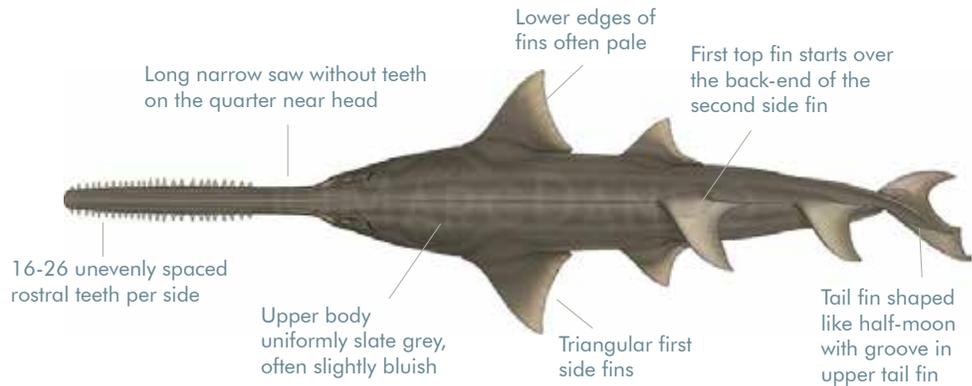
TL: Birth = 80,
 Adult ♂ = 430,
 Adult ♀ = 430,
 ML = 730



চিকন করাত মাছ
Narrow/pointed sawfish
Anoxypristis cuspidata



TL: Birth = 43-70,
 Adult ♂ = 200,
 Adult ♀ = 225,
 ML = 470



বোতলনাক পিতাম্বর

Bottlenose Wedgefish
Rhynchobatus australiae



মসৃণনাক পিতাম্বর

Smoothnose wedgefish
Rhynchobatus laevis



গোলনাক পিতাম্বর/ব্যাঙ হাঙ্গর

Bowmouth guitarfish
Rhina ancylostoma



© Pradip Patade

সাদাফেঁটা বাংলা পিতাম্বর

Bengal guitarfish
Rhinobatos annandalei



মসৃণপিঠ পিতাম্বর

Smoothback guitarfish
Rhinobatos lionotus



শাখালেজী পিতাম্বর **Wedgefishes** *Rhinidae*

পিতাম্বর **Guitarfishes** *Rhinobatidae*

সরলনাক পিতাম্বর
Sharpnose guitarfish
Glaucostegus granulatus



বাংলাদেশি পিতাম্বর
Bangladeshi guitarfish
Glaucostegus younholeei



© Habib and Islam

বড় পিতাম্বর
Giant guitarfish
Glaucostegus typus



চ্যাপ্টানাক পিতাম্বর
Widenose guitarfish
Glaucostegus obtusus



গোদানাক পিতাম্বর
Clubnose guitarfish
Glaucostegus thouin



© Randall

বড় পিতাম্বর **Giant Guitarfishes** *Glaucostegiidae*

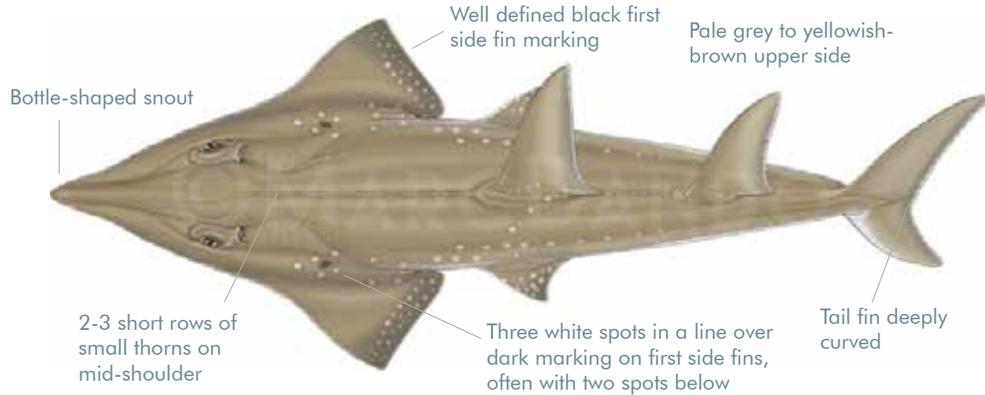


All rhino rays (guitarfishes, giant guitarfishes, wedgefishes) are strictly protected.

বোতলনাক পিতাম্বরি
Bottlenose wedgefish
Rhynchobatus australiae



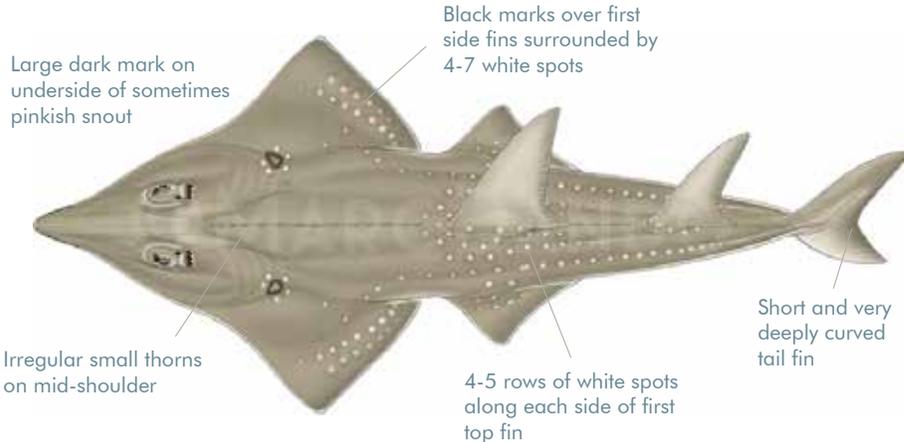
TL: Birth = 46-50,
 Adult ♂ = 110-130,
 Adult ♀ = 150,
 ML = 300



মসৃণনাক পিতাম্বরি
Smoothnose wedgefish
Rhynchobatus laevis



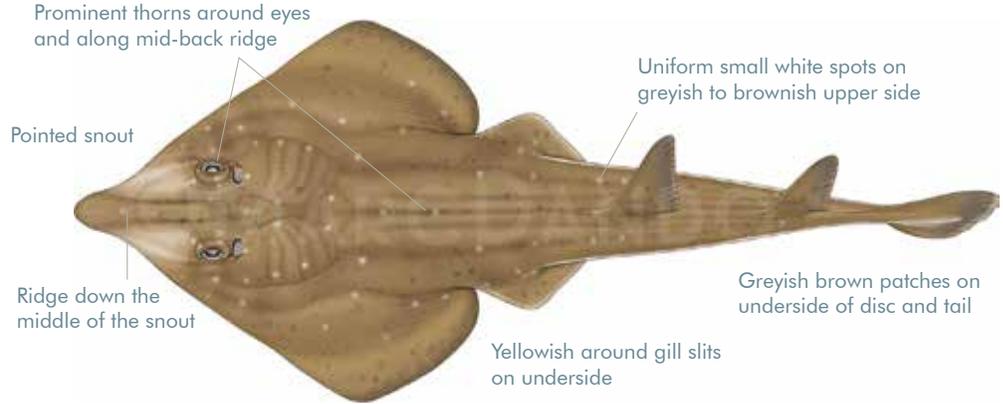
TL: Birth = ?,
 Adult ♂ = 130,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 ML = 200



সাদাফোঁটা বাংলা পিতাম্বর
Bengal guitarfish
(Annandale's guitarfish)
Rhinobatos annandalei



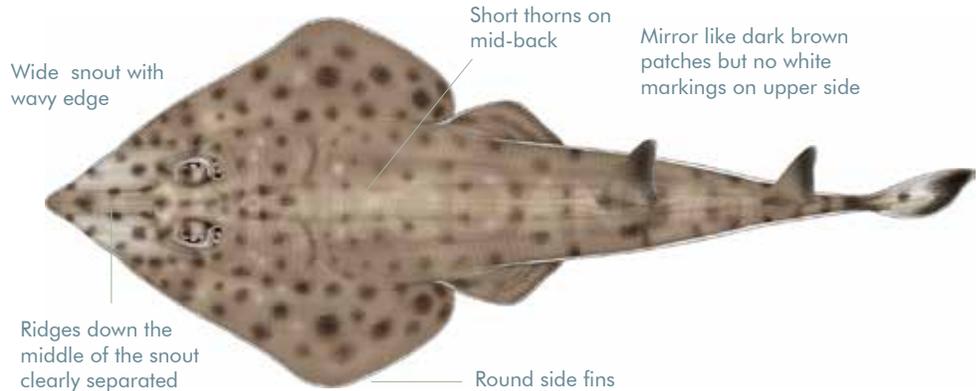
TL: Birth = ?,
 Adult ♂ = 63,
 Adult ♀ = 65,
 ML = 95



মসৃণপিঠ পিতাম্বর
Smoothback guitarfish
Rhinobatos lionotus



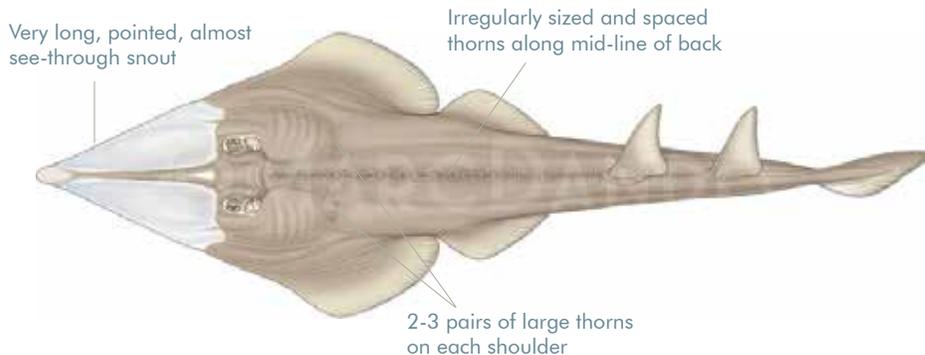
TL: Birth = 15,
 Adult ♂ = 40,
 Adult ♀ = 48,
 ML = 85



সরুশীর্ষক পিতাম্বর
Sharpnose guitarfish
Glaucostegus granulatus



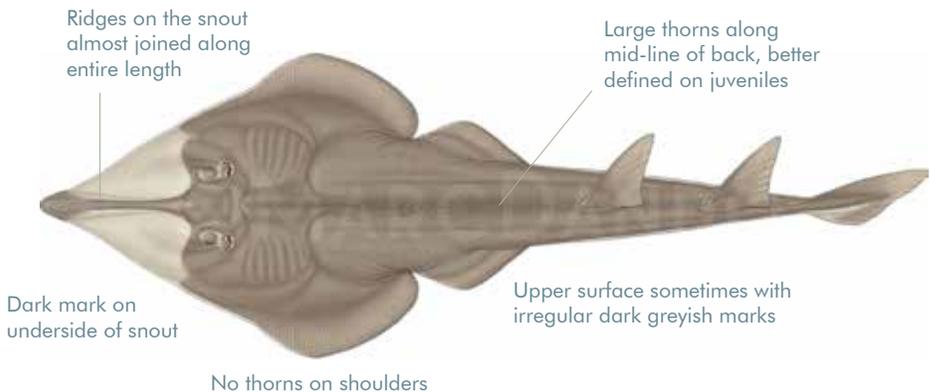
TL: Birth = 39,
 Adult ♂ = ?,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 ML = 229



বড় পিতাম্বর
Giant guitarfish
Glaucostegus typus



TL: Birth = 38-40,
 Adult ♂ = 150-180,
 Adult ♀ = 150-180,
 ML = 270



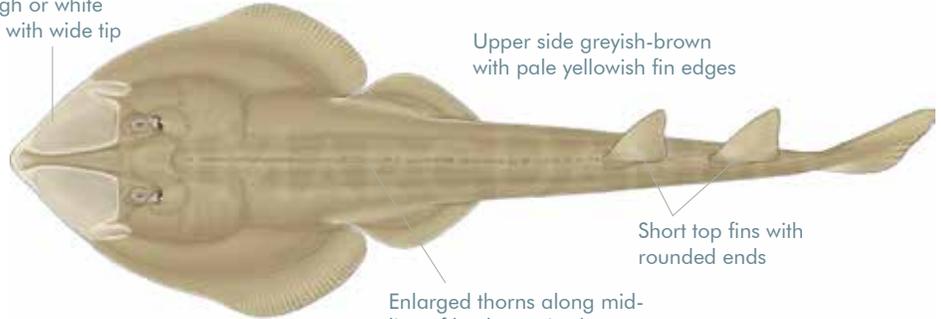
চ্যাপ্টানাক পিতাম্বরি
Widenose guitarfish
Glaucostegus obtusus



TL: Birth = ?,
 Adult ♂ = 48,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 ML = 93



Short, almost see-through or white snout with wide tip



Upper side greyish-brown with pale yellowish fin edges

Short top fins with rounded ends

Enlarged thorns along mid-line of back vary in shape

No thorns on shoulders

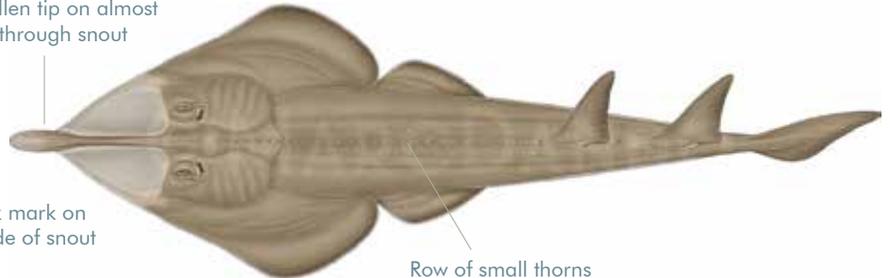
গোদানাক পিতাম্বরি
Clubnose guitarfish
Glaucostegus thouin



TL: Birth = ?,
 Adult ♂ = ?,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 ML = 300



Swollen tip on almost see-through snout



No dark mark on underside of snout

Row of small thorns along mid-line of back

No large thorns on snout or head

বাংলাদেশি পিতাম্বর
Bangladeshi guitarfish
Glaucostegus younholeei



TL: Birth = ?,
 Adult ♂ = ?,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 ML = 93



Snout moderately long,
 triangular and bluntly pointed

Moderately large, brownish
 or greyish body



© Habib and Islam

2 pairs of large thorns
 on each shoulder

Second side fins long,
 short-based

ব্যাঙ হাঙ্গর/গোলনাক পিতাম্বর
Bowmouth guitarfish
 (Shark ray)
Rhina ancylostoma

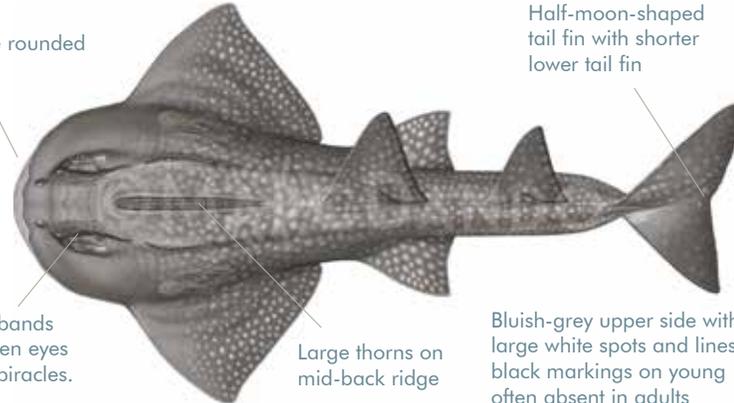


TL: Birth = 46-48,
 Adult ♂ = 150-175,
 Adult ♀ = 180,
 ML = 270



Wide rounded
 head

Half-moon-shaped
 tail fin with shorter
 lower tail fin



Dark bands
 between eyes
 and spiracles.

Large thorns on
 mid-back ridge

Bluish-grey upper side with
 large white spots and lines,
 black markings on young
 often absent in adults

দাগহীন বাদামী কারেন্ট মাছ
Brown numbfish
Narcine timlei



TL: Birth = 6,
 Adult ♂ = 14,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 ML = 36



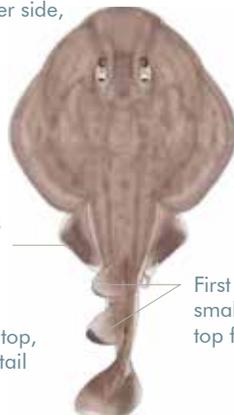
Plain upper side,
 no spots

Whitish underside

Second side fins
 wider than long

Whitish edges on top,
 second side, and tail
 fins

First top fin slightly
 smaller than second
 top fin



ভোঁতা মুখ কারেন্ট মাছ
Shortlip numbfish
Narcine brevilabiata



TL: Birth = 8,
 Adult ♂ = 23,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 ML = 32



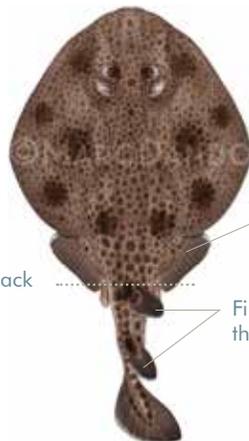
Upper side covered
 with many very small
 dark brown dots and
 a few large spots

Greyish spots on
 underside of second
 side fins and disc

Second side fins
 medium-sized

First top fin starts over back
 end of second side fin

First top fin slightly taller
 than second top fin



বড়ফোঁটা বাদামী কারেন্ট মাছ
Chinese numbfish
Narcine lingula



TL: Birth = 11,
 Adult σ = 24-27,
 Adult q = ?,
 ML = 35



ছোটফোঁটা বাদামী কারেন্ট মাছ
Smallspot numbfish
Narcine maculata

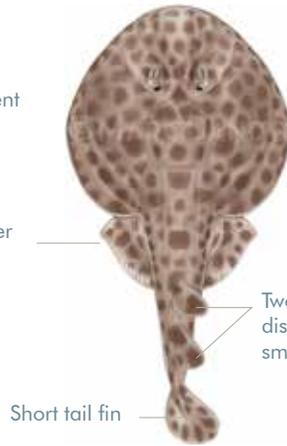


TL: Birth = 13,
 Adult σ = 28,
 Adult q = ?,
 ML = 40



Pale brownish upper side covered with large spots of different shapes and sizes

Second side fins wider than long with edges curved outward



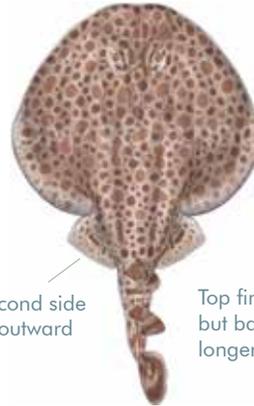
Whitish underside, often with darker edges

Two top fins similar in size, distance between them smaller than base length

Short tail fin

Brownish upper side covered with many dark spots the size of its eyes or smaller

Edges of second side fins curved outward



Whitish underside sometimes with darker edges

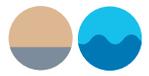
Some spots merged into elongated blotches

Top fins similar in size, but base of second longer than of first

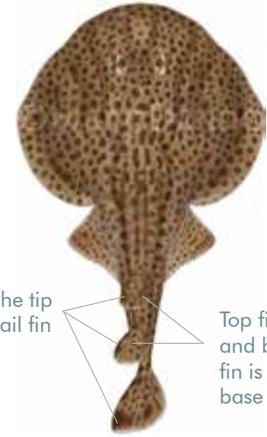
কালোফোঁটালেজী কারেন্ট মাছ
Tonkin numbfish
Narcine prodorsalis

EN

TL: Birth = ?,
 Adult ♂ = ?,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 ML = 46.6



Dark brown or blackish-brown small spots shaped like eyes on upper surface



Whitish underside

Large spots on the tip of top fins and tail fin

Top fins with rounded tips and base of second top fin is slightly longer than base of first top fin

সাদাফোঁটা কারেন্ট মাছ
Spottail sleeper ray
Narke dipterygia

VU

TL: Birth = 10,
 Adult ♂ = 15,
 Adult ♀ = 15,
 ML = 35



Body shaped like a tear drop with very wide, almost straight front



Very small eyes, smaller than spiracles

Wide triangular but blunt second side fins

Whitish spots on upper side, where the second side fins start and the first side fins end, and at the tail base

Single top fin smaller than tail fin set over second side fin

Oval tail fin

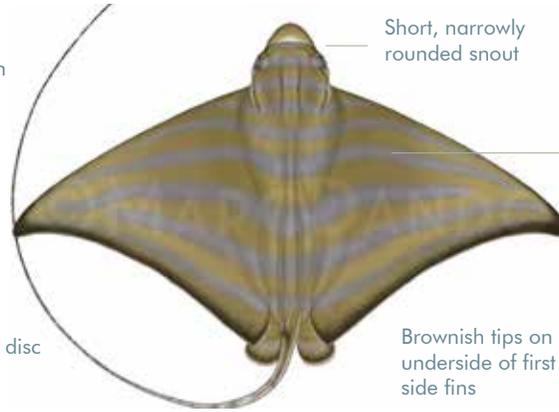
ডোরাকাটা ঝুইট্যা
Banded eagle ray
Aetomylaeus nichofii



DW: Birth = 17,
 Adult ♂ = 39-42,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 MW = 72



No thorns on upper side



Short, narrowly rounded snout

Up to 8 V-shaped greyish-blue bands across greyish-brown upper side

Brownish tips on underside of first side fins

Tail longer than disc width, no spine

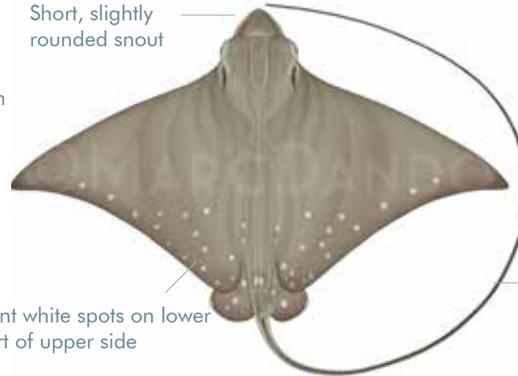
কাঁটাহীন কমফোঁটা ঝুইট্যা
Mottled eagle ray
Aetomylaeus maculatus



DW: Birth = 29,
 Adult ♂ = 54-72,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 MW = 100



No thorns on upper side



Short, slightly rounded snout

Very long tail (3-4 1/2 times disc width) without spine

Faint white spots on lower part of upper side

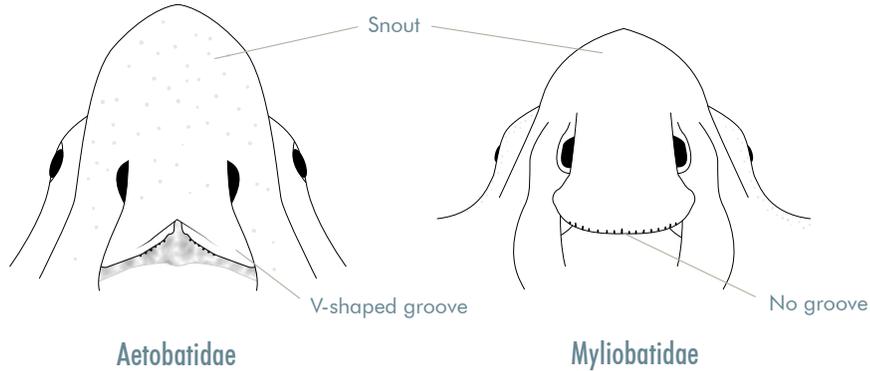
কাঁটাহীন বেশিফোঁটা ঠুইট্যা
Ocellate eagle ray
Aetomylaeus milvus



DW: Birth = ?,
 Adult ♂ = 50,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 MW = 123



Distinguishing features of Eagle Rays
 Underside (Ventral)



লম্বামাথা ফোঁটাহীন ঠুইট্যা
Longhead eagle ray
Aetobatus flagellum



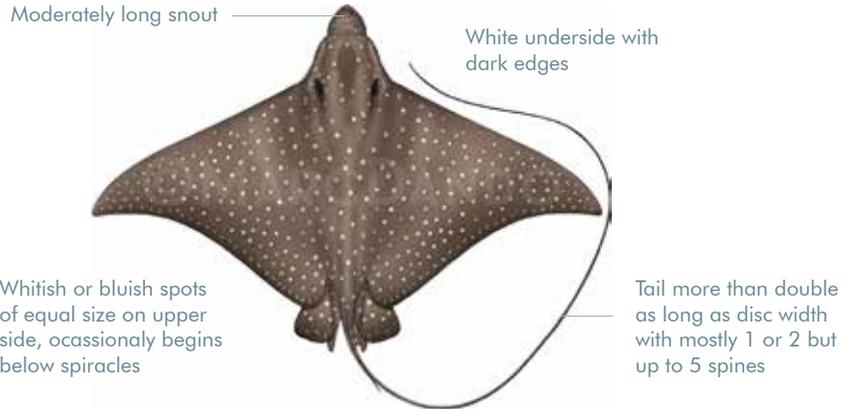
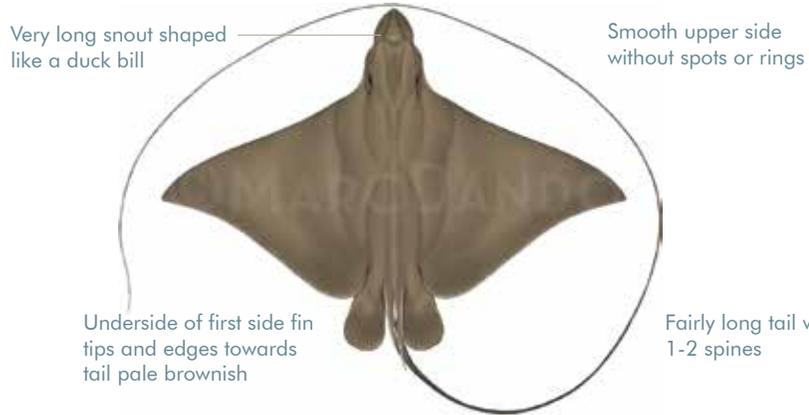
DW: Birth = 23,
 Adult ♂ = 50,
 Adult ♀ = 75,
 MW = 90



কাঁটায়ুক্ত ফুল ঠুইট্যা
Spotted eagle ray
Aetobatus ocellatus



DW: Birth = 33-36,
 Adult ♂ = 100-110,
 Adult ♀ = 150,
 MW = 330





EN



CITES II

লুইমনি/সাদাপিঠ শিংচোয়াইন
Giant manta ray
Mobula birostris

লুইমনি/সাদাপিঠ শিংচোয়াইন
Giant manta ray
Mobula birostris



DW: Birth = 122-200,
 Adult ♂ = 350-400,
 Adult ♀ = 380-500,
 MW = 910



সাদাপেট শিংচোয়াইন
Spinetail devilray
(Giant devilray)
Mobula mobular



DW: Birth = 90,
 Adult ♂ = 198-205,
 Adult ♀ = 236,
 MW = 520



Headfins large, extend to meet together in center of mouth

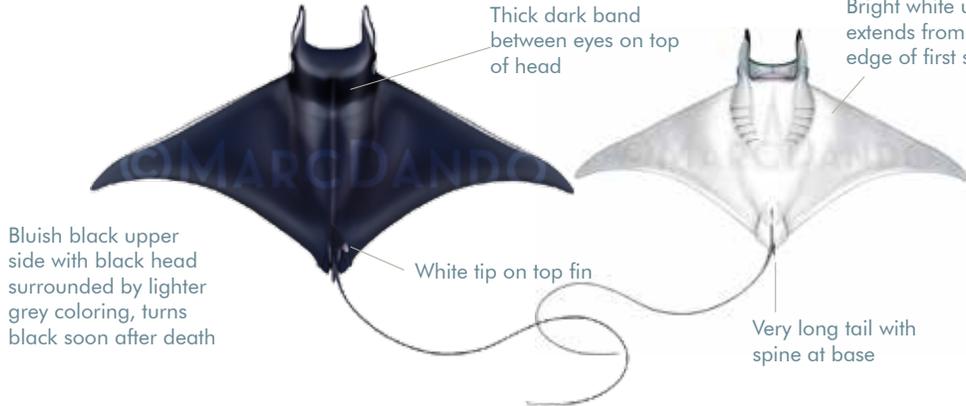
Large black spot particularly on fifth gill slit

Black T-shaped pattern on shoulders

Dark black bands along edges of first side fins

White tip on top fin

Clusters of spots on lower part of underside



Thick dark band between eyes on top of head

Bright white underside extends from eyes to front edge of first side fin

Bluish black upper side with black head surrounded by lighter grey coloring, turns black soon after death

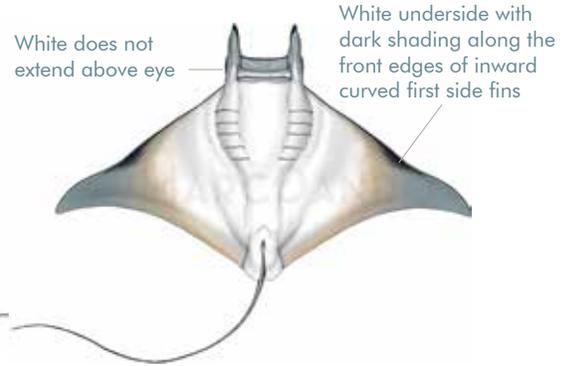
White tip on top fin

Very long tail with spine at base

বাঁকাপাখ শিংচোয়াইন
Bentfin devilray
Mobula thurstoni



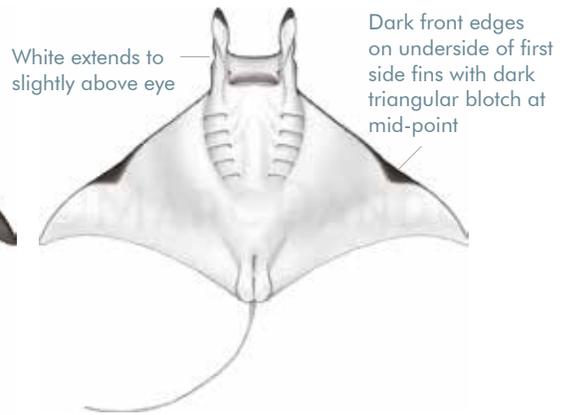
DW: Birth = 70-90,
 Adult ♂ = 150-158,
 Adult ♀ = 150-163,
 MW = 197



লম্বাশিংওয়ালা শিংচোয়াইন
Longhorned pygmy devil ray
Mobula eregodoo



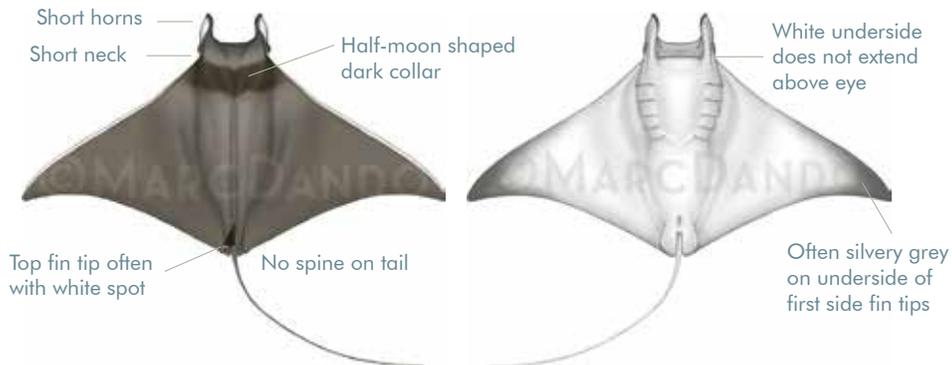
DW: Birth = 43,
 Adult ♂ = 99,
 Adult ♀ = 92.5,
 MW = 130



ছোটপাখ শিংচোয়াইন
Shortfin devilray
 (Kuhl's devilray)
Mobula kuhlii



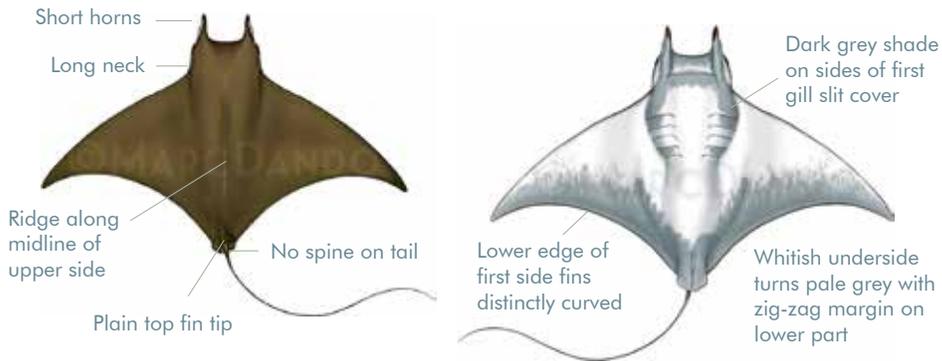
DW: Birth = 31-34,
 Adult ♂ = 115,
 Adult ♀ = 116,
 MW = 135



ধূসরপেট শিংচোয়াইন
Sicklefin devilray
 (Chilean devilray)
Mobula tarapacana



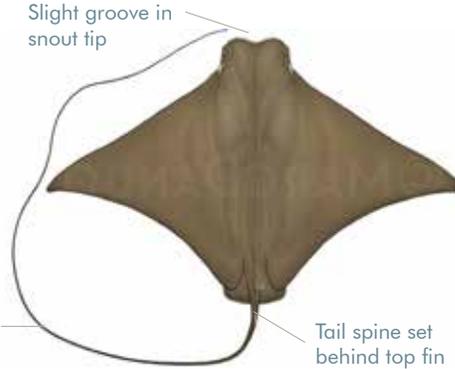
DW: Birth = 120-130,
 Adult ♂ = 198-250,
 Adult ♀ = 270-280,
 MW = 370



লম্বালেজী ঘাপরি
Javanese cownose ray
Rhinoptera javanica



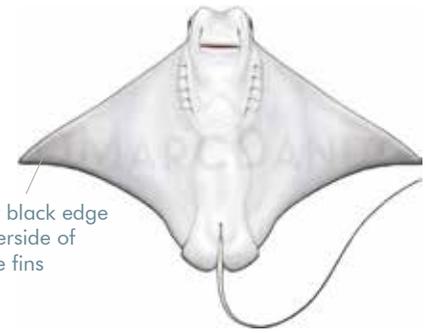
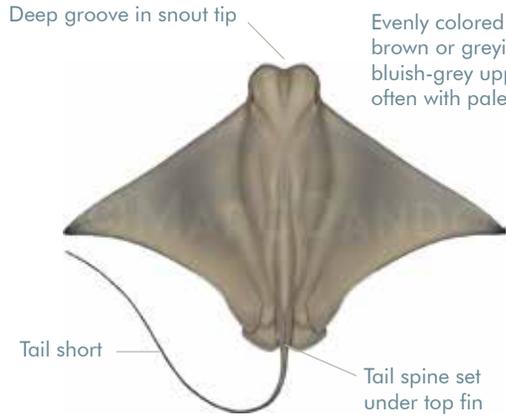
DW: Birth = 30,
 Adult ♂ = ?,
 Adult ♀ = 128,
 MW = 165



খাটোলেজী ঘাপরি
Oman cownose ray (Shorttail cownose ray)
Rhinoptera jayakari



DW: Birth = ?,
 Adult ♂ = 78,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 MW = 90



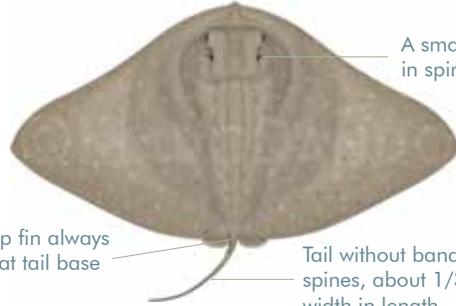
লেজে ফোঁটাহীন পদুনি
Tentacled butterfly ray
Gymnura tentaculata



DW: Birth = ?,
 Adult ♂ = 40,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 MW = 85



Light to dark brown upper side often with many small whitish dots



A small whisker in spiracle

Small top fin always present at tail base

Tail without bands or spines, about 1/3 of disc width in length

সাদাফোঁটা পদুনি
Zonetail butterfly ray
Gymnura zonura



DW: Birth = 20-21,
 Adult ♂ = 48,
 Adult ♀ = 78,
 MW = 108



Brown upper side often with many small whitish dots



Sometimes with small top fin at tail base

Tail with a sting and 6-10 black bands and single dark spots between them, about 1/3 of disc width in length

লম্বালেজী পদুনি
Longtail butterfly ray
Gymnura poecilura



DW: Birth = 22-26,
Adult ♂ = 35,
Adult ♀ = 41,
MW = 104



Long tail (up to half of disc width) with 8-14 black bands, but tail bands less clear in very large individuals



Smooth light to dark brown upper side sometimes with black dots or with faint whitish spots



সাদাফোঁটা পদুনি
Zonetail butterfly ray
Gymnura zonura

খাঁজহীন চোখামুখ ফাইসি
Bengal whipray
Brevitrygon imbricata

VU

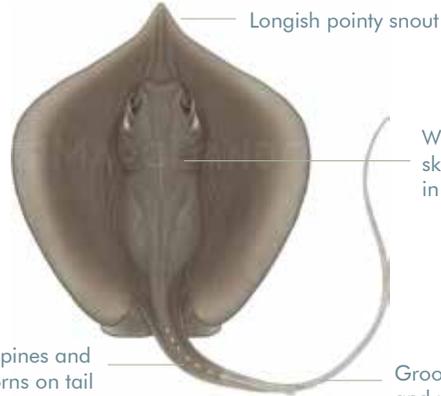
DW: Birth = 10,
Adult ♂ = 20-21,
Adult ♀ = 21,
MW = 29



Very small body with brownish to greenish-brown upper side and paler edges

Yellowish edge on underside of second side fin

Usually 2 spines and up to 6 thorns on tail



VU

খাঁজহীন চোখামুখ ফাইসি
Bengal whipray
Brevitrygon imbricata



খাঁজযুক্ত চোখামুখ ফাইসি
Scaly whipray
Brevitrygon walga

NT

DW: Birth = 7-10,
 Adult ♂ = 20,
 Adult ♀ = 22,
 MW = 32



Very small body with brownish to greenish-brown upper side and paler edges

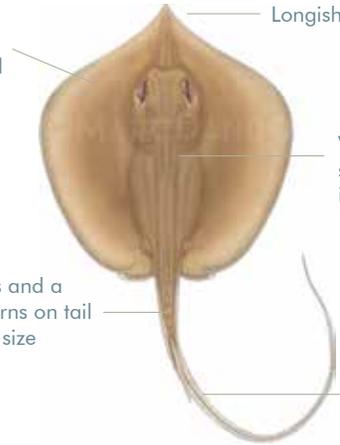
Yellowish edge on underside of second side fin

1-3 spines and a row of thorns on tail varying in size

Longish pointy snout

Wide band of rough skin between shoulders in adults

No groove on upperside but only has in underside side of tail



ঘুড়ি শাপলাপাতা
Bennett's stingray
Hemistrygon bennetti

VU

DW: Birth = 13-15,
 Adult ♂ = 32,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 MW = 61



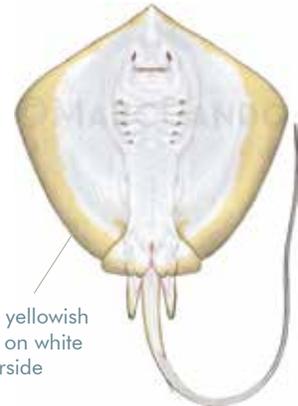
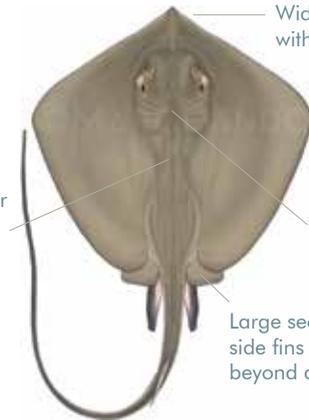
Short and small row of thorns on each shoulder and along its mid-line ends before tail spine

Wide triangular snout with pointed tip

Y-shaped band of rough skin on upper side from eyes to lower disc

Large second side fins extend beyond disc

Wide yellowish edge on white underside



সাদাফোঁটা শাপলাপাতা
Smalleye stingray
Megatrygon microps



DW: Birth = 33,
 Adult ♂ = ?,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 MW = 222

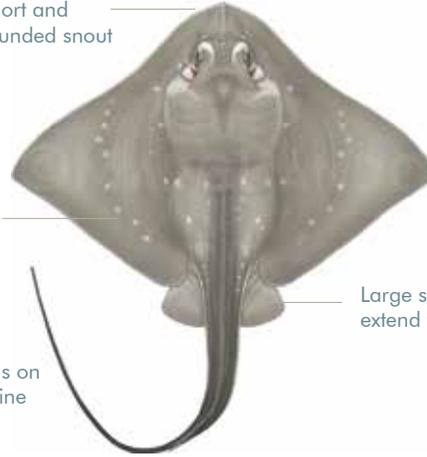


Disc covered with many
 tiny star-shaped pearls
 but no large ones

Rows of white spots at
 base of first side fins

Small thorns on
 tail after spine

Short and
 rounded snout



Large second side fins
 extend well beyond disc

White underside often
 with dusky disc edges and
 underside of tail before
 spine

কালোদাগী ঘুড়ি শাপলাপাতা
Jenkins' whipray
Pateobatis jenkinsii



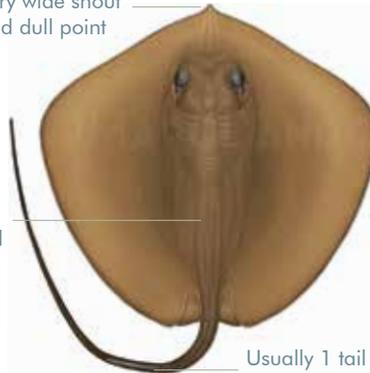
DW: Birth = 23,
 Adult ♂ = 70,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 MW = 150



A band of rough skin
 between shoulders and
 along mid-line of the
 upper side all the way
 to tail spine

Disc with very
 wide shoulder

Very wide snout
 and dull point



Usually 1 tail spine
 in young with up
 to 3 in adults

White underside



Tail blackish
 beyond spine



EN

পাইনা/বাইলা শাপলাপাতা
Giant Freshwater whipray
Urogymnus polylepis

গোল শাপলাপাতা
Round whipray
Maculabatis pastinacoides



DW: Birth = 15-16,
 Adult ♂ = 43-46,
 Adult ♀ = 58,
 MW = 86



Wide band of rough skin on mid-line of oval disc

Tail blackish after spine

Usually 1-2 large pearls on the middle of disc



Snout short but wide triangular

White underside sometimes with narrow greyish edges

জাতি শাপলাপাতা
Whitespotted whipray
Maculabatis gerrardi



DW: Birth = 13-21,
 Adult ♂ = 48-58,
 Adult ♀ = 63,
 MW = 116



White underside sometimes with wide dark edges

One large thorn and few smaller thorns adjacent to it



Wide triangular snout with a swollen tip

Diamond-shaped disc with band of rough skin along mid-line on back in adults, no thorns or pearls.

Many white spots only on lower part of upper side

রাশ্মি/চুনি শাপলাপাতা
Bleeker's whipray
Pateobatis bleekeri



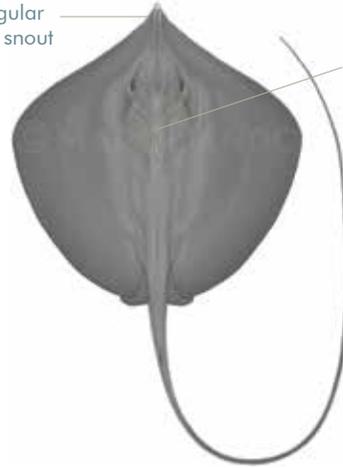
DW: Birth = 21,
 Adult ♂ = 51,
 Adult ♀ = 51,
 MW = 119



One large pearl mid-shoulder with a few smaller ones around it, but no other patches of rough skin or pearls

Rounded tips on first and second side fins

Widely triangular and pointed snout



Flask-shaped denticle band on the disc

White underside with dark edges in young turns almost entirely dark with occasional whitish marks in adults

সাদানাক শাপলাপাতা
Whitenoze whipray
Pateobatis uarnacoides

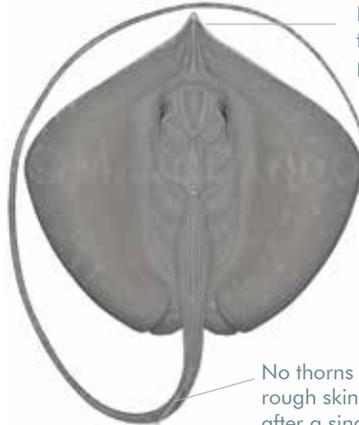


DW: Birth = 18,
 Adult ♂ = 50,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 MW = 119



Usually two big pearls on mid-disc much larger than those adjacent

Long, narrowly triangular and pointed snout



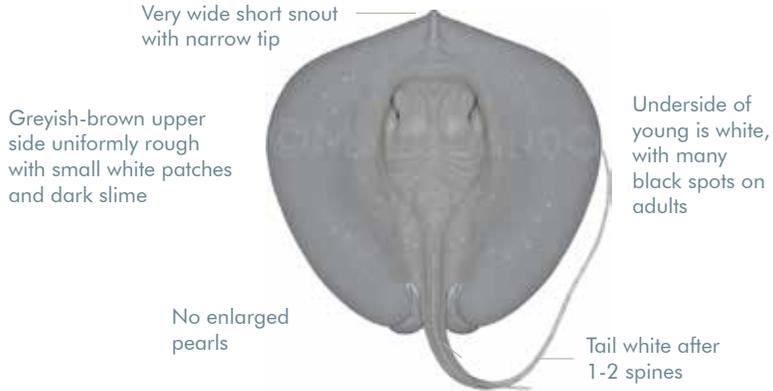
Greyish brown underside with paler center

No thorns on tail but rough skin patches after a single spine

সাদাদাগী বাদা শাপলাপাতা
Mangrove whipray
Urogymnus granulatus



DW: Birth = 14-28,
 Adult ♂ = 55-65,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 MW = 141



পাইল্লা/বাইলা শাপলাপাতা
Giant freshwater whipray
Urogymnus polylepis



DW: Birth = 30,
 Adult ♂ = 110,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 MW = 223



চোঙামুখ শাপলাপাত
Tubemouth whipray
Urogymnus lobistomus

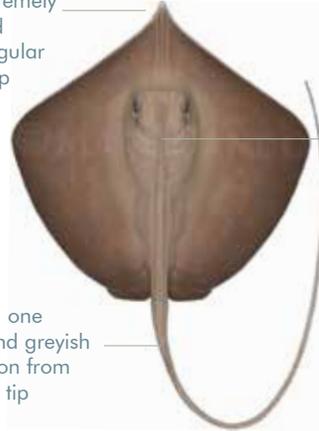


DW: Birth = 19,
 Adult ♂ = 49,
 Adult ♀ = 70,
 MW = 100



2-4 small pearls
 mid-shoulder

Snout extremely
 elongated
 with triangular
 pointed tip



Rough skin patches
 along mid-line of
 otherwise smooth disc

Denticle band
 triangular in front

White underside with
 dark nostrils and gill slits

Tail with one
 spine and greyish
 coloration from
 spine to tip

সজার শাপলাপাত
Porcupine ray
Urogymnus asperrimus



DW: Birth = ?,
 Adult ♂ = 90,
 Adult ♀ = 100,
 MW = 115



Very short snout with
 small swollen tip



Oval disc with extremely
 rough and thorny upper
 surface and tail

Thorny tail same length
 as disc width, no spines,
 back half blackish tip

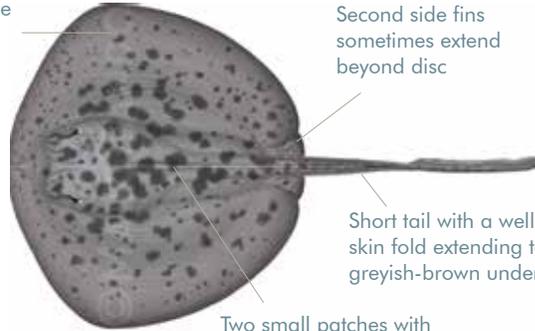
কালোদাগী শাপলাপাতা
Blotched fantail ray
(Blotched stingray)
Taenirops meyeri



DW: Birth = 30-35,
 Adult ♂ = 100-110,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 MW = 180



Round disc with white and black marks on upper side



Second side fins sometimes extend beyond disc

Short tail with a well-developed skin fold extending to tail tip and greyish-brown underside

Two small patches with small, short thorns on each shoulder in adults

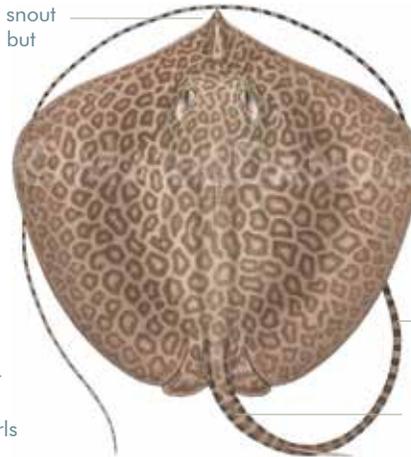
বড়দাগী বাঘা শাপলাপাতা
Honeycomb whipray
(Bleeker's variegated whipray)
Himantura undulata



DW: Birth = 26-27,
 Adult ♂ = 60-70,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 MW = 130



Narrow triangular snout with small swollen but pointed tip



Large dark marks on upper side of young grow into many large dark rings in adults

Weak bands on tail after spine

Pattern extends to tail up to spine.

Large yellowish pearl mid- shoulder followed by 2-3 slightly smaller pearls

চ্যাপ্টানাক বাঘা শাপলাপাতা
Coach whipray
(Reticulated whipray)
Himantura varnak

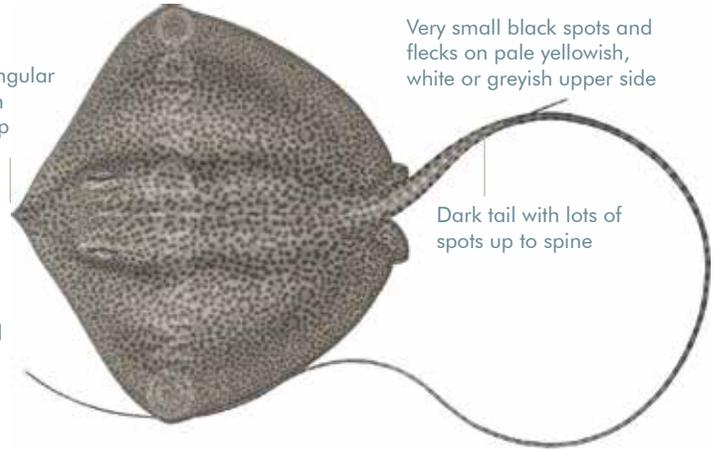


DW: Birth = 21-28,
 Adult ♂ = 82,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 MW = 160



1-3 small heart-shaped
 pearls with no other
 enlarged pearls

Wide triangular
 snout with
 pointed tip



Very small black spots and
 flecks on pale yellowish,
 white or greyish upper side

Dark tail with lots of
 spots up to spine

ছেটদাগী বাঘা শাপলাপাতা
Leopard whipray
Himantura leoparda



DW: Birth = 20,
 Adult ♂ = 70-80,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 MW = 140



Usually 2 large heart-shaped
 pearls after a row of up to 13
 smaller pearls of similar shape

Wide triangular
 snout with small swollen but
 pointed tip



Large black spots on newborns
 grow into many medium-sized dark
 rings on a whitish or yellowish-
 brown upper side in adults

Spots and rings
 extend up to spine
 on tail, beyond
 which tail is banded

নপুরা/নীলফোঁটা ফুল শাপলাপাতা
Bluespotted maskray
Neotrygon caeruleopunctata

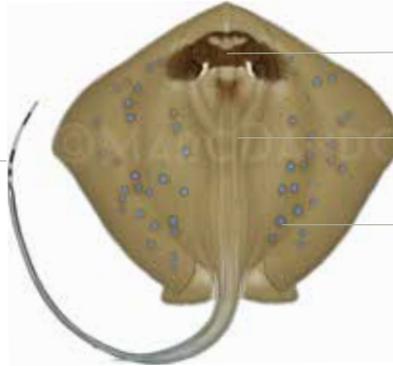
LC

DW: Birth = 17,
 Adult ♂ = 31,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 MW = 47



Dark underside of tail
 with bands near tip

White underside
 with dark band
 along edges



Markings
 around eye

Small thorns along mid-
 line from shoulders to
 above cloaca

Small and medium-
 sized blue spots on
 disc with only a few or
 none on shoulders

নাকপুরা/নীলফোঁটা শাপলাপাতা
Kuhl's maskray
Neotrygon kuhlii

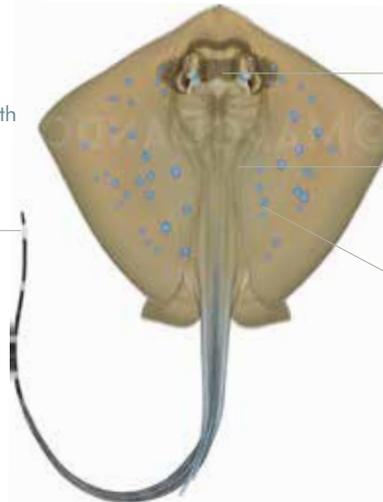
DD

DW: Birth = ?,
 Adult ♂ = ?,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 MW = 30



White underside with
 dark fin edges

Greyish-blue tail
 with black and white
 bands at tip



Markings around
 eyes like a mask

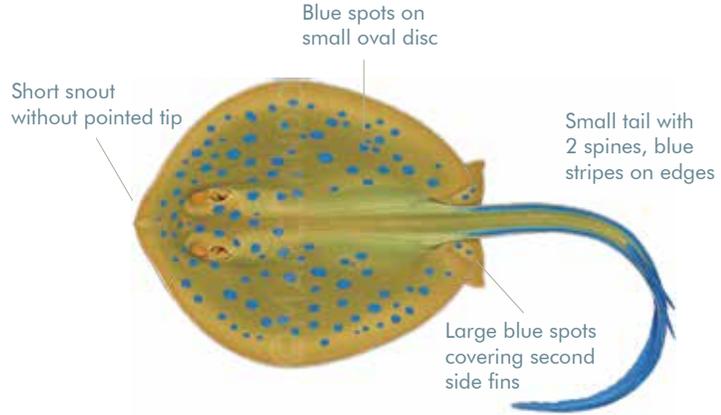
Row of thorns along
 mid-line of back but
 not on tail

Very few bluish spots
 placed far apart

চ্যাপ্টালেজী নীলফোঁটা শাপলাপাতা
Bluespotted lagoon ray
(Bluespotted fantail ray)
Taeniura lymna



DW: Birth = 13-14,
Adult ♂ = 20,
Adult ♀ = ?,
MW = 35



নপুরা/নীলফোঁটা ফুল শাপলাপাতা
Bluespotted maskray
Neotrygon caeruleopunctata

সরুনাংক হাঙরাইল
Roughnose cowtail ray
Pastinachus solocirostris



DW: Birth = 20,
 Adult ♂ = 36-39,
 Adult ♀ = 50-60,
 MW = 72



Diamond-shaped disc with triangular pointed snout

Small pearls on mid-back

Brown upper side with slightly pale or pinkish edges



Underside of disc and tail usually white

Wide skin fold on tail

1 or 2 spines far back on tail

চ্যাপ্টানাংক হাঙরাইল
Cowtail ray
Pastinachus sephen



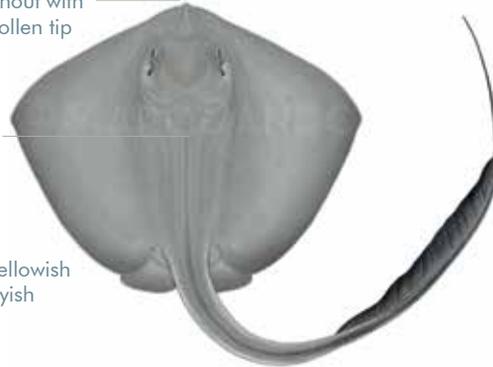
DW: Birth = ?,
 Adult ♂ = ?,
 Adult ♀ = ?,
 MW = 89



Short snout with tiny swollen tip

2 small pearls on mid shoulder in young, usually absent in adults

Upper side yellowish brown to greyish

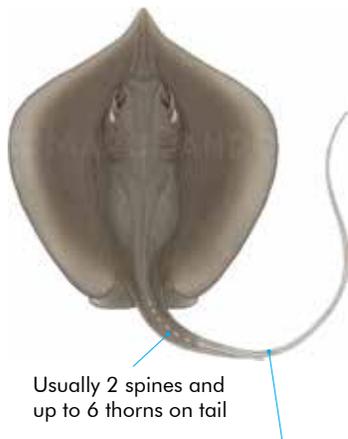


Underside mostly white with narrow black edges

One tail spine far back on tail and wide skin fold on tail which has a black tip

IDENTIFICATION OF LOOK-ALIKE RAYS

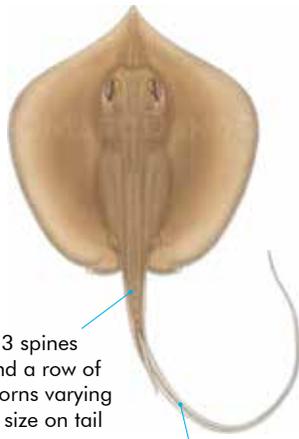
খাঁজহীন চোখামুখ ফাইসি
Bengal whipray
Brevitrygon imbricata



Usually 2 spines and
up to 6 thorns on tail

Groove on
both upper and
underside of tail

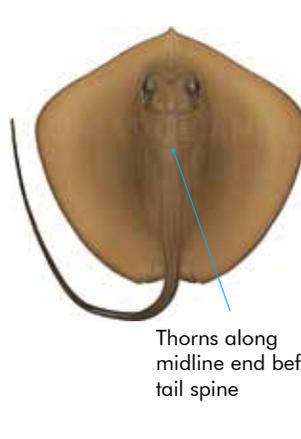
খাঁজযুক্ত চোখামুখ ফাইসি
Scaly whipray
Brevitrygon walga



1-3 spines
and a row of
thorns varying
in size on tail

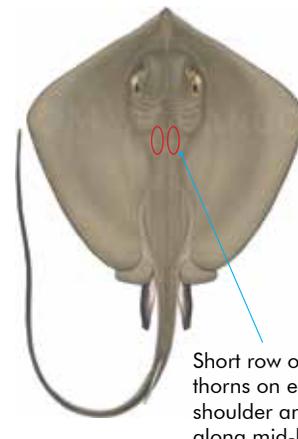
No groove on upper side
but groove on underside
side of tail

কালোদাগী ঘুড়ি শাপলাপাতা
Jenkins' whipray
Pateobatis jenkinsii



Thorns along
midline end before
tail spine

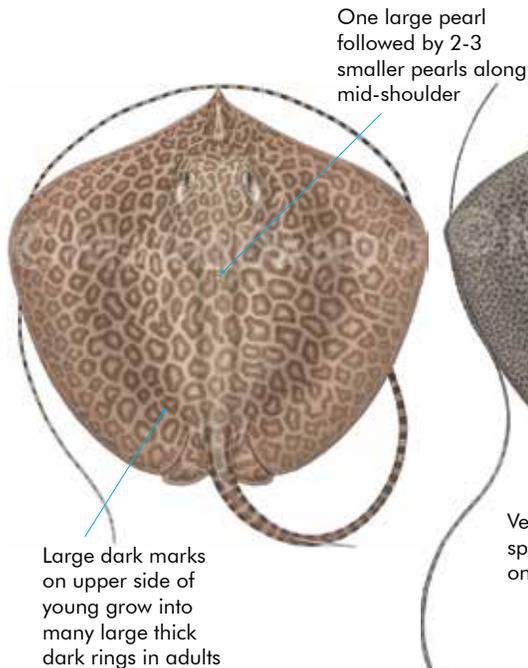
ঘুড়ি শাপলাপাতা
Bennett's stingray
Hemitrygon bennetti



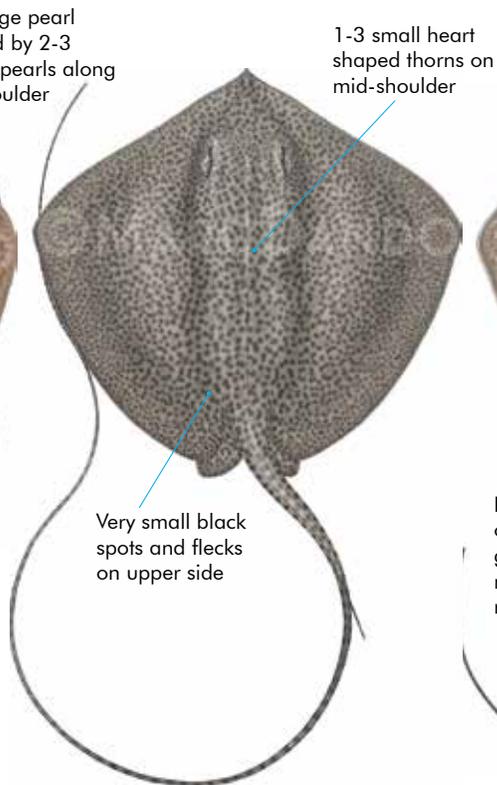
Short row of
thorns on each
shoulder and
along mid-line
ending before
tail spine

IDENTIFICATION OF LOOK-ALIKE RAYS

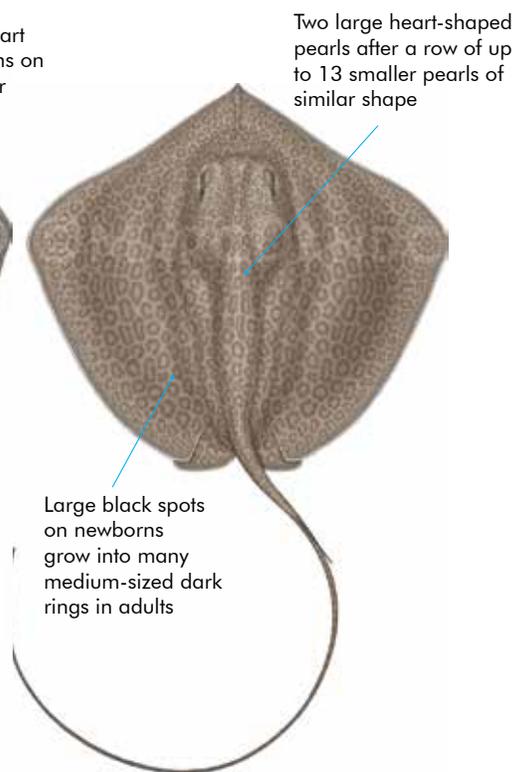
বড়দাগী বাঘা শাপলাপাতা
Honeycomb whipray
Himantura undulata



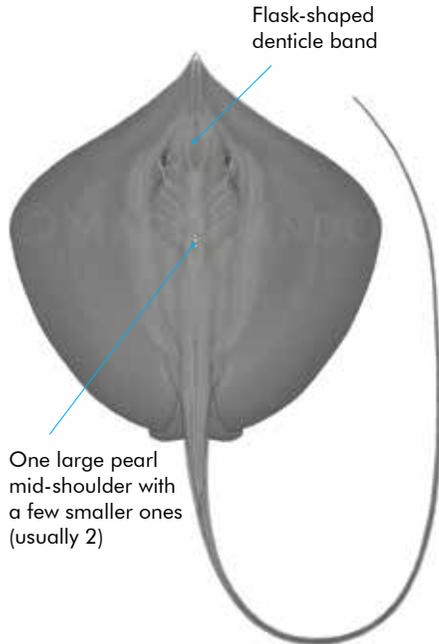
চ্যাপ্টানাক বাঘা শাপলাপাতা
Coach (Reticulated) whipray
Himantura uarnak



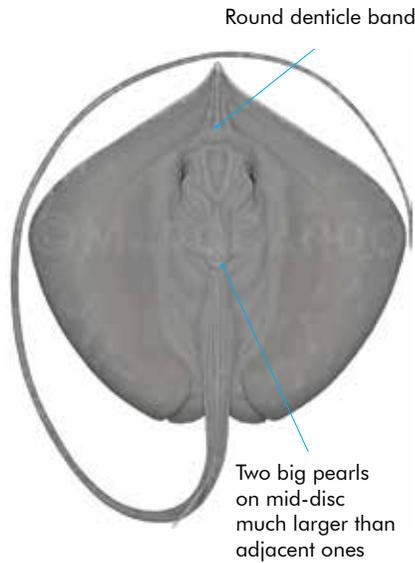
ছোটদাগী বাঘা শাপলাপাতা
Leopard whipray
Himantura leoparda



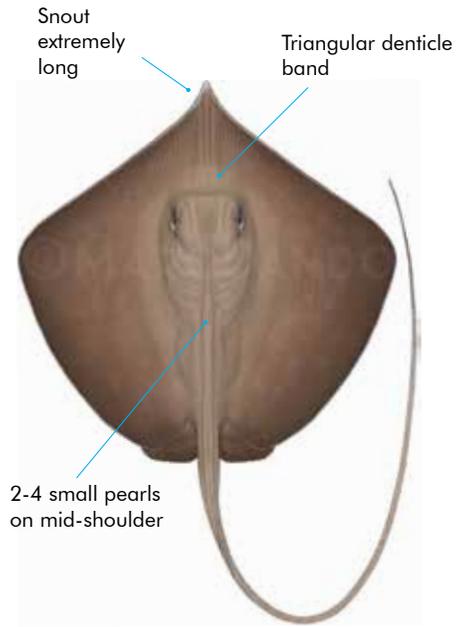
রাম্মি/চুনি শাপলাপাতা
Bleeker's whipray
Pateobatis bleekeri



সাদানাক শাপলাপাতা
Whitenose whipray
Pateobatis varnacoides

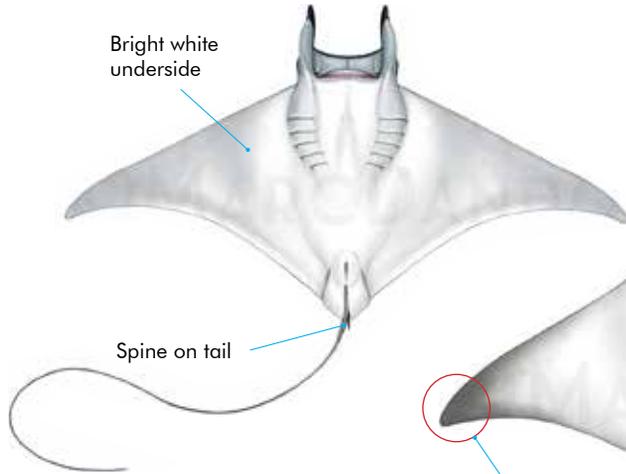


চোঙামুখ শাপলাপাতা
Tubemouth whipray
Urogymnus lobistomus

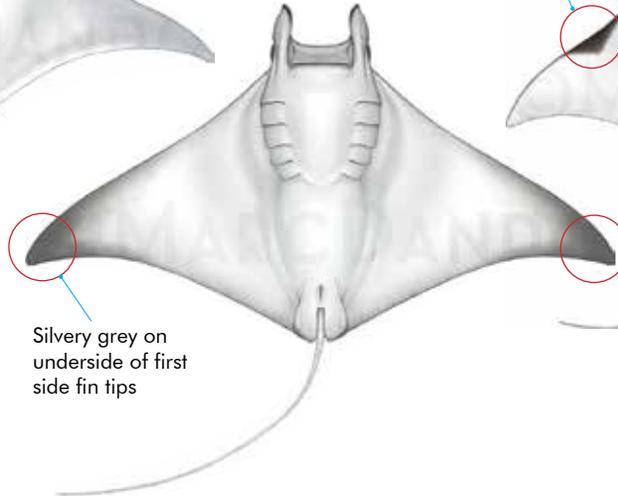


IDENTIFICATION OF LOOK-ALIKE RAYS

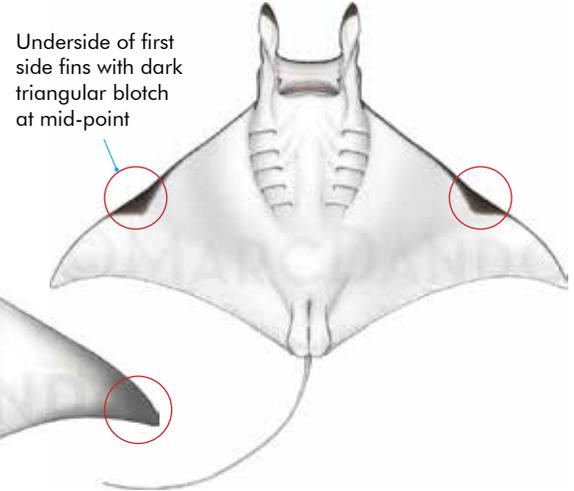
সাদাপেট শিংচোয়াইন
Spinetail devilray
Mobula mobular



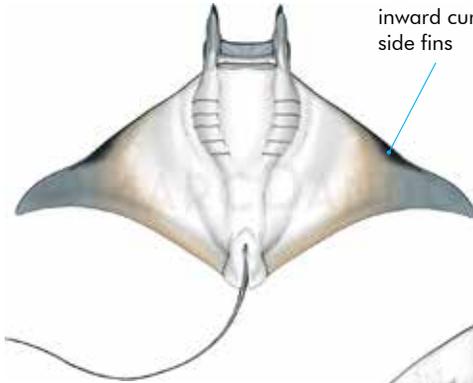
ছোটপাখ শিংচোয়াইন
Kuhl's devilray
Mobula kuhlii



লম্বাশিং ওয়ালা শিংচোয়াইন
Longhorned pygmy devilray
Mobula eregodoo

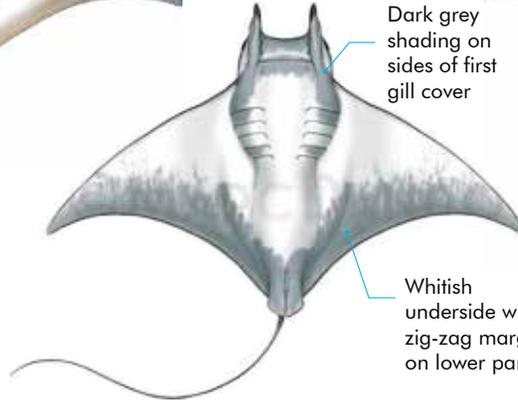


বাঁকাপাখ শিংচোয়াইন
Bentfin devilray
Mobula thurstoni



Dark shading on underside along the front edges of inward curved first side fins

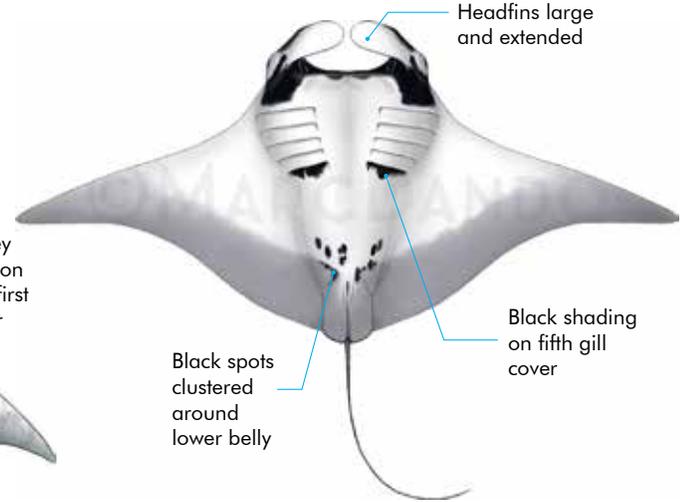
ধুসরপেট শিংচোয়াইন
Sicklefin devilray
Mobula tarapacana



Dark grey shading on sides of first gill cover

Whitish underside with zig-zag margin on lower part

লুইমনি/সাদাপিঠ শিংচোয়াইন
Giant manta ray
Mobula birostris



Headfins large and extended

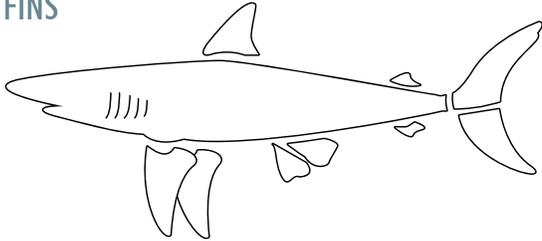
Black spots clustered around lower belly

Black shading on fifth gill cover



IDENTIFYING COMMONLY TRADED BODY PARTS FROM PROTECTED SHARK AND RAY SPECIES

FINS

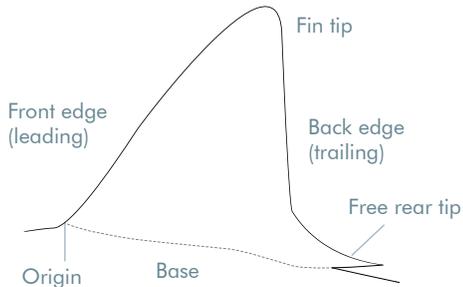


Shark and ray fins are among the most expensive seafood products in the world. The soft needle-thin keratin fibers extracted from dried fins of sharks, sawfish, guitarfish, and wedgefish are considered a luxury food in China.

The global fin trade poses one of the most serious threats to shark and ray populations worldwide.

The first top, paired first side fins and the bottom tail fin are the most valued fins.

Fins that have been cut off from mature specimens of protected species can be identified following a few simple steps.



Cartilaginous blocks in first top fin base

Key features of fins are the same for sharks and rays.



Right and left sides of **top fin** do not differ in color.

Upper side (top) and underside (bottom) of **side fins** differ in color.

Right and left sides of **tail fins** have the same color and no free tip.

THRESHERS



Broad and erect with steep angled leading edge

(See full species description on page 22-23)

Top fin

বড়চোখা কান্তে হাঙ্গর Bigeye thresher

Short free rear tip compared to common thresher



First side fins



Underside light at the base extending into the middle of the fin with dark edges

সাদাপাখ কান্তে হাঙ্গর Common thresher

Narrowly rounded apex and short free rear tip



Underside with white coloration at the base, often with very small white spot at the tip on upper and underside

নীল কান্তে হাঙ্গর Pelagic thresher

Short free rear tip compared to common thresher



Underside lighter at the base extending into the middle of the fin with dark edges

(See full species description on page 24)

Top fin

ছোটপাখ ম্যাকো হাঙ্গর
Shortfin mako



Tall, with steep leading edge and nearly straight trailing edge, all grey, short free rear tip

বড়পাখ ম্যাকো হাঙ্গর
Longfin mako



Tall and upright with broadly pointed tip, short free rear tip, no markings on dark grey to black fin

First side fins



White edge on free rear tip



Uniform white underside with no markings



White edge on free rear tip



Dark along edges and at the tip on underside

HAMMERHEADS



(See full species description on page 26-27)

Top fin

খাঁজকাটা হাতুড়ি হাম্মর
Scalloped hammerhead

Tall and slender with shortish



খাঁজহীন হাতুড়ি হাম্মর
Smooth hammerhead

Tall, with a slightly curved trailing edge



বড়পাখ হাতুড়ি হাম্মর
Great hammerhead

Extremely tall and slender, sharply pointed



First side fins



Short and wide with black tips on underside



Short and wide without markings



Pointed darker tip, curved trailing edge

REQUIEM SHARKS

Top fin

রেশমি হাঙ্গর   **Silky shark**

Short with slightly rounded tip, all grey or greyish-brown, long free rear tip



বলি/ঘ-বলি হাঙ্গর  **Bull shark**

High and triangular with short free rear tip, all grey



সাদাডগা হাঙ্গর   **Oceanic whitetip shark**

Large and broadly rounded with white marking on tip



First side fins



Dark markings at the narrow round tip cover less than 1/3 of white underside

(See full species description on page 38)



Pointy tip, slightly darker on more than 1/3 of the underside and further along the trailing edge

(See full species description on page 34)



Whitish mark on wide rounded tip on upper side.

White or whitish-brown underside

(See full species description on page 37)

REQUIEM SHARKS

Top fin

বড়পাখ চিনারি হাঙ্গর 
Broadfin shark

Relatively small, tip widely rounded, not falcate, free rear tip pointed



First side fins

গাঙ্গেয় চিনারি হাঙ্গর 
Ganges shark

Large, wide and triangular, free rear tip narrow and long



ভোঁতা বলি হাঙ্গর 
Pigeye shark

Large, widely triangular with sharply rounded fin tip and a short rear tip



(See full species description on page 36)



Very wide, a bit falcate, tip rounded, free rear tip very broadly rounded

(See full species description on page 35)



Long and wide with straight outside edge and no free rear tip

© Alifa Bintha Haque

(See full species description on page 34)



Long with slightly curved edges, black markings on underside, free rear tip lighter

REQUIEM SHARKS

Top fin

বাঘা/চিত্রা বলি হাঙ্গর 
Tiger shark

Wider than tall triangle with long free rear tip and black stripes near base



শিয়াল বলি হাঙ্গর 
Snaggletooth shark

Medium in size slightly curved to the back with pointy fin tip, short free rear tip



First side fins



Curved fin with short base but no free rear tip, rounded tip, upper side dark, underside white with dusky tip



Strongly curved and pointy with short base, no free rear tip, light grey on both sides

(See full species description on page 38)

(See full species description on page 39)

REQUIEM SHARKS

Top fin

কালোলেজী লতাবলি হাঙ্গর 
Spottail shark

Medium sized triangular fin on broad base with long free rear tip



First side fins



Black tips on underside

(See full species description on page 33)

সাদা লতাবলি হাঙ্গর 
Graceful shark

Medium sized triangular fin with slightly curved and dusky fin tip, free rear tip



Black tip on upper and underside

(See full species description on page 36)

লতাবলি হাঙ্গর 
Blacktip shark

Medium sized triangular fin with narrowly pointed and dusky tip and front edge, free rear tip



Darker tip on upper side, black tip on underside

(See full species description on page 32)

WHALE SHARK AND SAWFISHES

Top fin

তিমি হাঙ্গর  
Whale shark

Top fins triangular, grey to grey-black with few white spots



First side fins



Side fins large, sickle-shaped, with white spots on dark grey top surface and all white underside

(See full species description on page 40)



করাত মাছ  
Sawfishes

Top fins triangular with a short free rear tip



© Alifa Bintha Haque



Tail fin

Side fin

Top fin

© Iqbal Whassan

First side fins long, wide, and triangular

(See full species description on page 50-51)

Tail fin



© Alifa Bintha Haque

Very small lower lobe. Strong ridge visible. Check page 7 for distinguishing species by tail fins.

GUITARFISHES & WEDGEFISHES



(See full species description on page 54-58)

Top fin

Tall top fins of wedgefishes, guitarfishes and giant guitarfishes are glossy.



Top fin of guitarfish



Top fin of wedgefish

In most species the top fins have a short base and long free rear tip.



Cartilaginous blocks in top fins of wedgefishes, guitarfishes, and giant guitarfishes do not extend across the entire fin base.

Side fin



Side fins of Bowmouth guitarfish are also traded.

Tail fin



The lower tail fin in guitarfishes and giant guitarfishes is not distinct.



In wedgefishes, the bottom tail fin is usually less than half the length of the upper tail fin with no distinct notch visible on the back edge.

MOBULID RAY GILL PLATES



© Guy Stevens

Manta and devil rays (mobulids) are filter feeders that strain small fish and plankton from the water. They have five pairs of gill slits with feathery gills known as gill plates. The size, shape and colour pattern of the gill plates can be used to determine the species.



Gill plate of mobulid ray

Gill plates of bony fish



© Gisela Kaufman

They have five pairs of gill slits with feathery gills known as gill plates. The size, shape and colour pattern of the gill plates can be used to determine the species.



Small gill plates are light and dark. Large gill plates are completely brown or black.



© Daniel Fernando

Mobulids are strictly protected in Bangladesh under the Wildlife Act Schedule I. Trade in gill plates is therefore prohibited.

SKINS

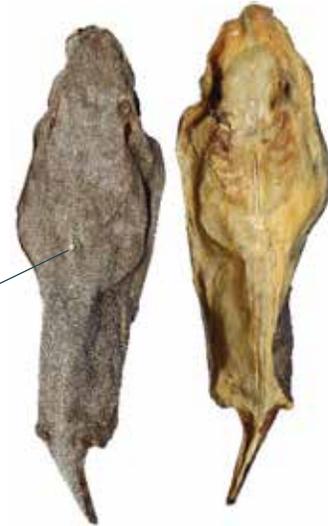
Dried shark and ray skins are processed into leather. Known as shagreen it is highly valued for luxury items.

Most skins feel rough like sandpaper due to tiny teeth-like scales called denticles. Shark and ray skin does not burn or scratch easily.



Skins from protected rays can be identified by the number and arrangement of pearls, thorns, and enlarged denticles.

The skins of small whiprays, as well as those from mobulid, butterfly, cownose, and eagle rays, are not separated from the meat.



Small whiprays sold whole



Small butterfly rays sold whole



Manta ray skin is not removed from flesh

SKINS

Guitarfishes and Wedgefishes



Sharpnose Guitarfish
Glaucostegus granulatus



Most species have a very rough skin with big denticles and blunt thorns of different sizes in lines across the shoulders or along the back.



All guitarfishes and wedgefishes are protected by law. It is illegal to process or trade their skins.

Spots on their skin remain visible even when the skin is dried.

Guitarfish skins drying in the sun

SKINS

Protected whiprays and stingrays



চ্যপ্টানাক বাঘা
শাপলাপাতা
Coach
whipray



বড়দাগী বাঘা
শাপলাপাতা
Honeycomb
whipray



ছেটদাগী বাঘা
শাপলাপাতা
Leopard
whipray



রান্নি/চুনি শাপলাপাতা
Bleaker's
whipray



চোঙামুখ শাপলাপাতা
Tubemouth
whipray



সাদানাক শাপলাপাতা
Whitenose
whipray



গোল শাপলাপাতা
Round
Whipray



জাতি শাপলাপাতা
Whitespotted
whipray





MEAT

Shark and ray meat has no hard bones.



Guitarfish and wedgfish meat is often cut into strips for drying.



Small guitarfishes, wedgfishes, and butterfly rays are dried and sold whole.



When dried ray meat generally turns darker.

OTHER SHARK AND RAY PRODUCTS IN TRADE

Liver oil

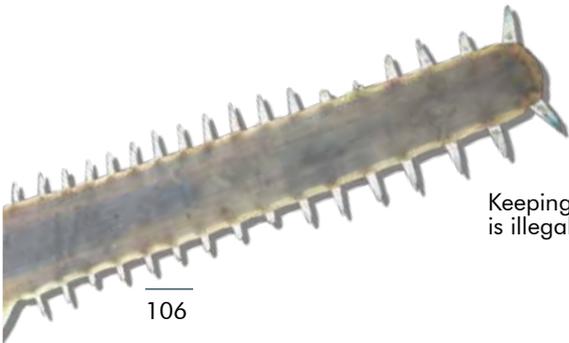
Sharks and rays have large oily livers to keep them afloat. Their liver oil is used in skincare products, animal feed, and for deriving squalene used as a boosting agent in vaccines.

Cartilage

Dried cartilage of sharks and rays is believed to have healing properties. The shape of the cartilage pieces can sometimes be used to determine the species it came from.

Teeth and jaws

Jaws, teeth, and rostra are used in various regions of the world as decorative objects.



Keeping or selling sawfish rostra is illegal without a permit.



Shark livers



Cartilage of guitarfish



Shark jaws

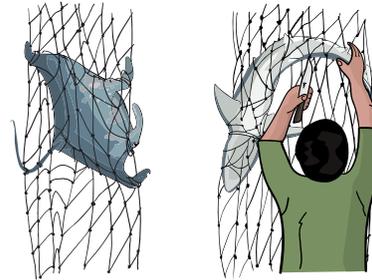
SAFE RELEASE PROCEDURES

The killing of sharks, rays and other marine wildlife listed under the Bangladesh Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act, 2012 is a punishable offence. They must be released at sea. Many shark and most ray species, in particular females, have a good chance of survival if handled properly.

Follow these simple guidelines to minimize injuries and stress to yourself and the animal.



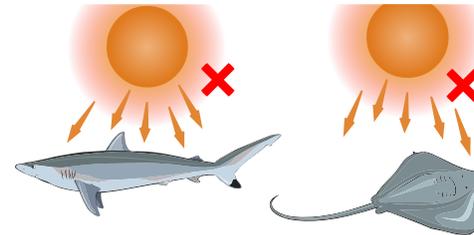
Release sharks and rays in the water, whenever possible.



Remove all netting, hooks or lines before releasing them. Cut the line as close to the hook as possible if you cannot remove the hook.



Do not cut any part of the animal. They will die without the snout, fins, or tail.

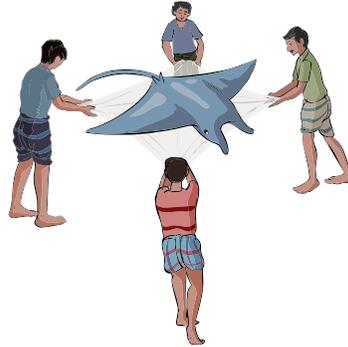


Keep the animal out of the sun.

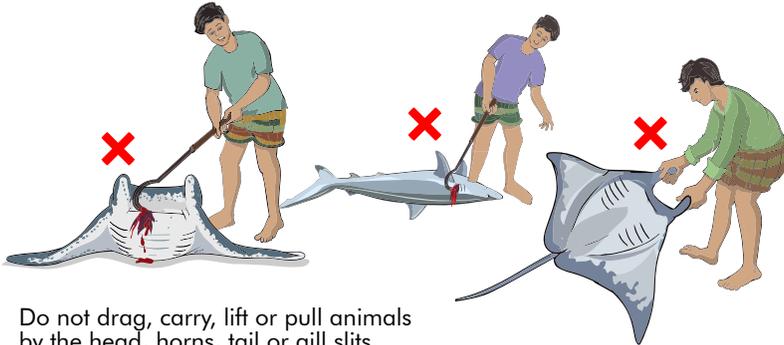
SAFE RELEASE PROCEDURES



Small and medium-size sharks and rays should be handled and released by two people or one person using both hands.



Large animals should be moved by several persons. Use a large cloth or net if necessary.



Do not drag, carry, lift or pull animals by the head, horns, tail or gill slits.



Lower the animal back into the water snout first with the head pointing straight down.

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Sharks and rays are unique fish that maintain the natural balance in our ocean, coastal waters, and rivers. Most of these soft-boned fish take a very long time to grow and have only few young. There are naturally fewer of sharks and rays compared to other fish.

Sharks and rays are among the most endangered animals in the world because too many are being killed.

This guide empowers you to identify the sharks and rays that are protected in Bangladesh so that you can safely release them at sea.



The Bangladesh Forest Department conserves forest, wildlife, environment and biodiversity through innovation and active participation of people.



The Sustainable Forests & Livelihoods (SUFAL) project implemented by the Bangladesh Forest Department under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change with financial assistance from the World Bank aims to improve collaborative forest management and increase access to alternative income generating activities for forest-dependent communities in targeted sites.



The Wildlife Conservation Society saves wildlife and wild places worldwide through science, conservation action, education, and inspiring people to value nature. Since 2004, we collaborate with government and community partners in Bangladesh to develop practical solutions for saving among the world's most threatened marine wildlife for a healthy ocean and healthy people.