

# 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



**CONSERVATION STATUS  
GLOBAL IUCN RED LIST\*****CR****Critically Endangered (CR)**  
Extremely high risk of extinction**EN****Endangered (EN)**  
Very high risk of extinction**VU****Vulnerable (VU)**  
High risk of extinction**NT****Near Threatened (NT)**  
Likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future**LC****Least Concern (LC)**  
Widespread and abundant**DD****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.

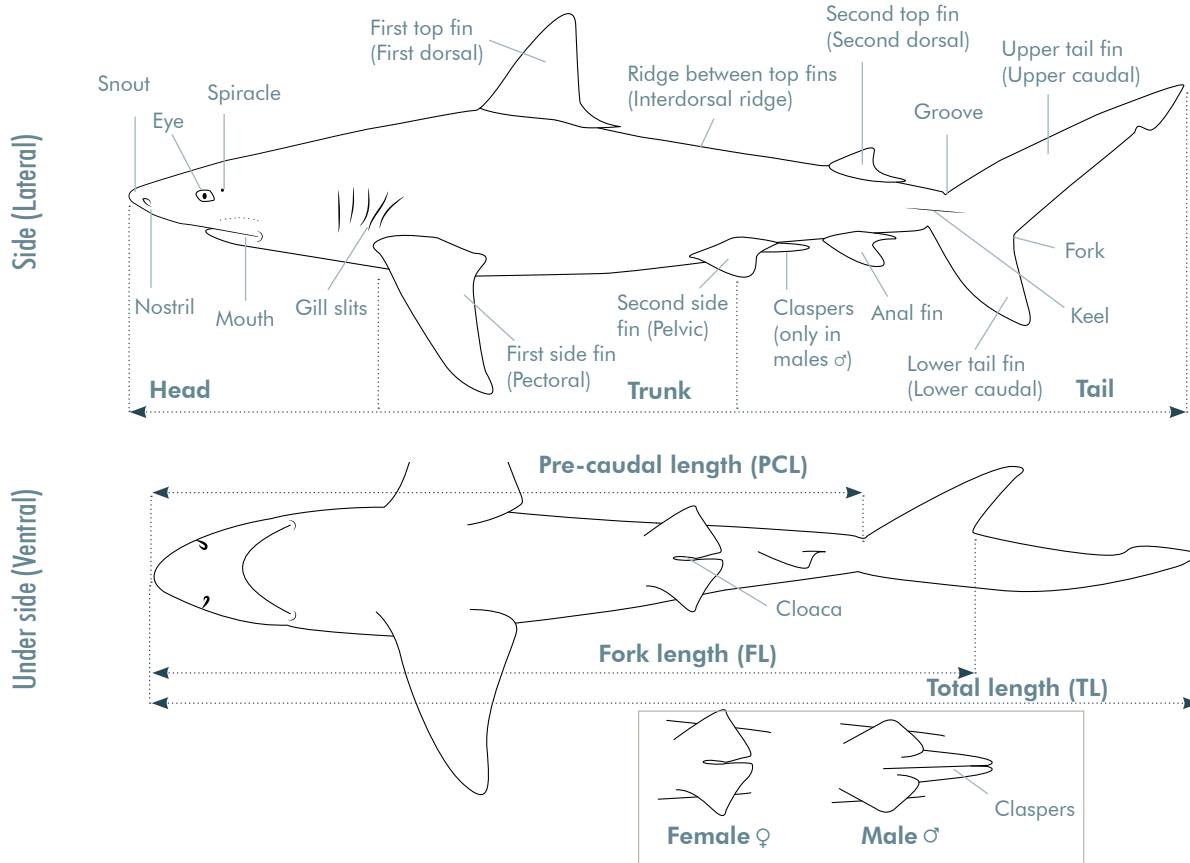
**NATIONAL PROTECTION STATUS  
WILDLIFE (CONSERVATION AND  
SECURITY) ACT, 2012****Schedule I: Strictly Protected**  
No killing, trade, consumption permitted.**Schedule II: Strictly Regulated**  
Permit from Forest Department required for killing, possession, and trade.**CITES  
CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL  
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**

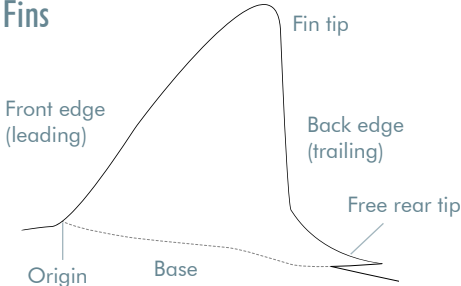
1 Bam = 3.5 Hands	1 Inch = 2.5 Centimeters
1 Hand = 1.5 Feet	1 Meter = 39.4 Inches
1 Foot = 12 Inches	1 Meter = 100 Centimeters

# IDENTIFYING FEATURES OF SHARKS

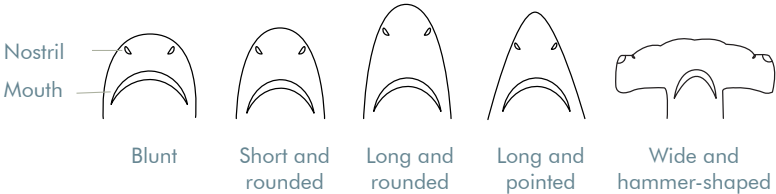


# IDENTIFYING FEATURES OF SHARKS

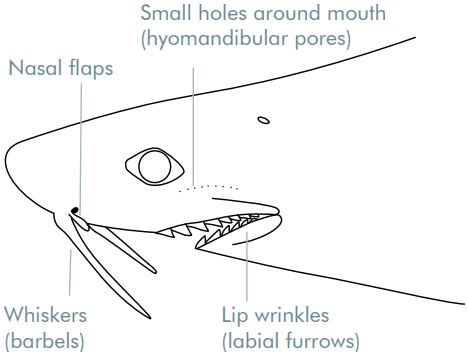
## Fins



## Snout Shapes



## Snout Features

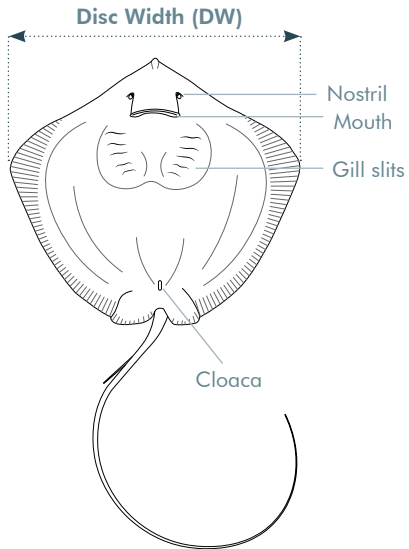


## Tail Fin Shapes

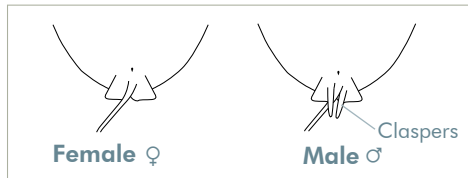
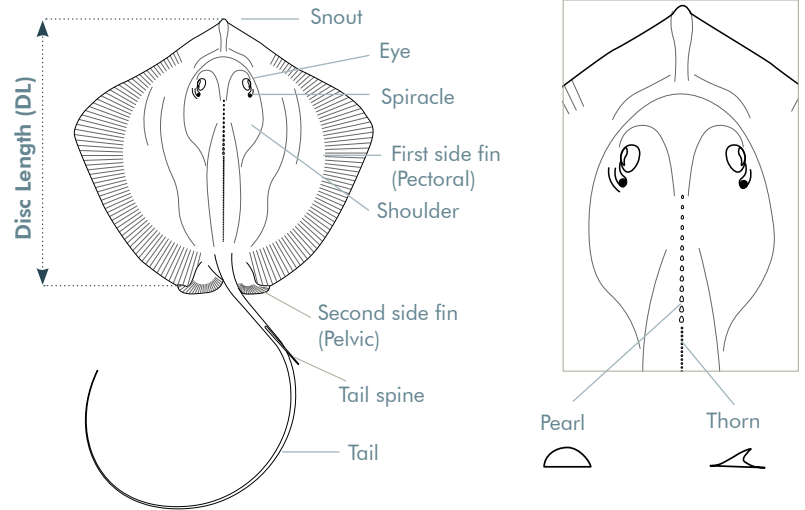


# IDENTIFYING FEATURES OF RAYS

Underside (Ventral)



Upper side (Dorsal)



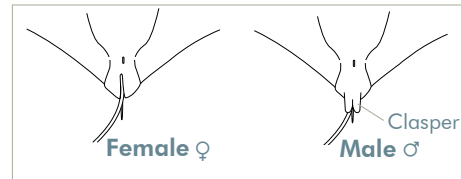
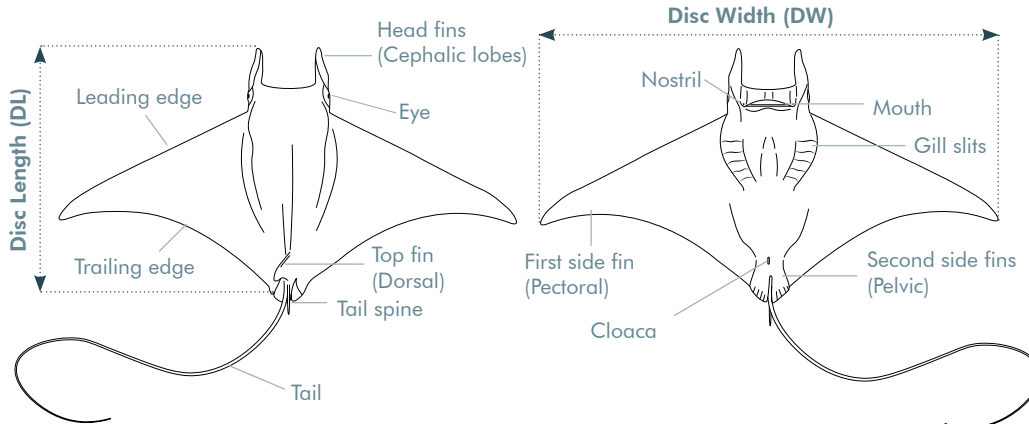


# IDENTIFYING FEATURES OF RAYS

## MOBULIDS

Upper side (Dorsal)

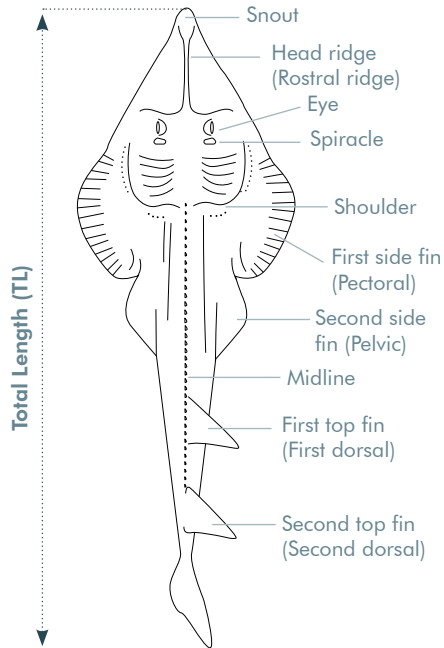
Underside (Ventral)



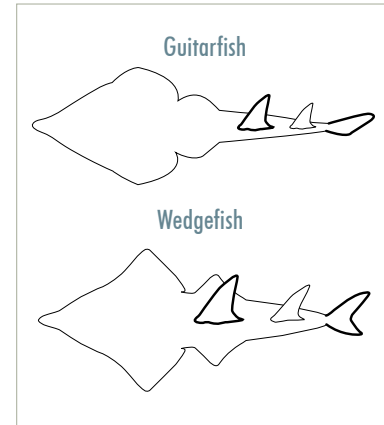
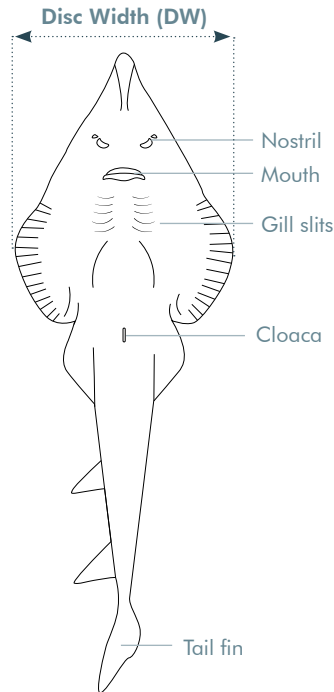
# IDENTIFYING FEATURES OF RAYS

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	সুউচ্চ 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.

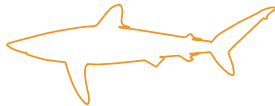
By learning which species are protected and stopping their killing, trade, and consumption, you can help ensure their survival.



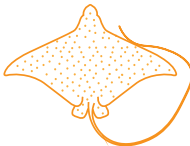
## BANGLADESH WILDLIFE ACT SCHEDULE II SPECIES

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*



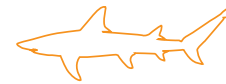
সাদা/কালো/ফোঁটালেজী/লতা বলি/বলি হাঙ্গর  
REQUIEM SHARKS  
*Carcharhinus amblyrhynchoides/brevipinna/sorrah/limbatus/melanopterus*



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



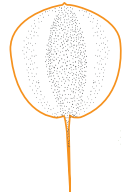
শাঁখাদাঁত/শিয়াল বলি হাঙ্গর  
SNAGGLETEOTH SHARK  
*Hemipristis elongata*



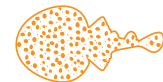
পদুনি/প্রজাপতি শাপলাপাতা  
BUTTERFLY RAYS  
*Gymnura* spp.



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 মাগর/আইস্যা  
SAWFISHES  
*Anoxypristis cuspidata/Pristis spp.*



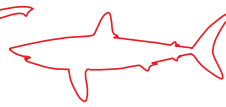
হাতুড়ি/কাউন্না হাঙ্গর  
HAMMERHEAD SHARKS  
*Sphyrna spp./Eusphyrna blochii*



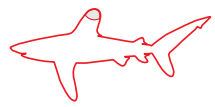
কান্তে হাঙ্গর  
THRESHER SHARKS  
*Alopias spp.*



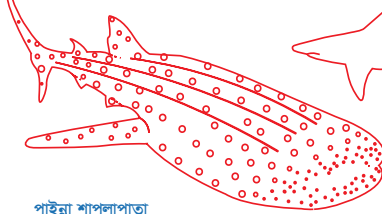
ম্যাকো হাঙ্গর  
MAKO SHARKS  
*Isurus spp.*



সাদাটুপি হাঙ্গর  
OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK  
*Carcharhinus longimanus*



তিমি হাঙ্গর  
WHALE SHARK  
*Rhincodon typus*



গাঙ্গের/বড়পাখ চিনারি হাঙ্গর  
GANGES/BROADFIN SHARK  
*Glyphis gangeticus/Lamiopsis temminckii*



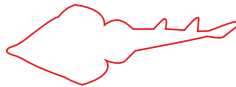
ভোঁতা/ঘ-বলি হাঙ্গর  
PIGEYE/BULL SHARK  
*Carcharhinus amboinensis/leucas*



শিংচোয়াইন/লুইমনি  
MANTA & DEVIL RAYS  
*Mobula spp.*



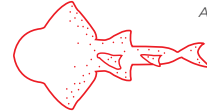
পিতাখরি/নাঙলা  
GUITARFISHES  
*Glaucostegus/Rhinobatos spp.*



পিতাখরি/নাঙলা  
WEDGEFISHES  
*Rhynchobatus spp.*



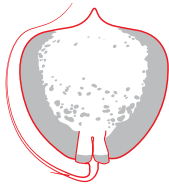
ব্যাঙ হাঙ্গর  
BOWMOUTH GUITARFISH  
*Rhina ancylostoma*



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.

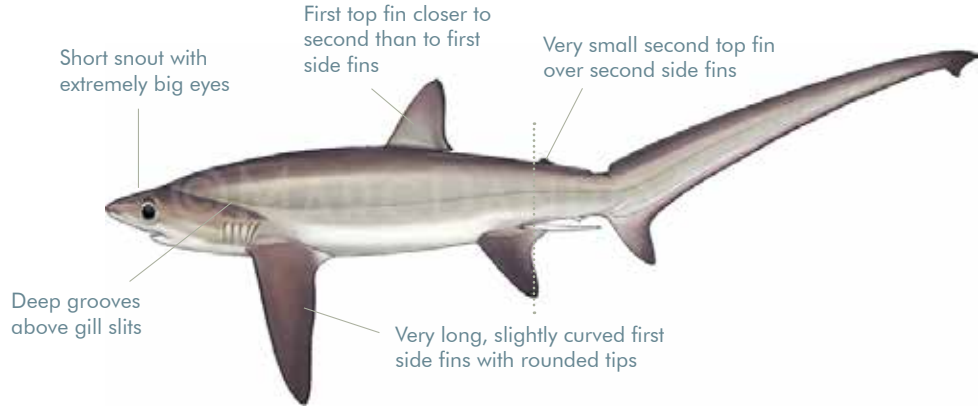
(See page 72-84)

## KEY TO SHARK SPECIES IN BANGLADESH

বড়চোখা কান্তে হাঙ্গর  
**Bigeye thresher**  
*Alopias superciliosus*



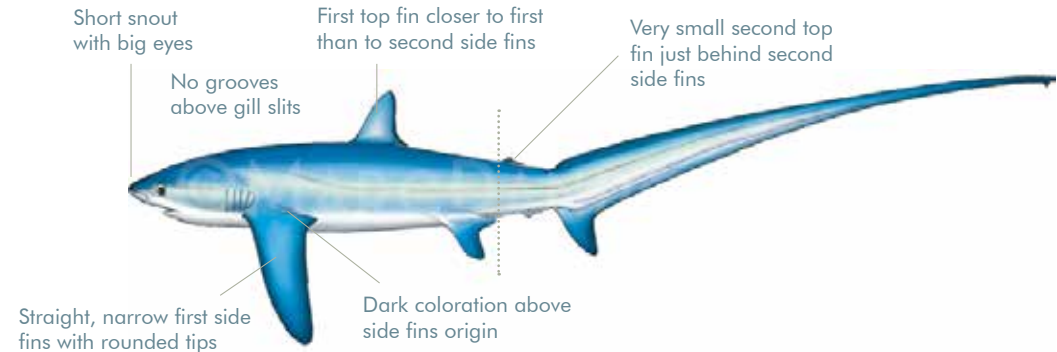
TL: Birth = 64-140,  
 Adult ♂ = 245-300,  
 Adult ♀ = 282-355,  
 ML = 484



নীল কান্তে হাঙ্গর  
**Pelagic thresher**  
*Alopias pelagicus*



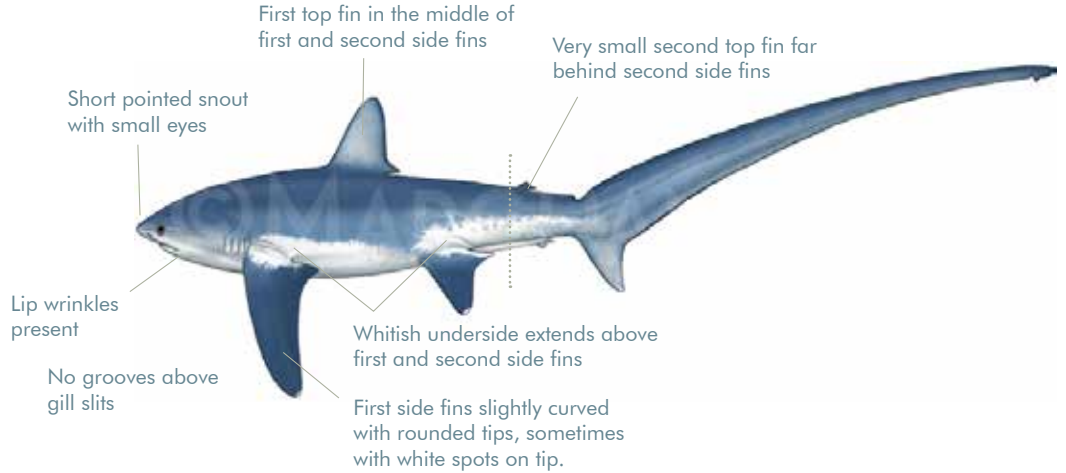
TL: Birth = 158-190,  
 Adult ♂ = 250-300,  
 Adult ♀ = 250-300,  
 ML = 365



সাদাপাখ কাস্তে হাঙ্গর  
**Common thresher**  
*Alopias vulpinus*



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

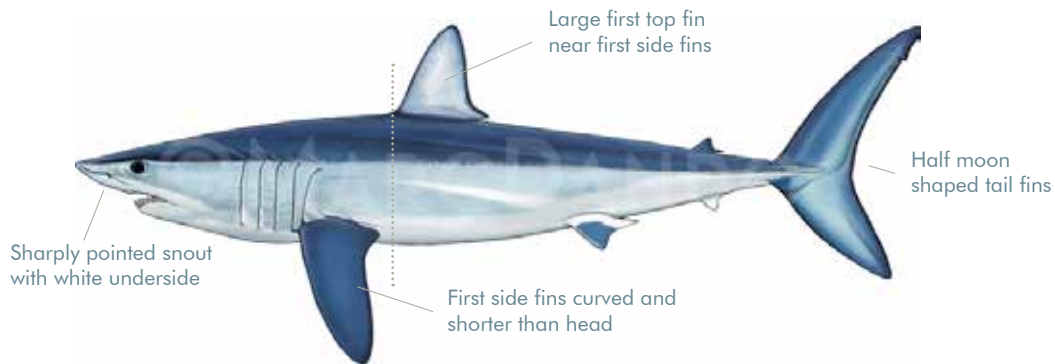


বড়চোখা কাস্তে হাঙ্গর  
**Bigeye thresher**  
*Alopias superciliosus*

ছোটপাখ ম্যাকো হাঙ্গর

**Shortfin mako***Isurus oxyrinchus*

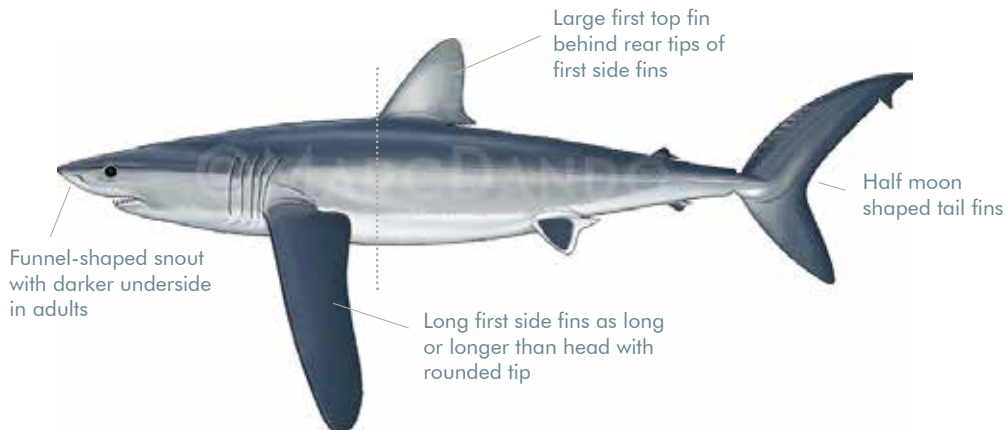
TL: Birth = 60-70,  
 Adult ♂ = 166-204,  
 Adult ♀ = 265-312,  
 ML = 445



বড়পাখ ম্যাকো হাঙ্গর

**Longfin mako***Isurus paucus*

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

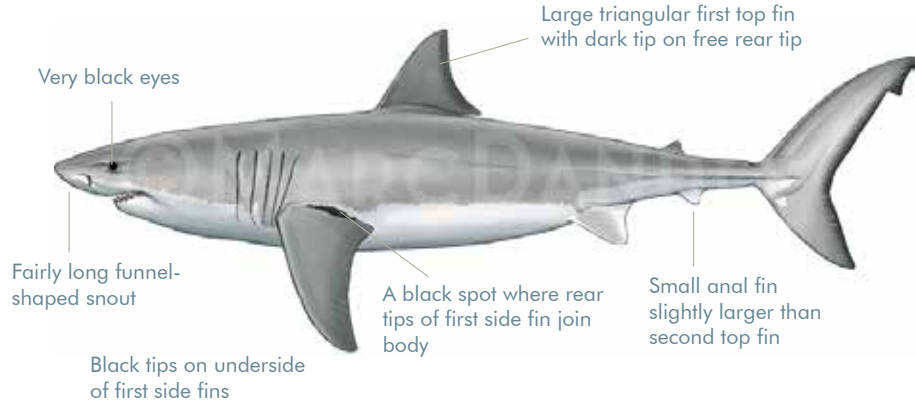




সাদা হাঙ্গর  
**White shark**  
*Carcharodon carcharias*



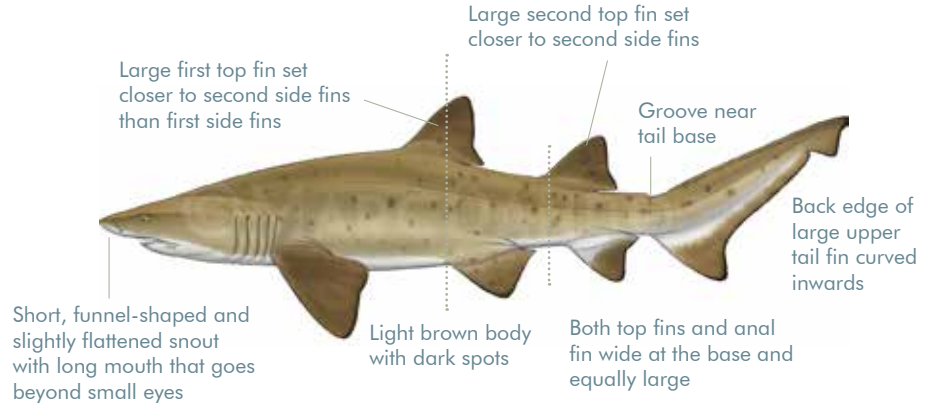
TL: Birth = 120-150,  
 Adult ♂ = 310-410,  
 Adult ♀ = 400-500,  
 ML = 600-640



ধূসর বাঘা হাঙ্গর  
**Sand tiger shark**  
*Carcharias taurus*



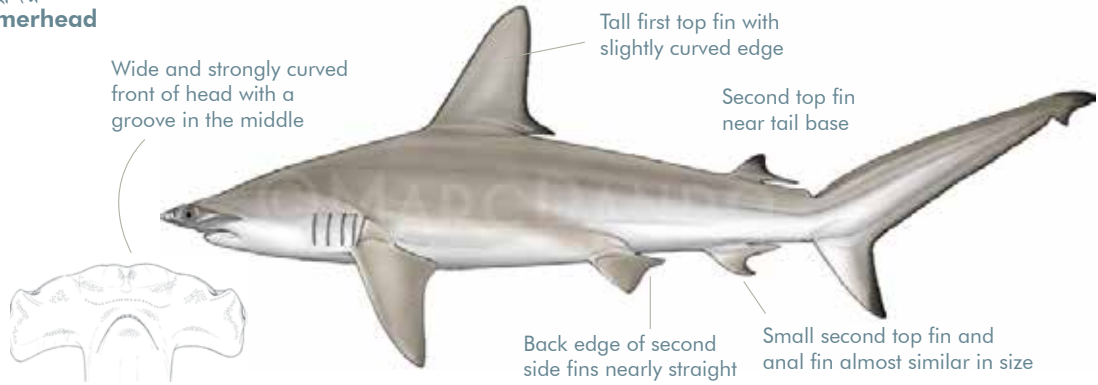
TL: Birth = 85-105,  
 Adult ♂ = 190-200,  
 Adult ♀ = 220-235,  
 ML = 325



খাঁজকাটা হাতুড়ি হাঙ্গর  
**Scalloped hammerhead**  
*Sphyrna lewini*



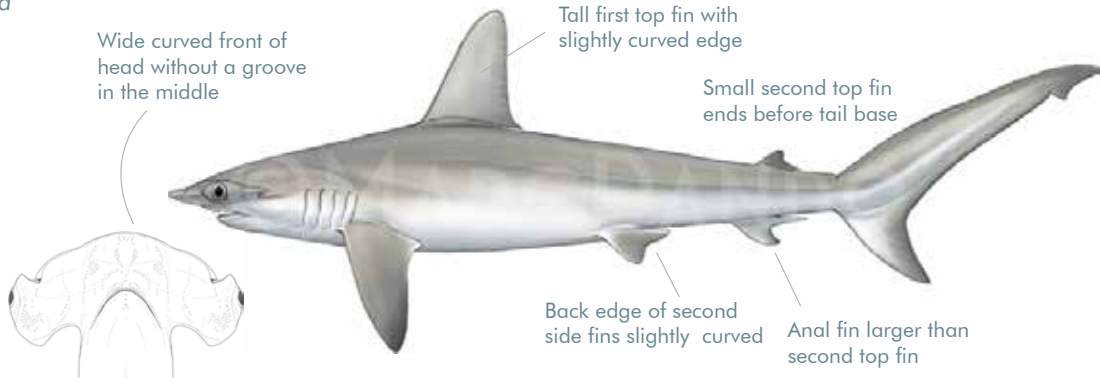
TL: Birth = 31-57,  
 Adult ♂ = 140-198,  
 Adult ♀ = 200-250,  
 ML = 370-420



খাঁজহীন হাতুড়ি হাঙ্গর  
**Smooth hammerhead**  
*Sphyrna zygaena*



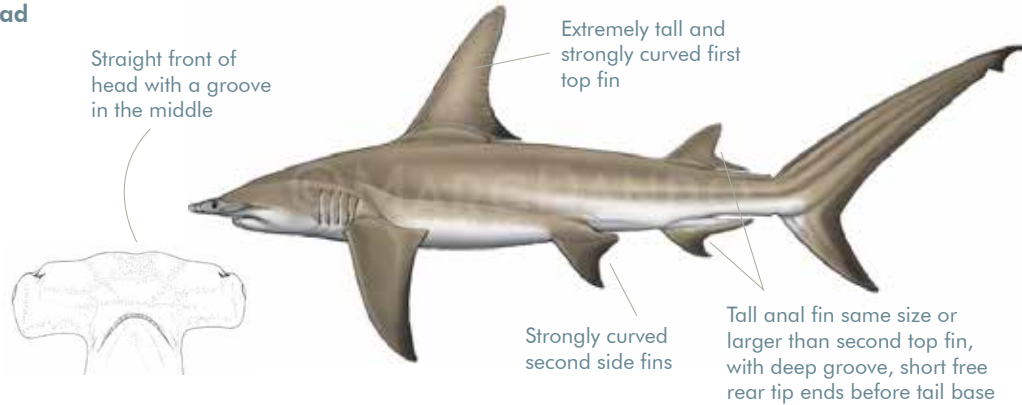
TL: Birth = 49-63,  
 Adult ♂ = 250-260,  
 Adult ♀ = 246-265,  
 ML = 370-400



বড়পাখ হাতুড়ি হাঙ্গর  
**Great hammerhead**  
*Sphyrna mokarran*



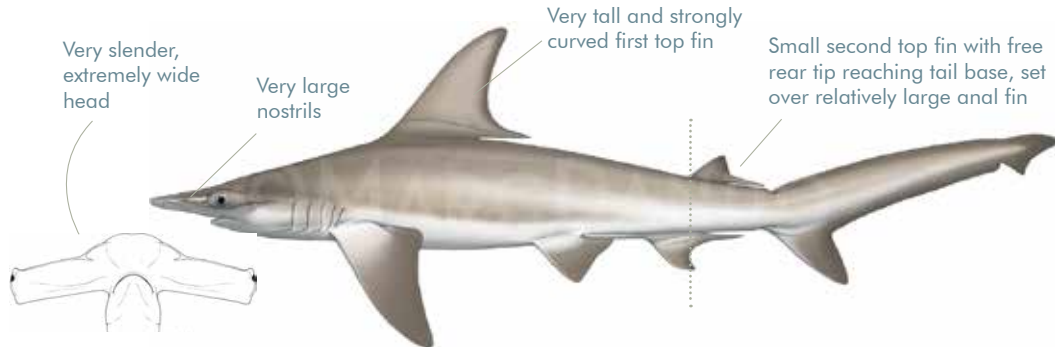
TL: Birth = 50-70,  
 Adult ♂ = 225-269,  
 Adult ♀ = 210-300,  
 ML = 550-610



লম্বামাথা হাতুড়ি হাঙ্গর  
**Winghead shark**  
*Eusphyra blochii*



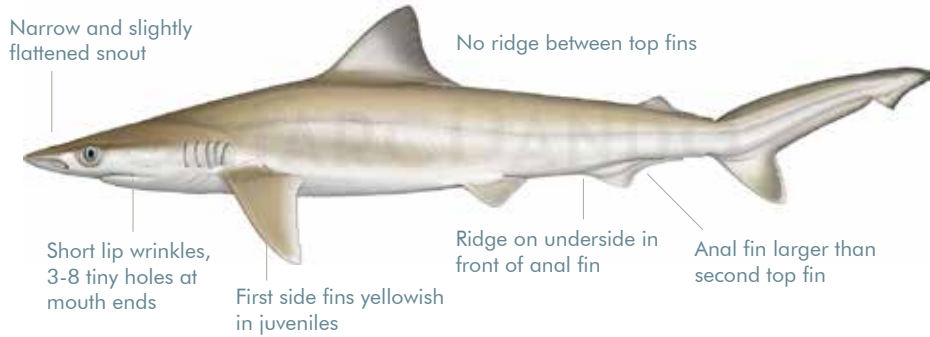
TL: Birth = 45,  
 Adult ♂ = 108,  
 Adult ♀ = 120,  
 ML = 186



আঠাইল্যা/সোনালী লতাবলি হাঙ্গর  
**Grey sharpnose shark**  
*Rhizoprionodon oligoinx*

**NT**

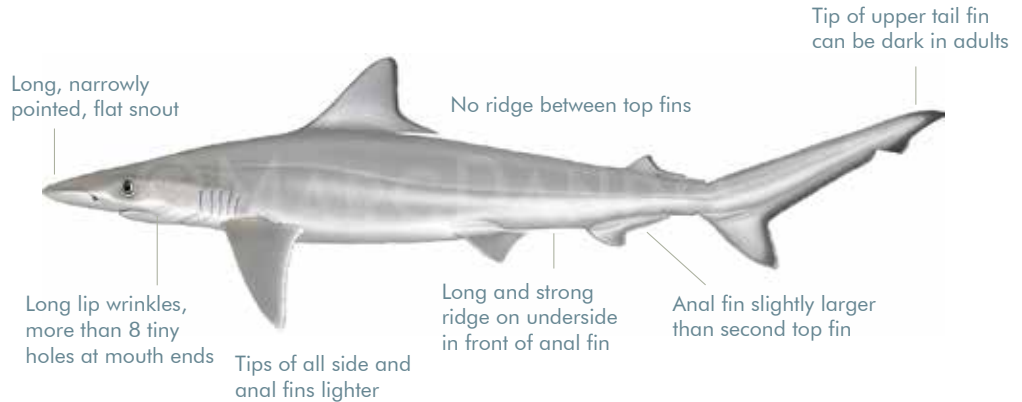
TL: Birth = 21-30,  
 Adult ♂ = 29-53,  
 Adult ♀ = 32-41,  
 ML = 93



সাদা লতাবলি হাঙ্গর  
**Milk Shark**  
*Rhizoprionodon acutus*

**VU**

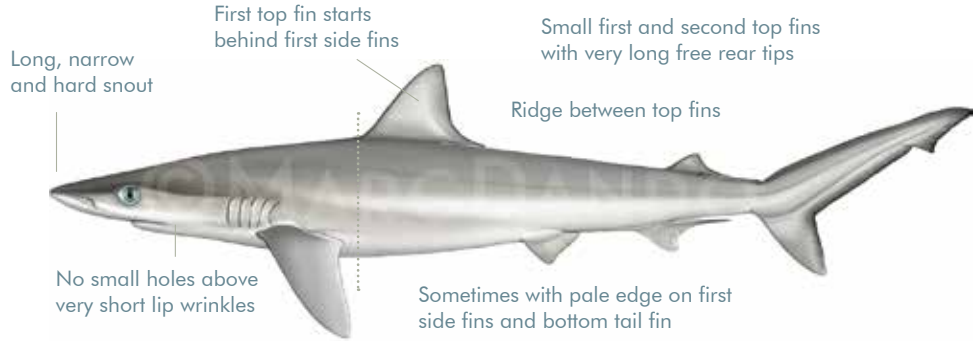
TL: Birth = 25-45,  
 Adult ♂ = 54-82,  
 Adult ♀ = 62-92,  
 ML < 110



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

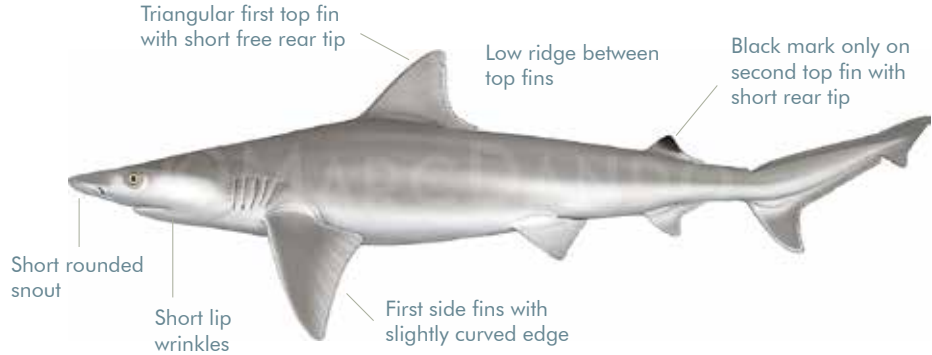
TL: Birth = 12-15,  
 Adult ♂ = 24-36,  
 Adult ♀ = 33-35,  
 ML = 91



সাদাখুতনি হাঙ্গর  
**Whitecheek shark**  
*Carcharhinus dussumieri*



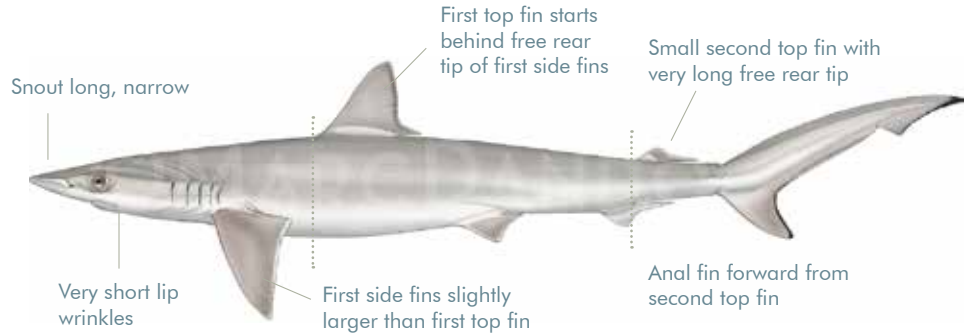
TL: Birth = 28-40,  
 Adult ♂ = 72,  
 Adult ♀ = 80,  
 ML = 100



অঞ্জলিচোখা হাঙ্গর  
**Sliteye shark**  
*Loxodon macrorhinus*



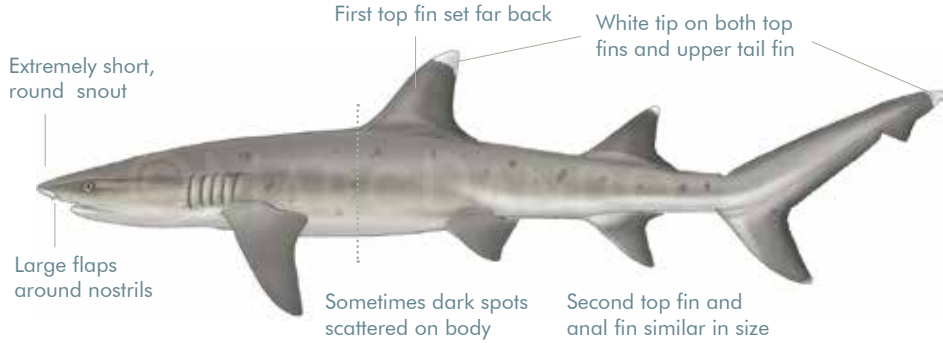
TL: Birth = 40-45,  
 Adult ♂ = 62-66,  
 Adult ♀ = 79,  
 ML = 99



সাদাপাখ বলি হাঙ্গর  
**Whitetip reef shark**  
*Triaenodon obesus*



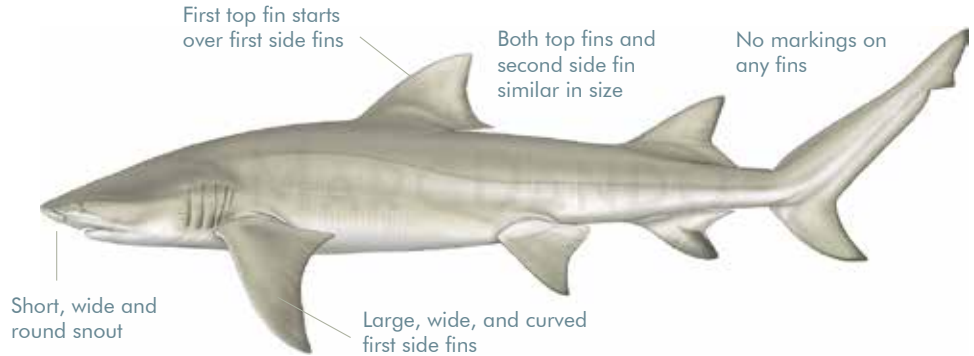
TL: Birth = 52-60,  
 Adult ♂ = 105,  
 Adult ♀ = 105,  
 ML = 200



দাগহীন বলি হাঙ্গর  
**Sharptooth lemon shark**  
*Negaprion acutidens*



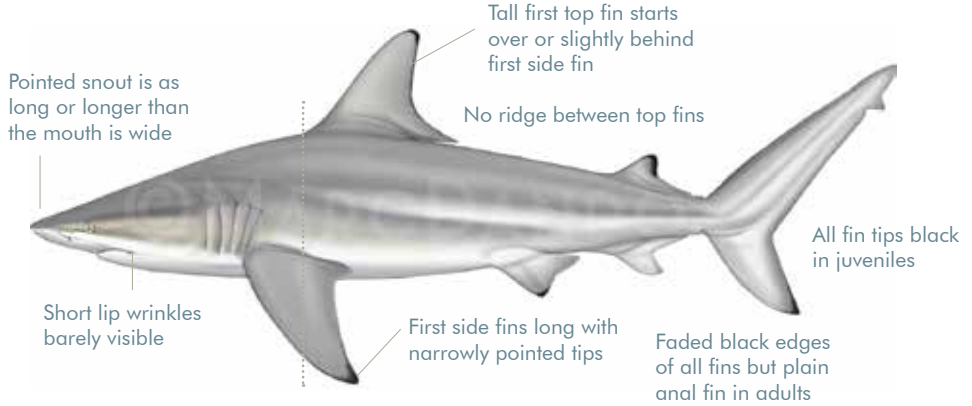
TL: Birth = 60,  
 Adult ♂ = 220-240,  
 Adult ♀ = 220-240,  
 ML = 340



লতাবলি হাঙ্গর  
**Blacktip shark**  
*Carcharhinus limbatus*



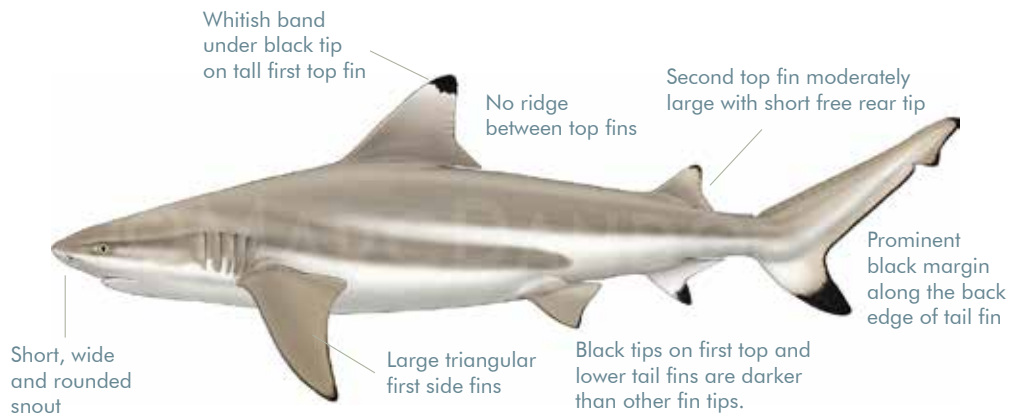
TL: Birth = 38-72,  
 Adult ♂ = 125-201,  
 Adult ♀ = 145-207,  
 ML = 286



কালোডগা লতাবলি হাঙ্গর  
**Blacktip reef shark**  
*Carcharhinus melanopterus*



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

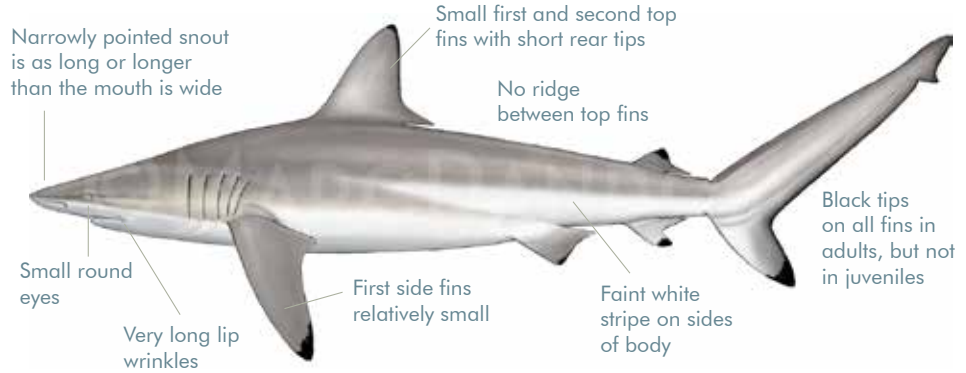




কালো লতাবলি হাঙ্গর  
**Spinner shark**  
*Carcharhinus brevipinna*



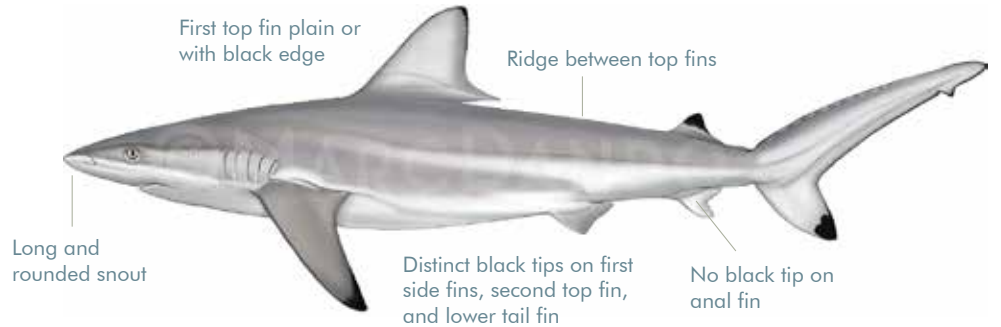
TL: Birth = 48-80,  
 Adult ♂ = 170-220,  
 Adult ♀ = 160-222,  
 ML = 304



কালোলেজী লতাবলি হাঙ্গর  
**Spottail shark**  
*Carcharhinus sorrah*



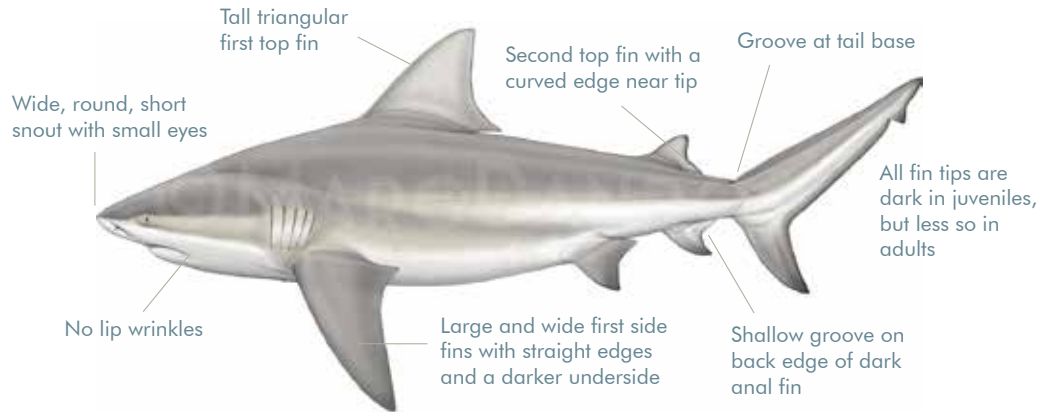
TL: Birth = 44-72,  
 Adult ♂ = 106-109,  
 Adult ♀ = 110-118,  
 ML = 196



বলি/ঘ-বলি হাঙ্গর  
**Bull shark**  
*Carcharhinus leucas*



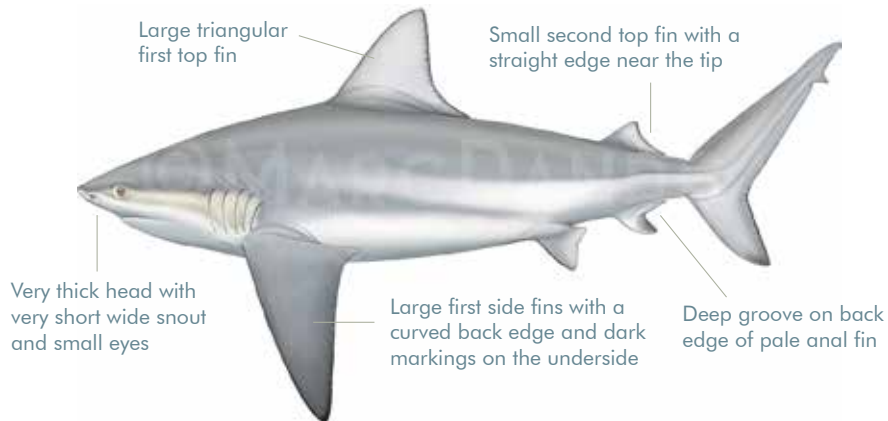
TL: Birth = 56-81,  
 Adult ♂ = 157-226,  
 Adult ♀ = 180-230,  
 ML = 340-366



ভোঁতা বলি হাঙ্গর  
**Pigeye shark**  
*Carcharhinus amboinensis*



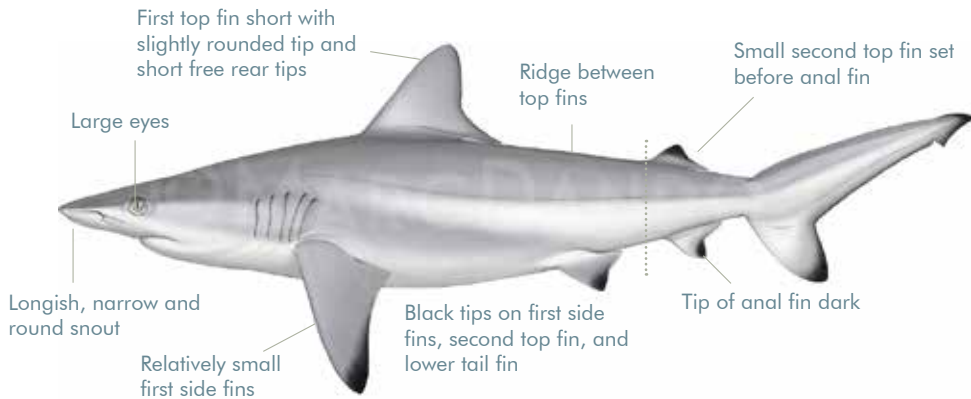
TL: Birth = 48-72,  
 Adult ♂ = 195-227,  
 Adult ♀ = 195-224,  
 ML = 280



বড়চোখা বলি হাঙ্গর  
**Pondicherry shark**  
*Carcharhinus hemiodon*



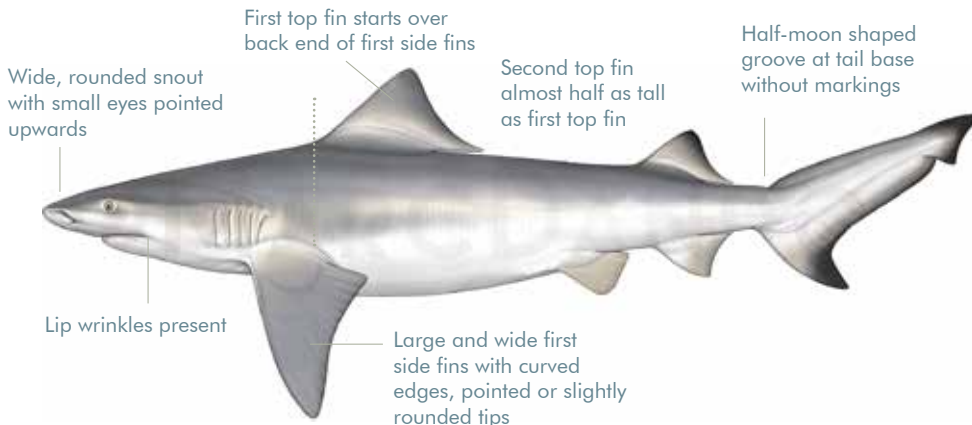
TL: Birth < 32,  
 Adult ♂ = ?,  
 Adult ♀ = ?,  
 ML = 102



গাঙ্গেয় চিনারি হাঙ্গর  
**Ganges shark**  
*Glyphis gangeticus*



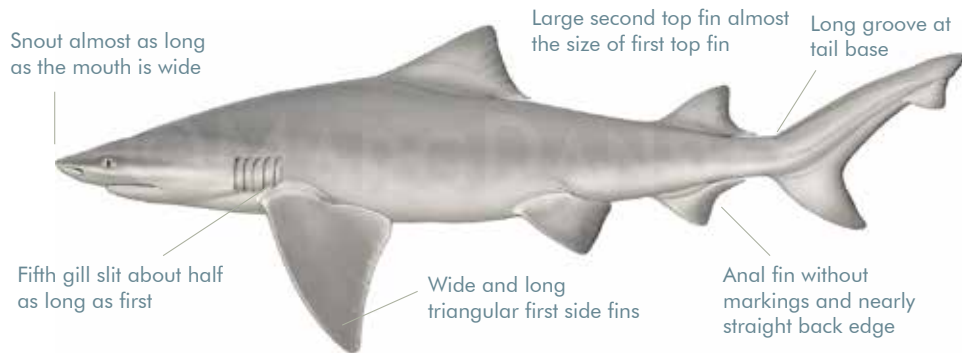
TL: Birth = 56-61,  
 Adult ♂ = 178,  
 Adult ♀ = ?,  
 ML = 266



বড়পাখ চিনারি হাঙ্গর  
**Broadfin shark**  
*Lamiopsis temminckii*



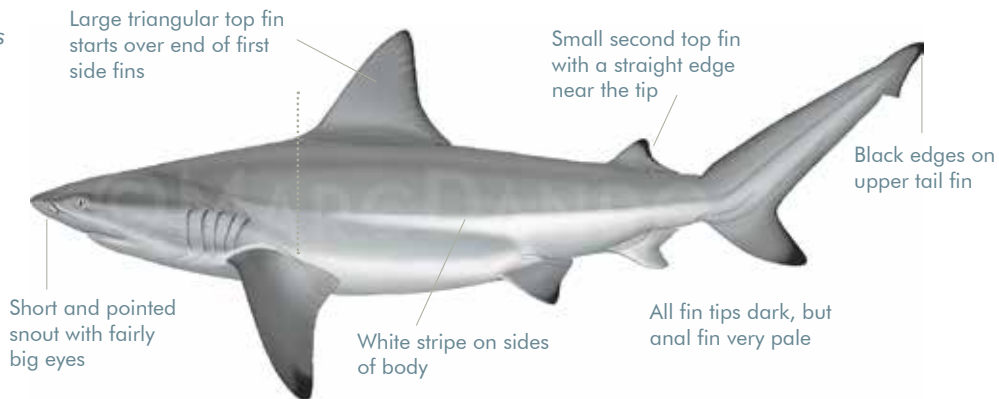
TL: Birth = 42-65,  
 Adult ♂ = 137,  
 Adult ♀ = 143,  
 ML = 178



সাদা লতাবলি হাঙ্গর  
**Graceful shark**  
*Carcharhinus amblyrhynchoides*



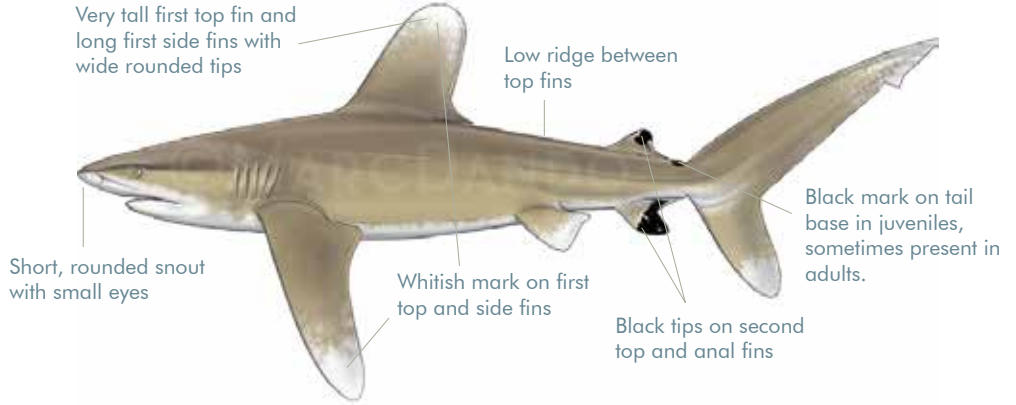
TL: Birth = 50-60,  
 Adult ♂ = 140,  
 Adult ♀ = 167,  
 ML = 178



সাদাডগা হাঙ্গর  
**Oceanic whitetip shark**  
*Carcharhinus longimanus*



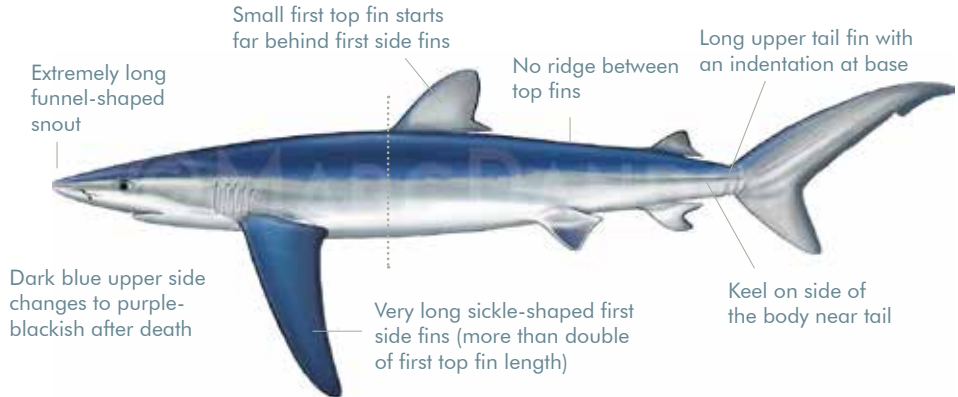
TL: Birth = 57-77,  
 Adult ♂ = 168-198,  
 Adult ♀ = 175-224,  
 ML = 350



নীল হাঙ্গর  
**Blue shark**  
*Prionace glauca*



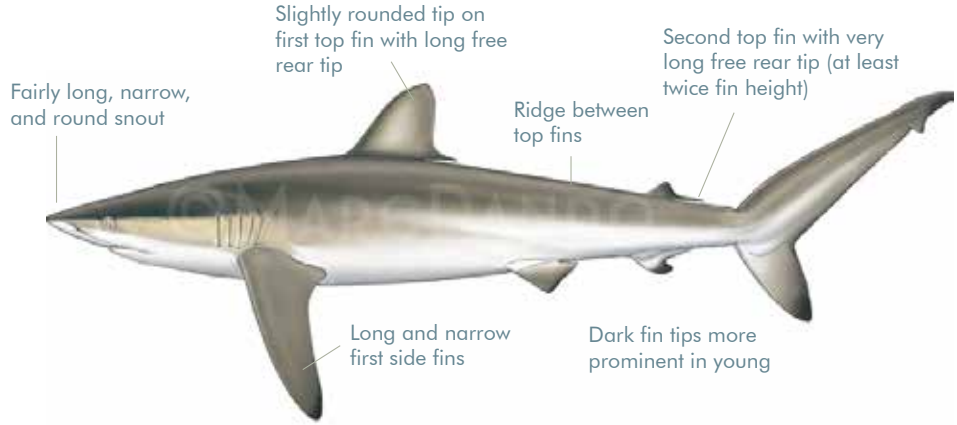
TL: Birth = 35-60,  
 Adult ♂ = 183-218,  
 Adult ♀ = 183-221,  
 ML = 380



রেশমি হাঙ্গর  
**Silky shark**  
*Carcharhinus falciformis*



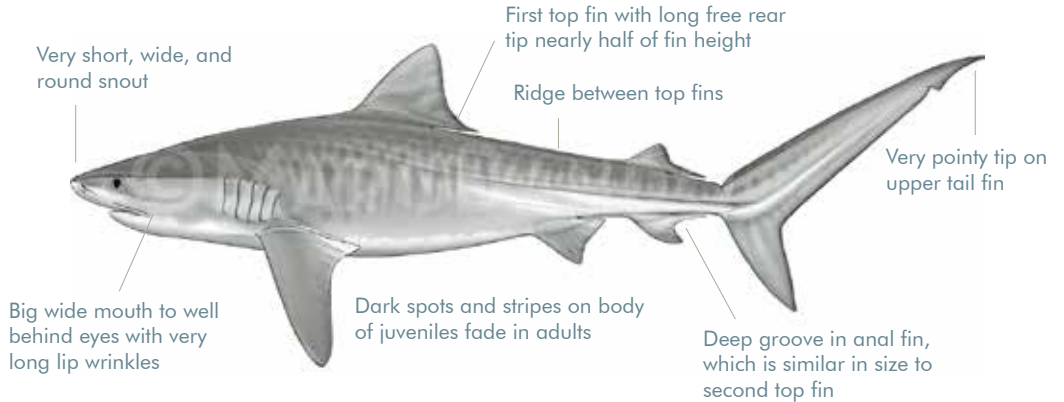
TL: Birth = 65-81,  
 Adult ♂ = 180-230,  
 Adult ♀ = 180-246,  
 ML = 229-371



বাঘা/চিত্রা বলি হাঙ্গর  
**Tiger shark**  
*Galeocerdo cuvier*



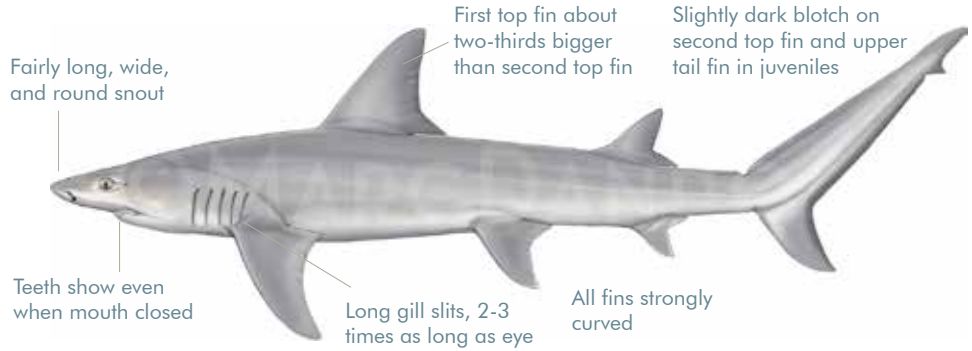
TL: Birth = 51-90,  
 Adult ♂ = 250-305,  
 Adult ♀ = 274-345,  
 ML = 740



শিয়াল বালি হাঙ্গর  
**Snaggletooth shark**  
*Hemipristis elongata*



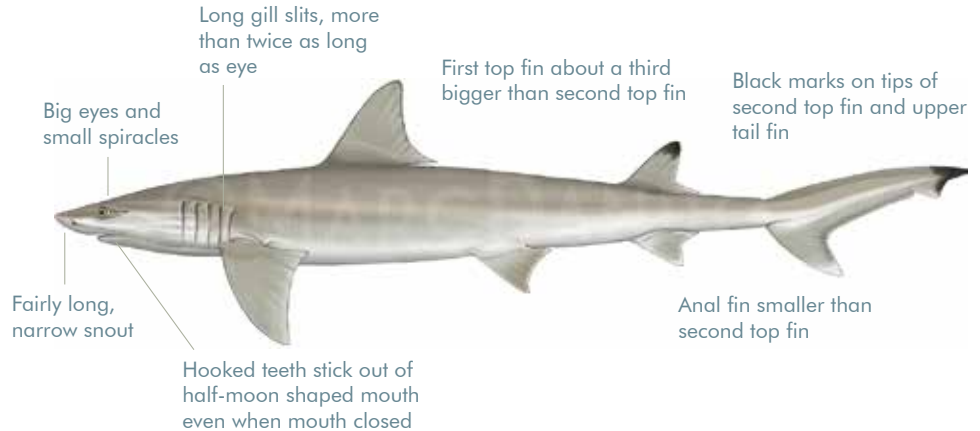
TL: Birth = 45-53,  
 Adult ♂ = 110-145,  
 Adult ♀ = 110-170,  
 ML = 230-240



বঁড়শিদাতী হাঙ্গর  
**Hooktooth shark**  
*Chaenogaleus macrostoma*



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



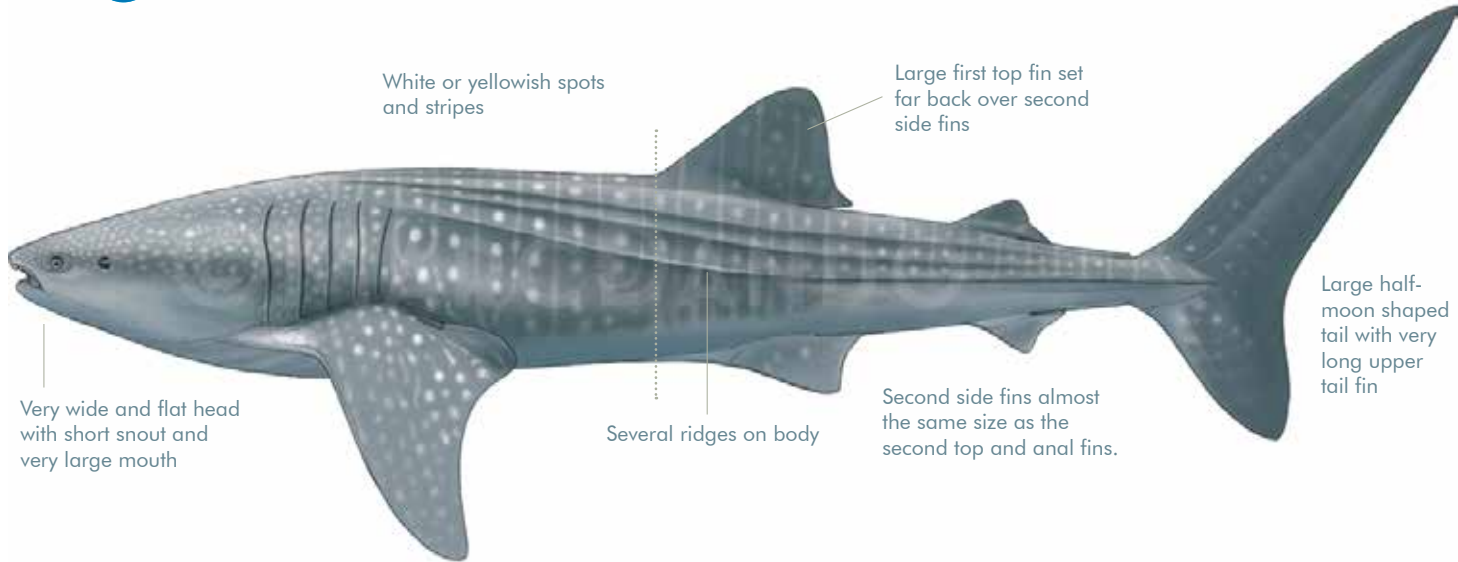
তিমি হাঙ্গর  
**Whale shark**  
*Rhincodon typus*



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.





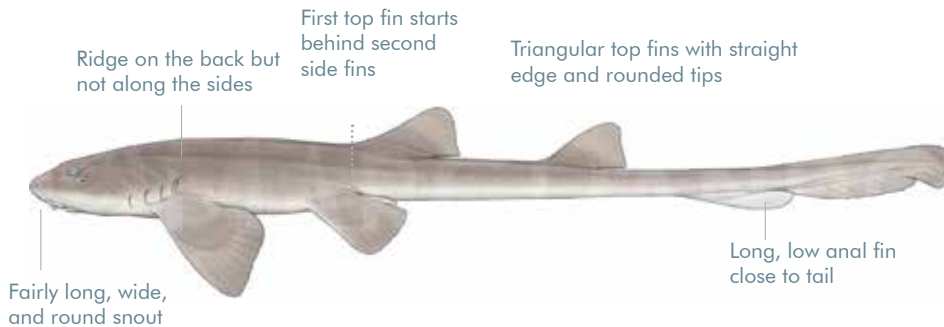


তিমি হাঙ্গর  
**Whale shark**  
*Rhincodon typus*

খাঁজওয়ানা গুলে হাঙ্গর  
**Burmese bambooshark**  
*Chiloscyllium burmensis*

**VU**

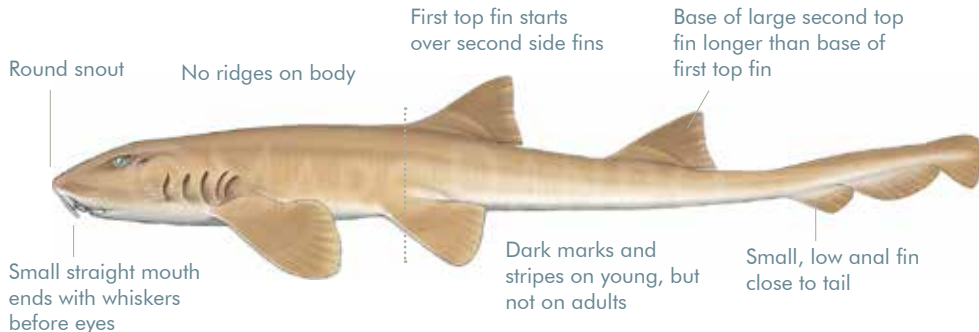
TL: Birth = ?,  
 Adult ♂ = 64.5,  
 Adult ♀ = 54.6,  
 ML = ?



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

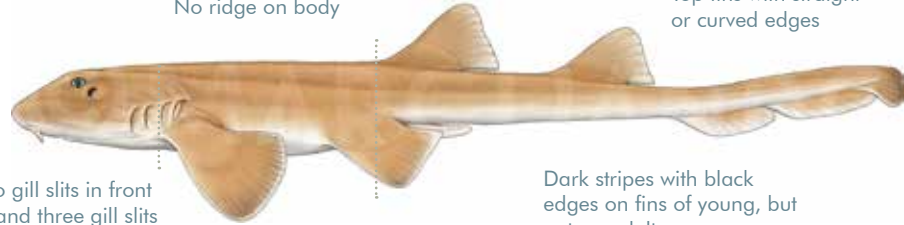
TL: Birth = 9-12,  
Adult ♂ = ?,  
Adult ♀ = 44-54,  
ML = 88



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 burmensis*

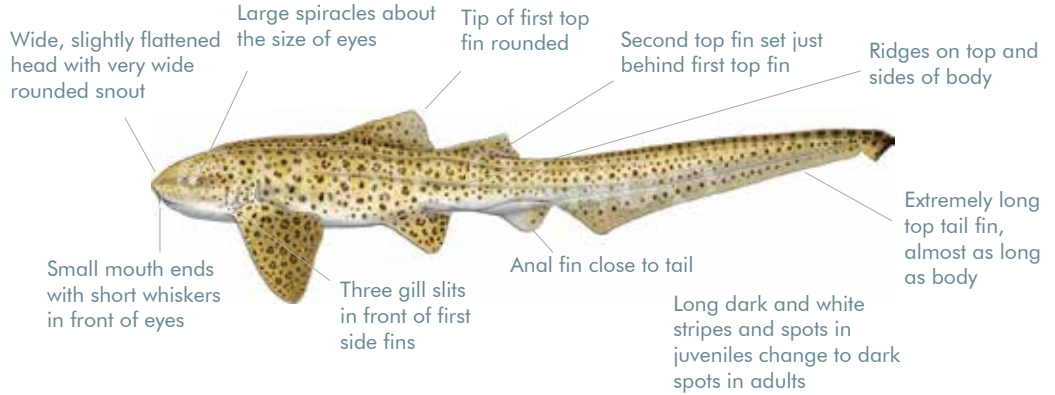
হলদে চিত্রা হাঙ্গর

**Zebra shark**

*Stegostoma fasciatum*



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



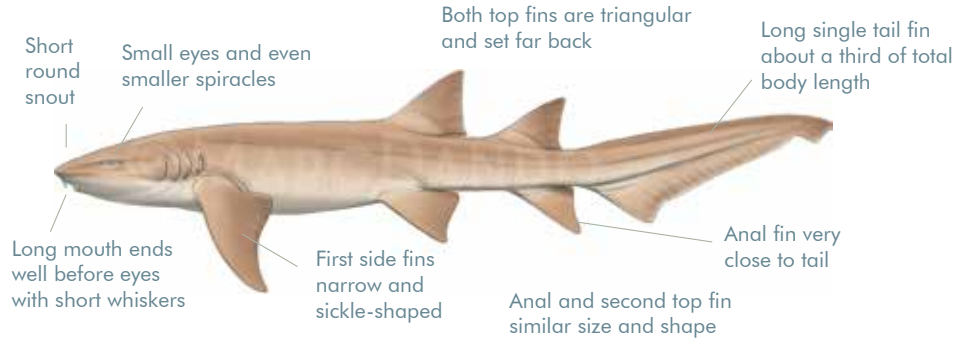
একশাখালেজী তামাটে হাঙ্গর

**Tawny nurse shark**

*Nebrius ferrugineus*



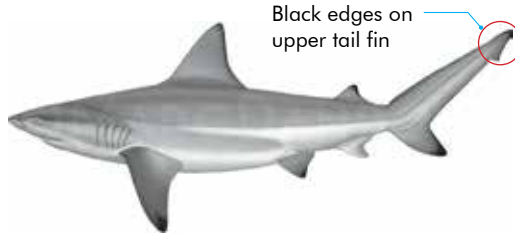
TL: Birth = 40-60,  
Adult ♂ = 225-250,  
Adult ♀ = 230-290,  
ML = 320



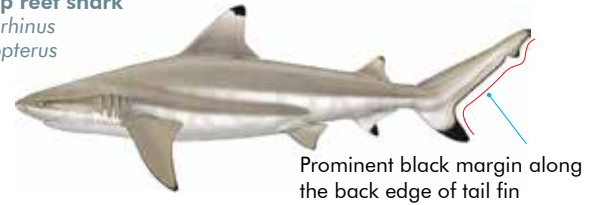
# IDENTIFICATION OF LOOK-ALIKE SHARKS

## Tip of upper tail fin black

সাদা লতাবলি হাঙ্গর  
**Graceful shark**  
*Carcharhinus amblyrhynchoides*

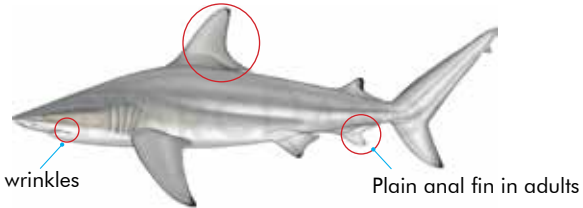


কালোডগা লতাবলি হাঙ্গর  
**Blacktip reef shark**  
*Carcharhinus melanopterus*



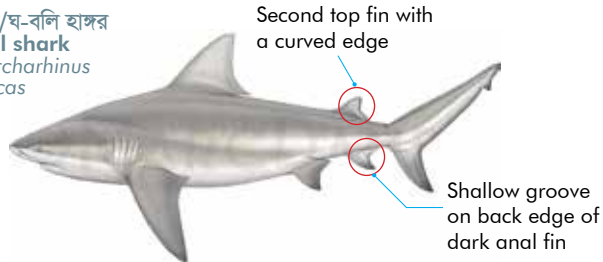
## No black tip on upper tail fin

লতাবলি হাঙ্গর  
**Blacktip shark**  
*Carcharhinus limbatus*

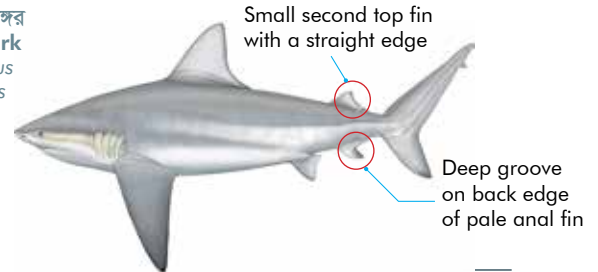


## No black fin tips

বলি/ঘ-বলি হাঙ্গর  
**Bull shark**  
*Carcharhinus leucas*



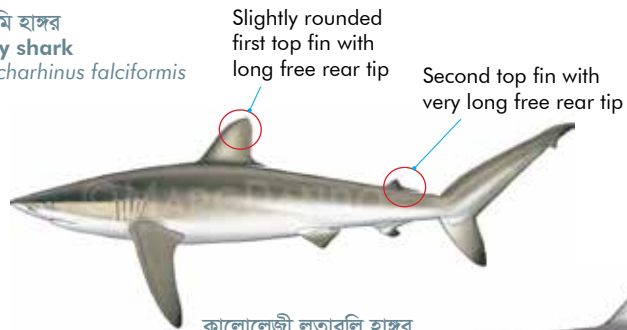
ভোঁতা বলি হাঙ্গর  
**Pigeye shark**  
*Carcharhinus amboinensis*



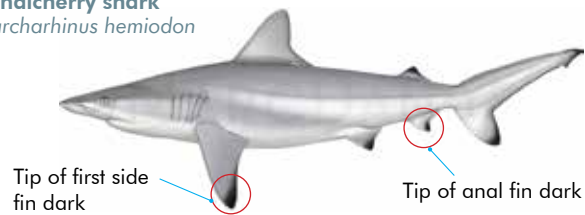
# IDENTIFICATION OF LOOK-ALIKE SHARKS

## Ridge between top fins present, lip wrinkles absent

রেশমি হাঙ্গর  
**Silky shark**  
*Carcharhinus falciformis*



বড়চোখা বলি হাঙ্গর  
**Pondicherry shark**  
*Carcharhinus hemiodon*

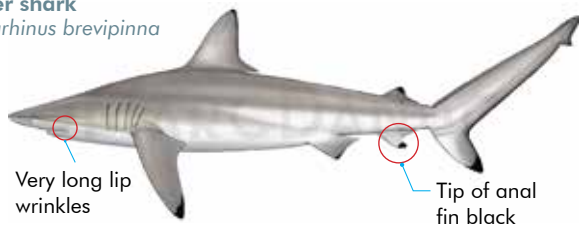


কালোলেজী লতাবলি হাঙ্গর  
**Spottail shark**  
*Carcharhinus sorrah*

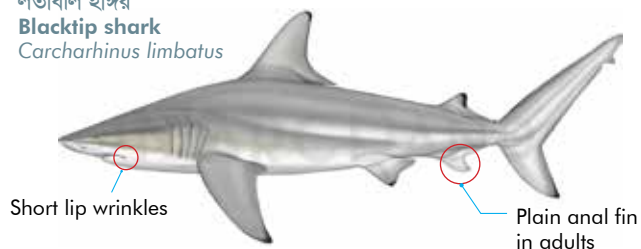


## Ridge between top fins absent, lip wrinkles present

কালো লতাবলি হাঙ্গর  
**Spinner shark**  
*Carcharhinus brevipinna*

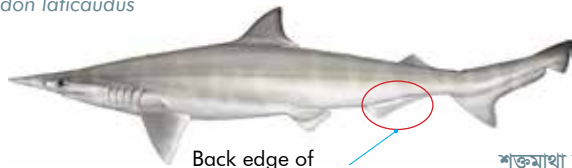


লতাবলি হাঙ্গর  
**Blacktip shark**  
*Carcharhinus limbatus*



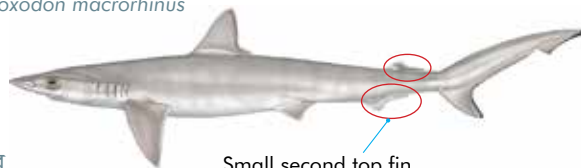
## Small holes at mouth ends absent

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

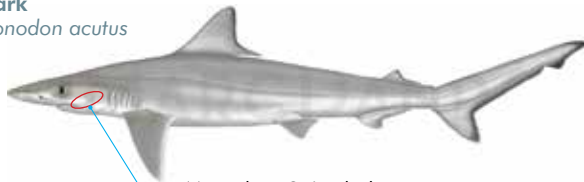
শক্তমাথা লতাবলি হাঙ্গর  
**Hardnose shark**  
*Carcharhinus macloti*



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*

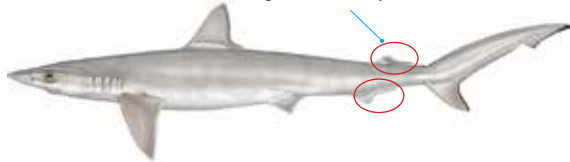


3-8 tiny holes at mouth ends

# IDENTIFICATION OF LOOK-ALIKE SHARKS

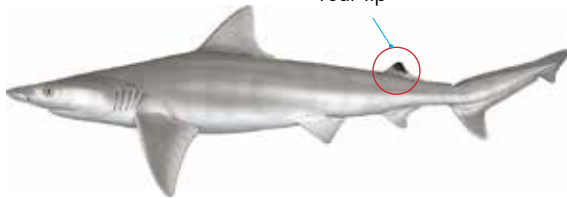
অঞ্জলিচোখা হাঙ্গর  
**Sliteye shark**  
*Loxodon macrorhinus*

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*

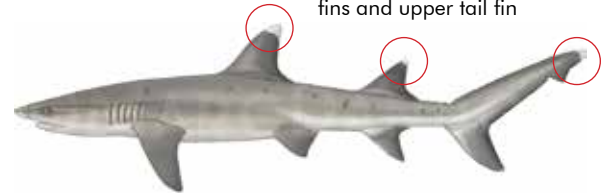
All fins strongly curved



Teeth shown even  
when mouth closed

সাদাপাখ বালি হাঙ্গর  
**Whitetip reef shark**  
*Triaenodon obesus*

White tip on both top  
fins and upper tail fin

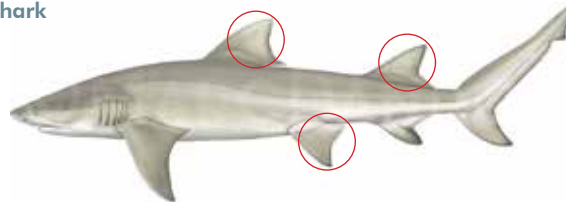




## Top fins and second side fin same size

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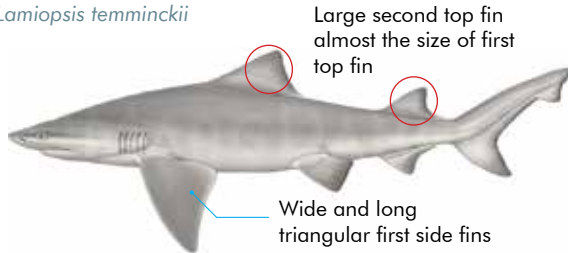
দাগহীন বলি হাঙ্গর  
**Sharptooth lemon shark**  
*Negaprion acutidens*



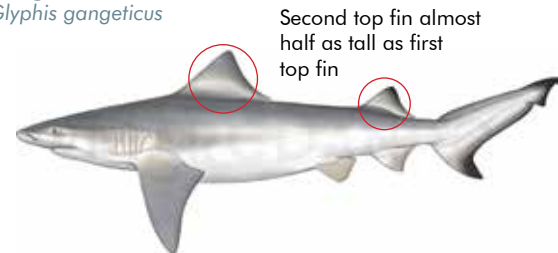
## Top fins and second side fin not same size

---

বড়পাখ চিনারি হাঙ্গর  
**Broadfin shark**  
*Lamiopsis temminckii*



গাঙ্গেয় চিনারি হাঙ্গর  
**Ganges shark**  
*Glyphis gangeticus*

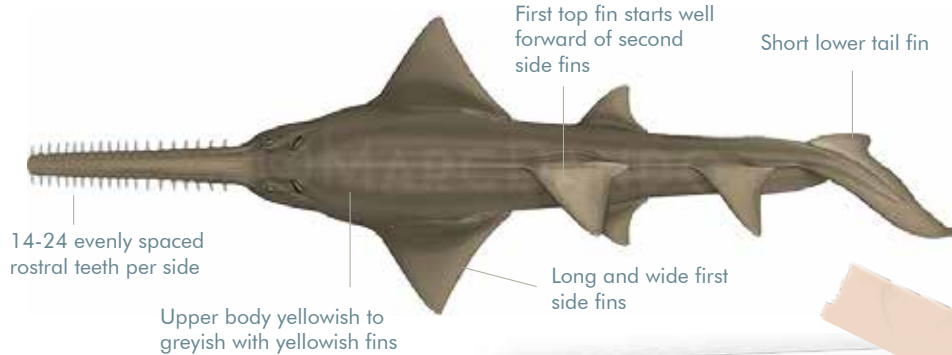


## KEY TO RAY SPECIES IN BANGLADESH

বড়দাঁতী করাত মাছ  
**Largetooth sawfish**  
*Pristis pristis*



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



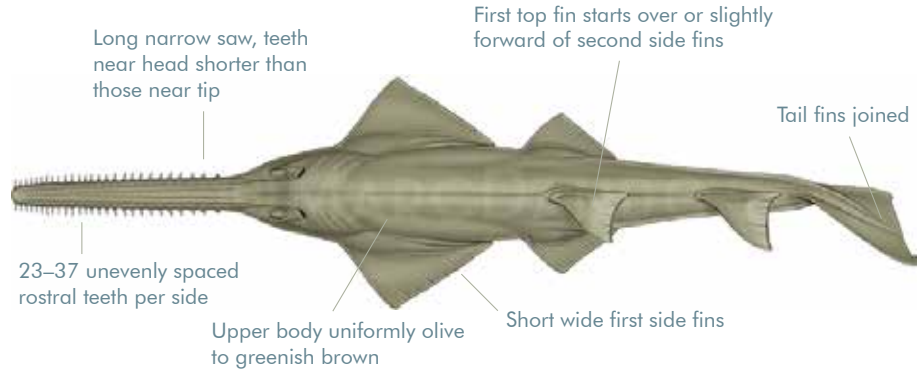
Largetooth sawfish can grow up to seven meters long and live for about thirty years. They start giving birth after the age of ten. A long, flat, and saw-shaped snout helps sawfish find and stun prey. It easily gets entangled in fishing gear.

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*



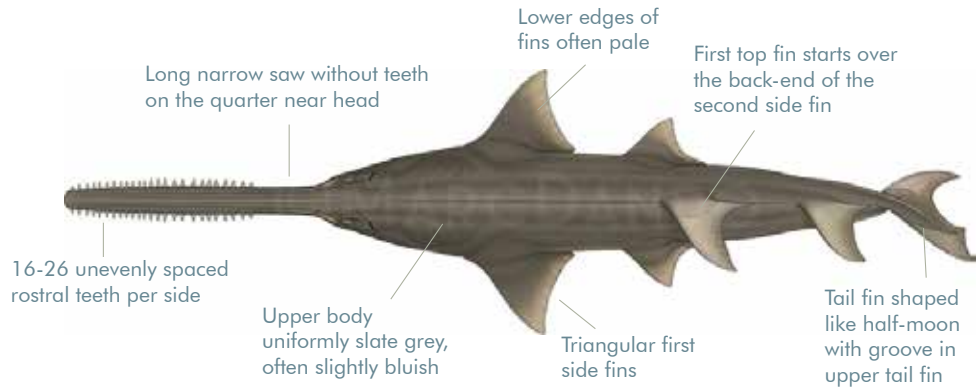
TL: Birth = 80,  
 Adult ♂ = 430,  
 Adult ♀ = 430,  
 ML = 730



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*

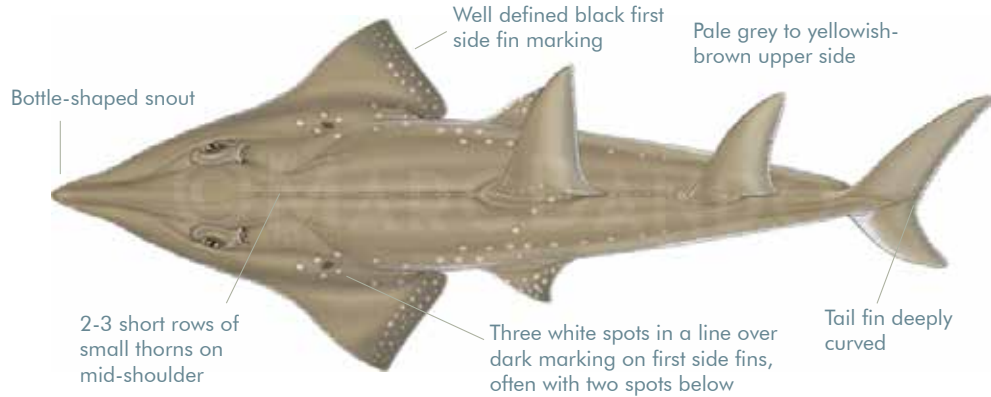


All rhino rays (guitarfishes, giant guitarfishes, wedgefishes) are strictly protected.

বোতলনাক পিতাম্বরি  
**Bottlenose wedgefish**  
*Rhynchobatus australiae*



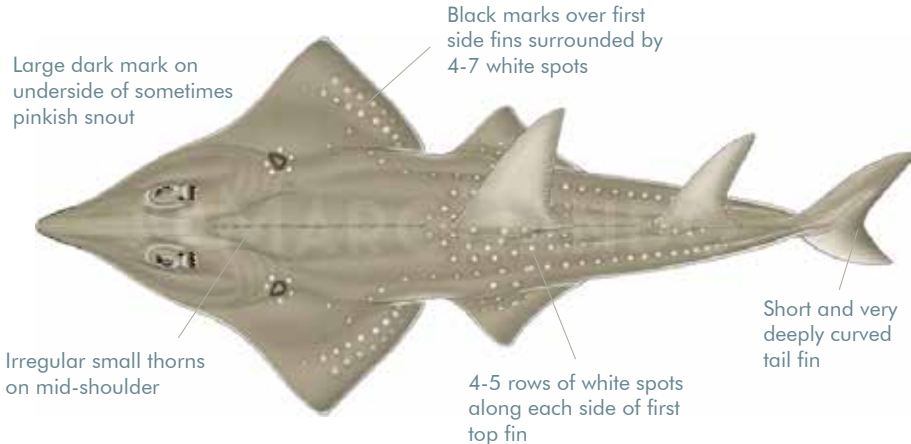
TL: Birth = 46-50,  
 Adult ♂ = 110-130,  
 Adult ♀ = 150,  
 ML = 300



মসৃণনাক পিতাম্বরি  
**Smoothnose wedgefish**  
*Rhynchobatus laevis*



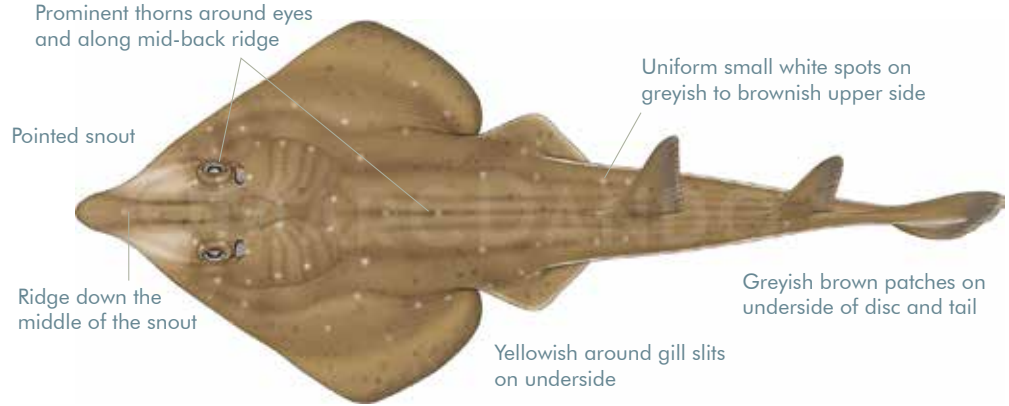
TL: Birth = ?,  
 Adult ♂ = 130,  
 Adult ♀ = ?,  
 ML = 200



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



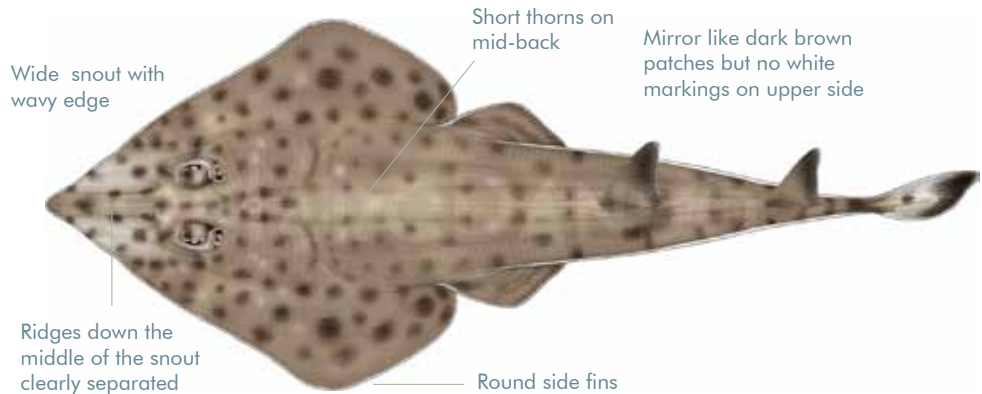
TL: Birth = ?,  
 Adult ♂ = 63,  
 Adult ♀ = 65,  
 ML = 95



মসৃণপিঠ পিতাম্বর  
**Smoothback guitarfish**  
*Rhinobatos lionotus*



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



সরুশীর্ষক পিতাম্বর  
**Sharpnose guitarfish**  
*Glaucostegus granulatus*

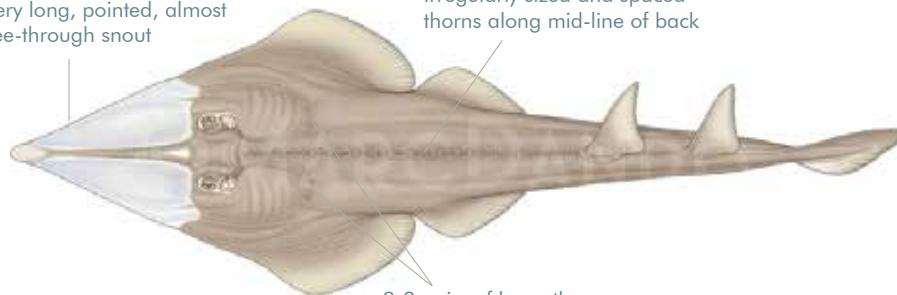


TL: Birth = 39,  
 Adult ♂ = ?,  
 Adult ♀ = ?,  
 ML = 229



Very long, pointed, almost see-through snout

Irregularly sized and spaced thorns along mid-line of back



2-3 pairs of large thorns on each shoulder

বড় পিতাম্বর  
**Giant guitarfish**  
*Glaucostegus typus*

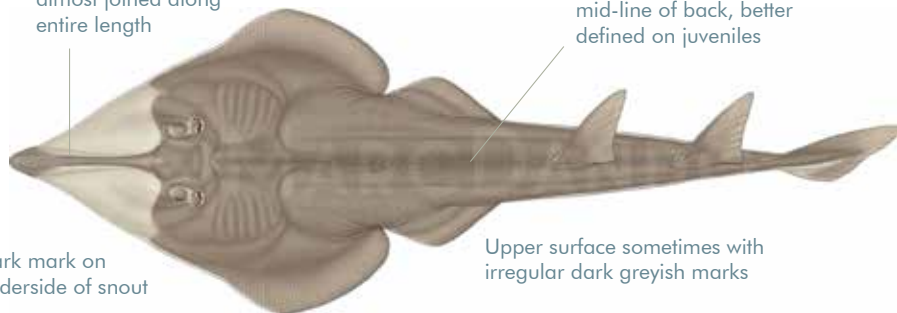


TL: Birth = 38-40,  
 Adult ♂ = 150-180,  
 Adult ♀ = 150-180,  
 ML = 270



Ridges on the snout almost joined along entire length

Large thorns along mid-line of back, better defined on juveniles



Dark mark on underside of snout

Upper surface sometimes with irregular dark greyish marks

No thorns on shoulders



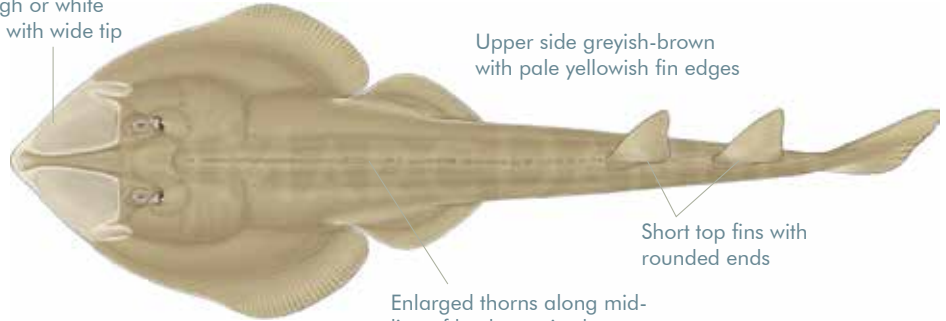
চ্যাপ্টানাক পিতাম্বরি  
**Widenose guitarfish**  
*Glaucostegus obtusus*



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

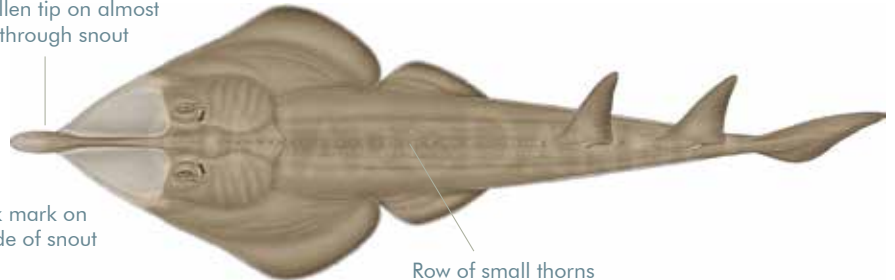
গোদানাক পিতাম্বরি  
**Clubnose guitarfish**  
*Glaucostegus thouin*



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



Swollen tip on almost see-through snout



No dark mark on underside of snout

No large thorns on snout or head

Row of small thorns along mid-line of back

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*

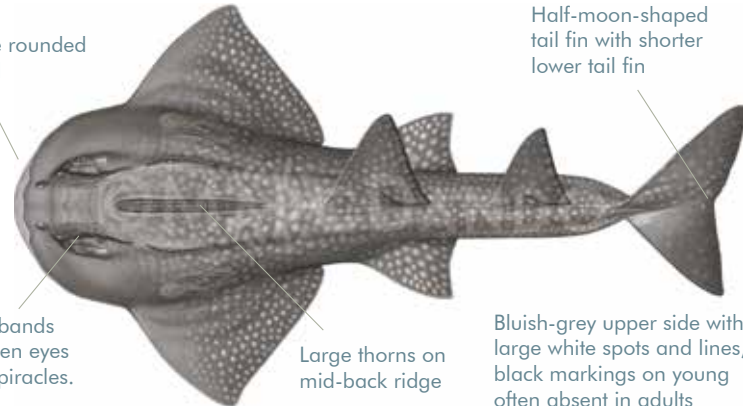


TL: Birth = 46-48,  
 Adult ♂ = 150-175,  
 Adult ♀ = 180,  
 ML = 270



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



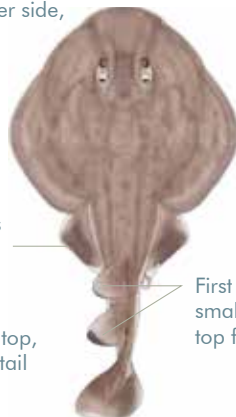
Plain upper side,  
 no spots

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 breviliabiata*



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



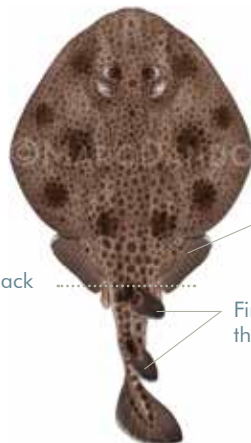
Upper side covered  
 with many very small  
 dark brown dots and  
 a few large spots

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 ♂ = 24-27,  
 Adult ♀ = ?,  
 ML = 35



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

Whitish underside, often with darker edges

Second side fins wider than long with edges curved outward

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

Short tail fin



ছোটফোঁটা বাদামী কারেন্ট মাছ  
**Smallspot numbfish**  
*Narcine maculata*



TL: Birth = 13,  
 Adult ♂ = 28,  
 Adult ♀ = ?,  
 ML = 40



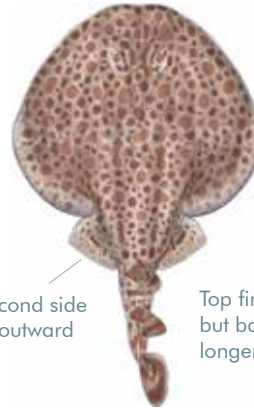
Brownish upper side covered with many dark spots the size of its eyes or smaller

Whitish underside sometimes with darker edges

Some spots merged into elongated blotches

Edges of second side fins curved outward

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



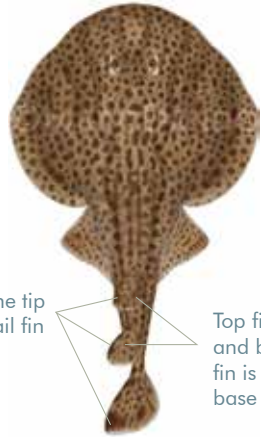
কালোফোঁটালেজী কারেন্ট মাছ  
**Tonkin numbfish**  
*Narcine prodorsalis*

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

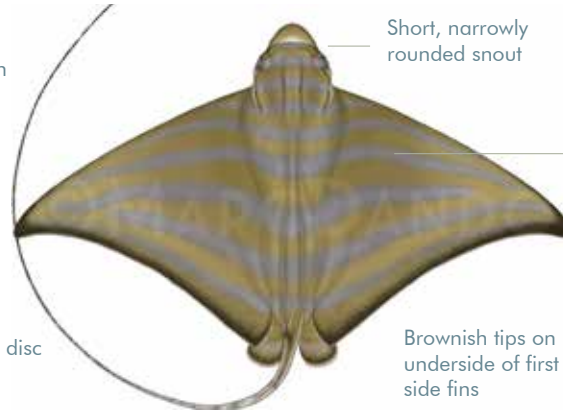
ডোরাকাটা ঠুইট্যা  
**Banded eagle ray**  
*Aetomylaeus nichofii*



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

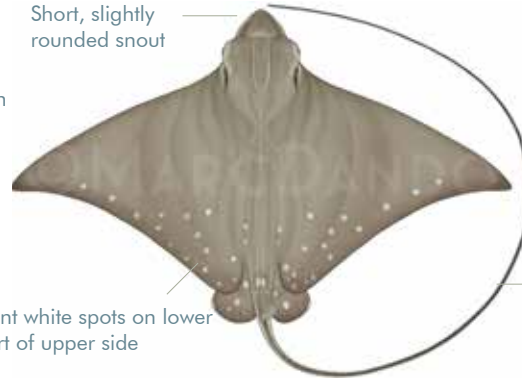
কাঁটাহীন কমফোঁটা ঠুইট্যা  
**Mottled eagle ray**  
*Aetomylaeus maculatus*



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



No thorns on upper side



Short, slightly rounded snout

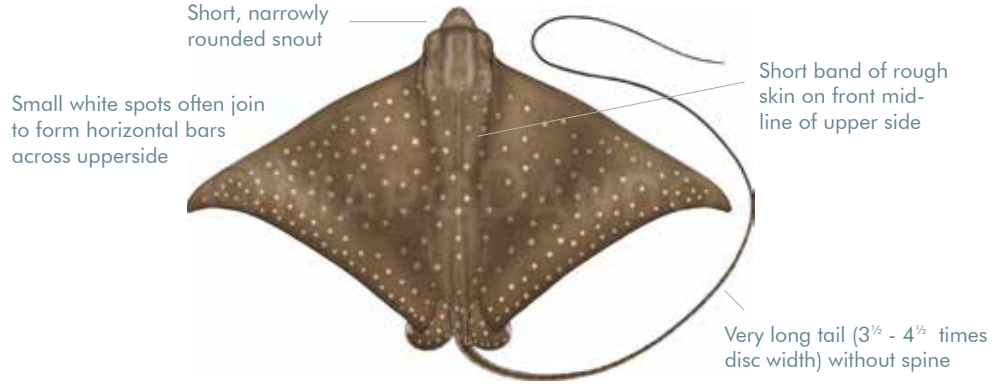
Very long tail (3-4 1/2 times disc width) without spine

Faint white spots on lower part of upper side

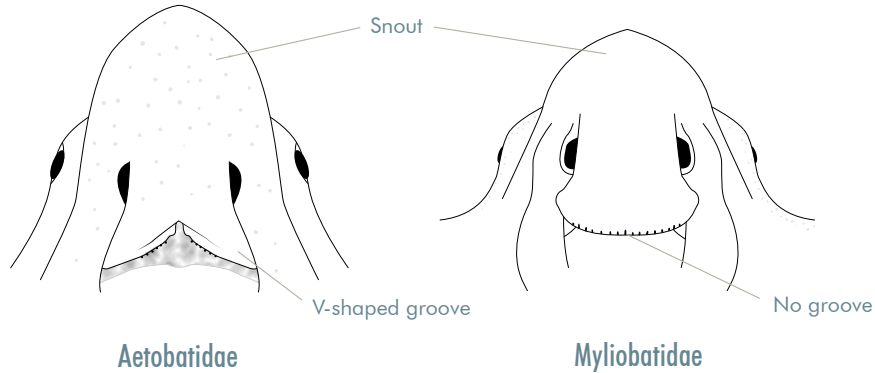
কাঁটাহীন বেশিফোঁটা ঠুইট্যা  
**Ocellate eagle ray**  
*Aetomylaeus milvus*



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

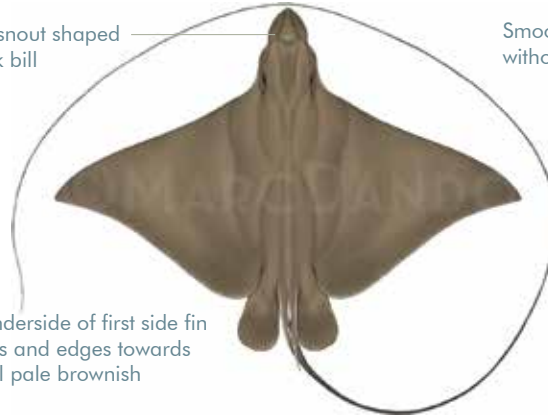


Very long snout shaped like a duck bill

Smooth upper side without spots or rings

Underside of first side fin tips and edges towards tail pale brownish

Fairly long tail with 1-2 spines



কাঁটায়ুক্ত ফুল ঠুইট্যা  
**Spotted eagle ray**  
*Aetobatus ocellatus*



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

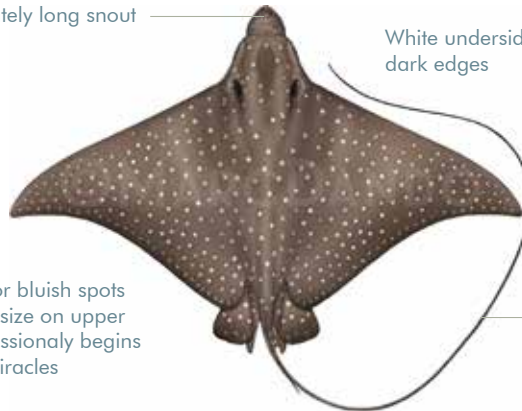


Moderately long snout

White underside with dark edges

Whitish or bluish spots of equal size on upper side, occasionally begins below spiracles

Tail more than double as long as disc width with mostly 1 or 2 up to 5 spines







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



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

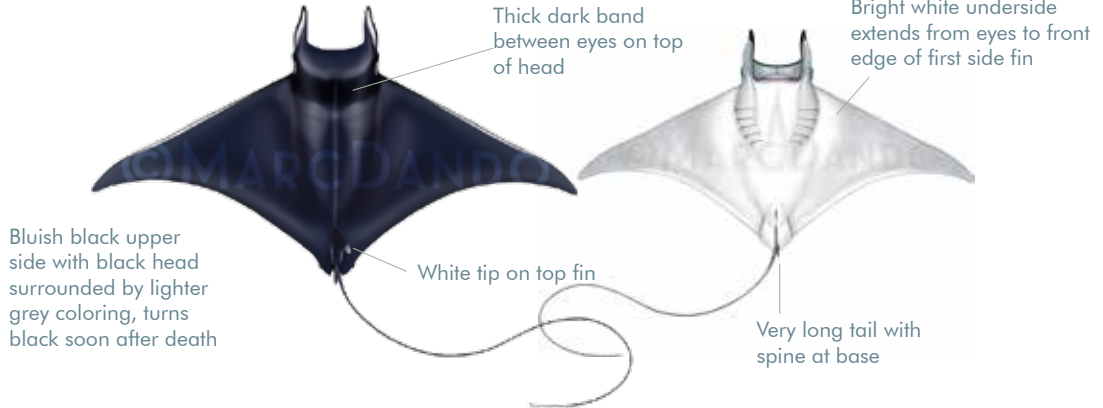
White tip on top fin

Clusters of spots on lower part of underside

সাদাপেট শিংচোয়াইন  
**Spinetail devilray (Giant devilray)**  
*Mobula mobular*



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



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

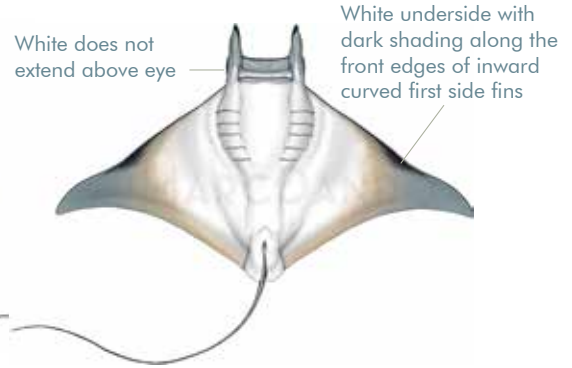
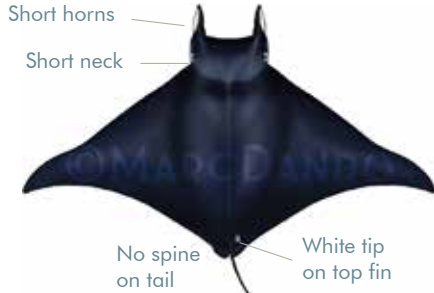
White tip on top fin

Very long tail with spine at base

বাঁকাপাখ শিংচোয়াইন  
**Bentfin devilray**  
*Mobula thurstoni*



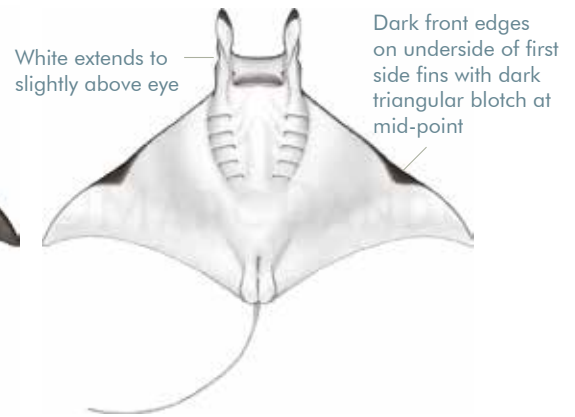
DW: Birth = 70-90,  
 Adult ♂ = 150-158,  
 Adult ♀ = 150-163,  
 MW = 197



লম্বাশিংওয়ালা শিংচোয়াইন  
**Longhorned pygmy devil ray**  
*Mobula eregoodoo*



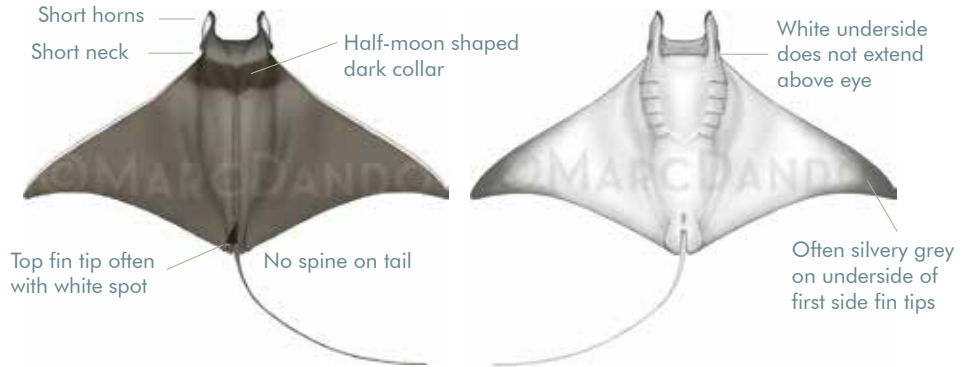
DW: Birth = 43,  
 Adult ♂ = 99,  
 Adult ♀ = 92.5,  
 MW = 130



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



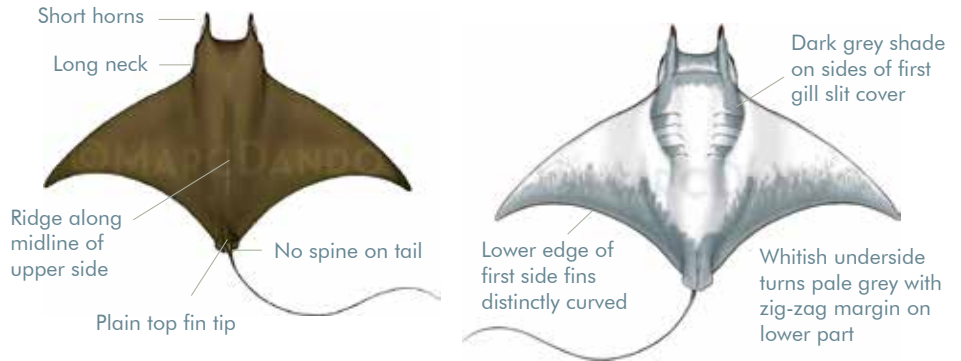
DW: Birth = 31-34,  
 Adult ♂ = 115,  
 Adult ♀ = 116,  
 MW = 135



ধূসরপেট শিংচোয়াইন  
**Sicklefin devilray**  
 (Chilean devilray)  
*Mobula tarapacana*



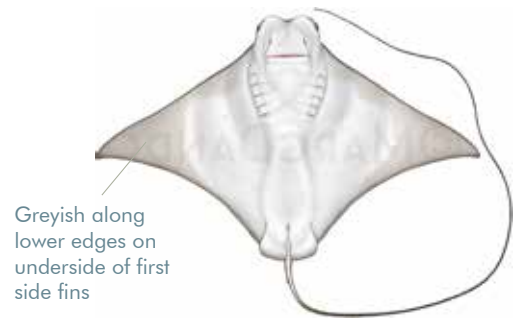
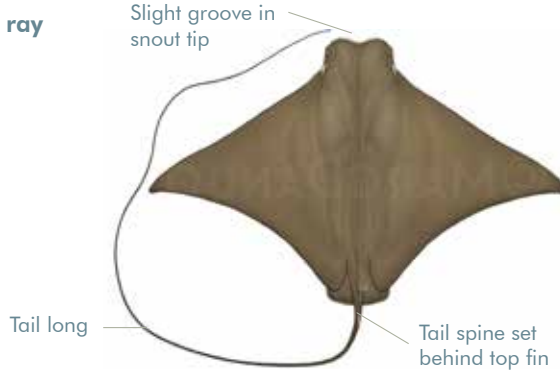
DW: Birth = 120-130,  
 Adult ♂ = 198-250,  
 Adult ♀ = 270-280,  
 MW = 370



লম্বালেজী ঘাপরি  
**Javanese cownose ray**  
*Rhinoptera javanica*



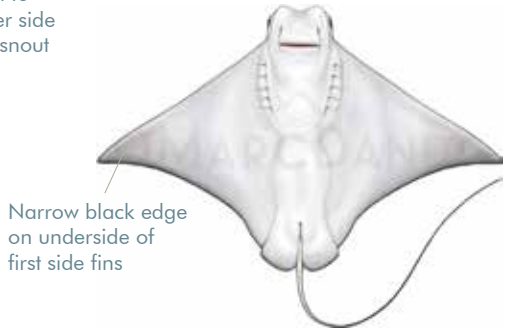
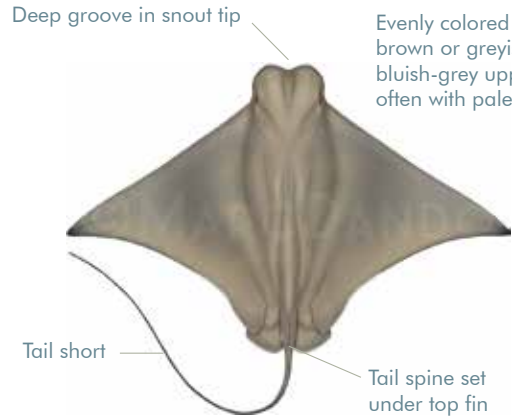
DW: Birth = 30,  
 Adult ♂ = ?,  
 Adult ♀ = 128,  
 MW = 165



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



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



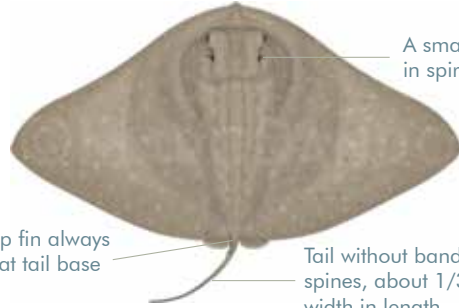
লেজে ফোঁটাহীন পদুনি  
**Tentacled butterfly ray**  
*Gymnura tentaculata*



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

No top fin

Small thin tail spine in adults but not in young



সাদাফোঁটা পদুনি  
**Zonetail butterfly ray**  
*Gymnura zonura*

খাঁজহীন চোখামুখ ফাইসি  
**Bengal whipray**  
*Brevitrygon imbricata*

VU

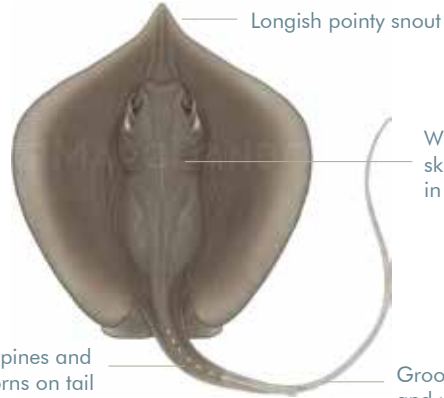
DW: Birth = 10,  
Adult ♂ = 20-21,  
Adult ♀ = 21,  
MW = 29



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



খাঁজহীন চোখামুখ ফাইসি  
**Bengal whipray**  
*Brevitrygon imbricata*

VU





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

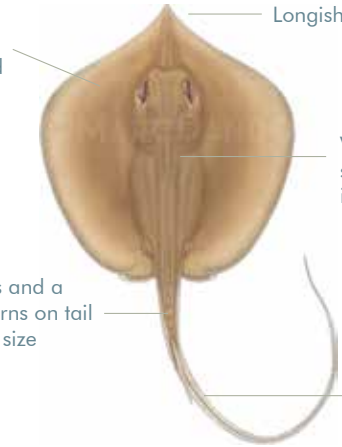
Yellowish edge on underside of second side fin

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**  
*Hemityrion bennetti*

VU

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



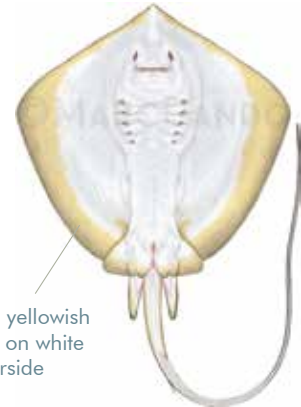
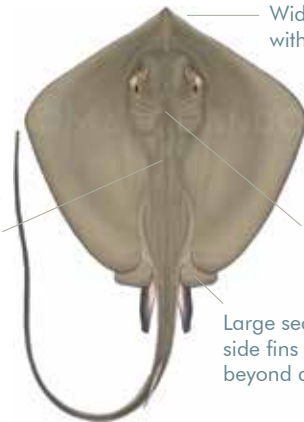
Short and small row of thorns on each shoulder and along its mid-line ends before tail spine

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

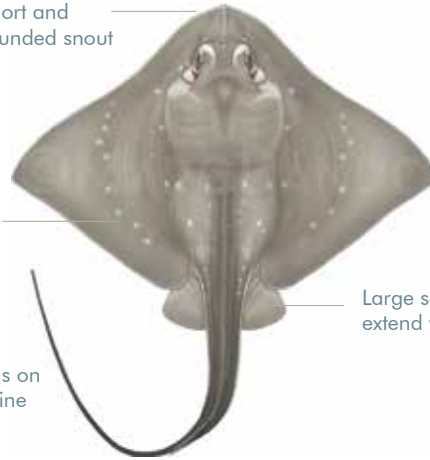


Disc covered with many  
 tiny star-shaped pearls  
 but no large ones

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*



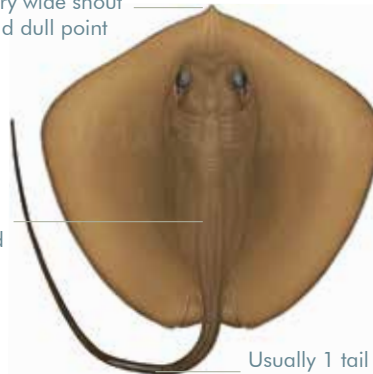
DW: Birth = 23,  
 Adult ♂ = 70,  
 Adult ♀ = ?,  
 MW = 150



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

Very wide snout  
 and dull point

Disc with very  
 wide shoulder



White underside



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

Tail blackish  
 beyond spine



EN

পাইনা/বাইলা শাপলাপাতা  
Giant Freshwater whipray  
*Urogymnus polylepis*

গোল শাপলাপাতা  
**Round whipray**  
*Maculabatis pastinacoides*



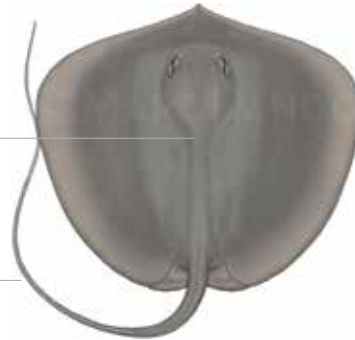
DW: Birth = 15-16,  
 Adult ♂ = 43-46,  
 Adult ♀ = 58,  
 MW = 86



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*



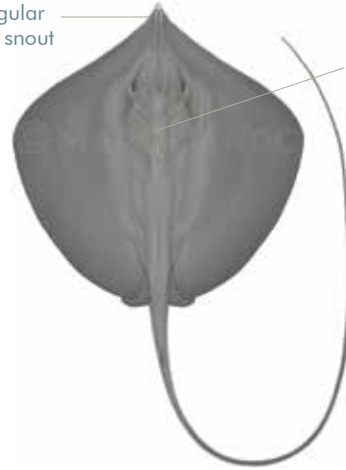
DW: Birth = 21,  
 Adult ♂ = 51,  
 Adult ♀ = 51,  
 MW = 119



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*

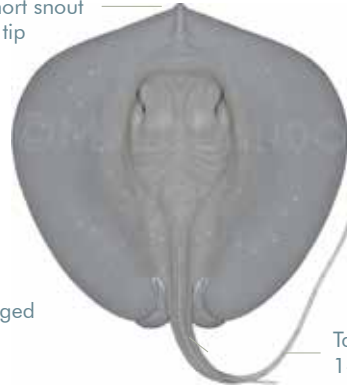


DW: Birth = 30,  
 Adult ♂ = 110,  
 Adult ♀ = ?,  
 MW = 223



Very wide short snout  
 with narrow tip

Greyish-brown upper  
 side uniformly rough  
 with small white patches  
 and dark slime



Underside of  
 young is white,  
 with many  
 black spots on  
 adults

No enlarged  
 pearls

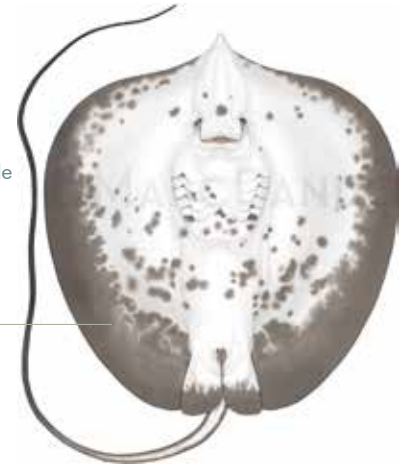
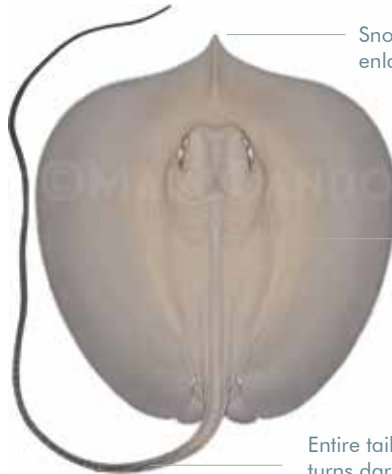
Tail white after  
 1-2 spines

Snout very wide with  
 enlarged pointed tip.

Most of upper side  
 rough with 1-6  
 small pearls on  
 mid-shoulder

Dark brown to  
 greyish edges with  
 brownish blotches  
 on underside

Entire tail rough,  
 turns darker  
 behind 1-3 spines



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

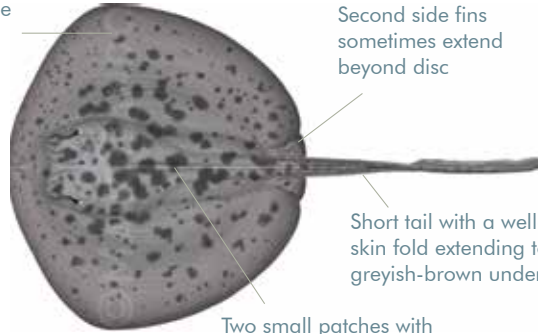
কালোদাগী শাপলাপাতা  
**Blotched fantail ray**  
**(Blotched stingray)**  
*Taenirops meyeri*



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

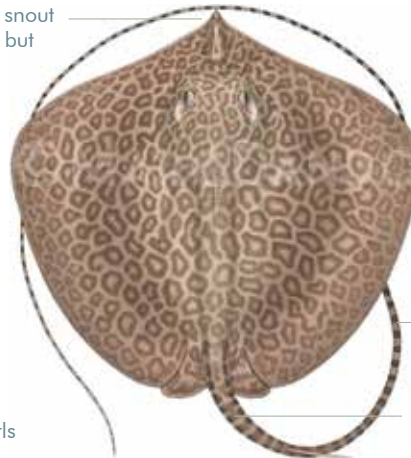
বড়দাগী বাঘা শাপলাপাতা  
**Honeycomb whipray**  
**(Bleeker's variegated whipray)**  
*Himantura undulata*



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*

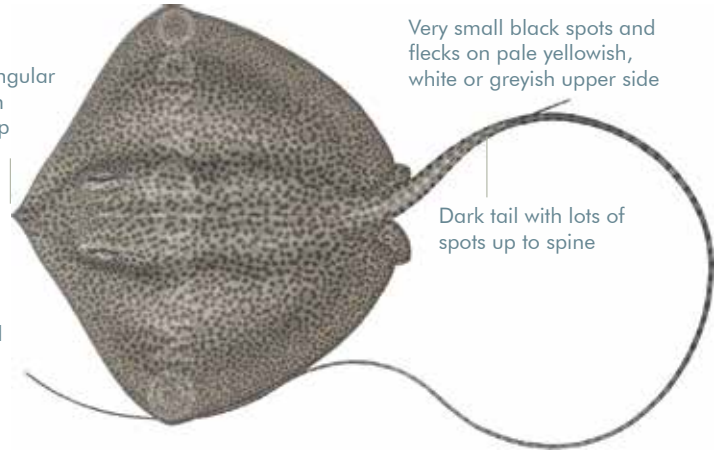


DW: Birth = 21-28,  
 Adult ♂ = 82,  
 Adult ♀ = ?,  
 MW = 160



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*

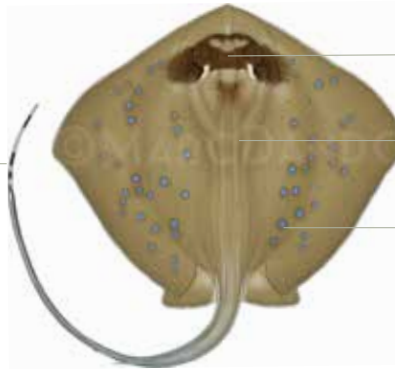
LC

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*

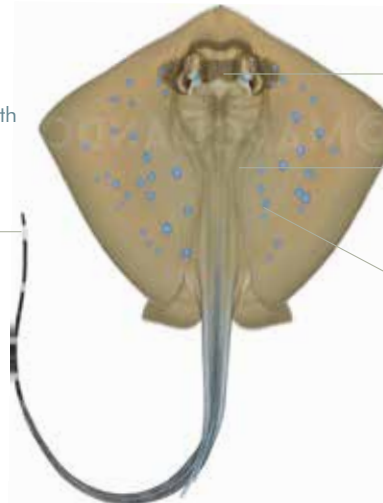
DD

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

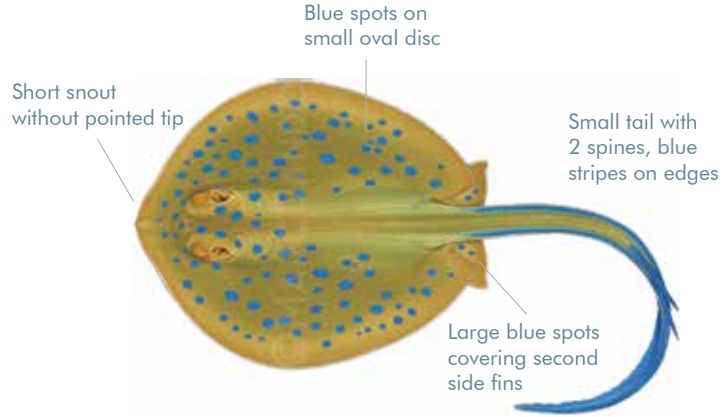
Row of thorns along  
 mid-line of back but  
 not on tail

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

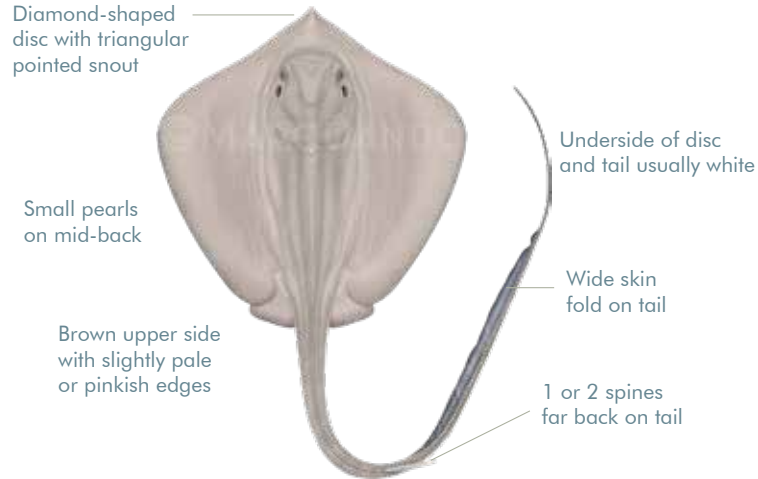


নপুরা/নীলফোঁটা ফুল শাপলাপাতা  
**Bluespotted maskray**  
*Neotrygon caeruleopunctata*

সরুনাংক হাঙরাইল  
**Roughnose cowtail ray**  
*Pastinachus solocirostris*



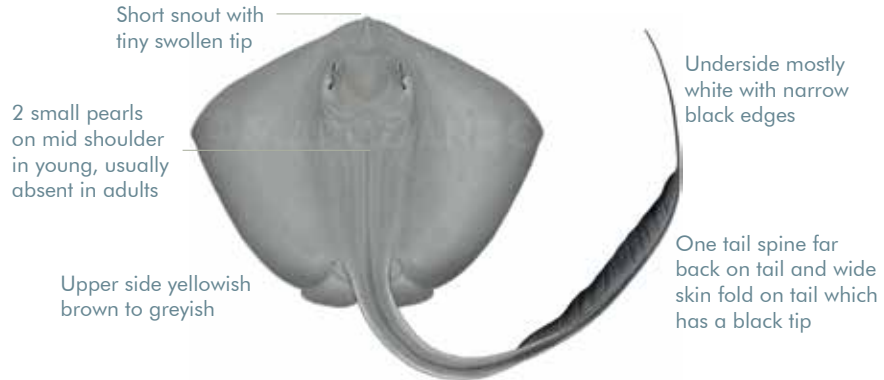
DW: Birth = 20,  
 Adult ♂ = 36-39,  
 Adult ♀ = 50-60,  
 MW = 72



চ্যাপ্টানাংক হাঙরাইল  
**Cowtail ray**  
*Pastinachus sephen*



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



# IDENTIFICATION OF LOOK-ALIKE RAYS

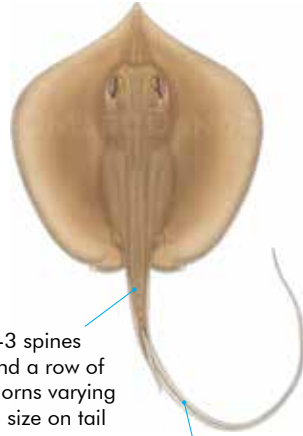
খাঁজহীন চোখামুখ ফাইসি  
**Bengal whipray**  
*Brevitrygon imbricata*



Usually 2 spines and up to 6 thorns on tail

Groove on both upper and underside of tail

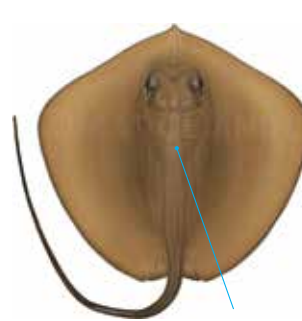
খাঁজযুক্ত চোখামুখ ফাইসি  
**Scaly whipray**  
*Brevitrygon walga*



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

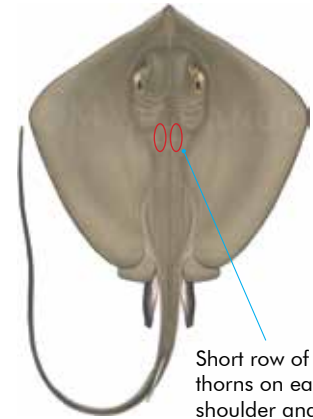
No groove on upper side but groove on underside side of tail

কালোদাগী ঘুড়ি শাপলাপাতা  
**Jenkins' whipray**  
*Pateobatis jenkinsii*



Thorns along midline end before tail spine

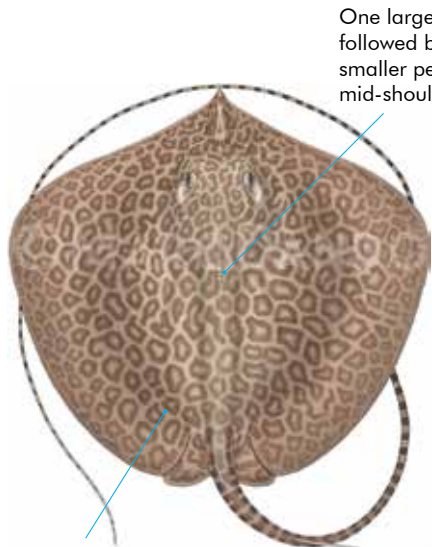
ঘুড়ি শাপলাপাতা  
**Bennett's stingray**  
*Hemitrygon bennetti*



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

# IDENTIFICATION OF LOOK-ALIKE RAYS

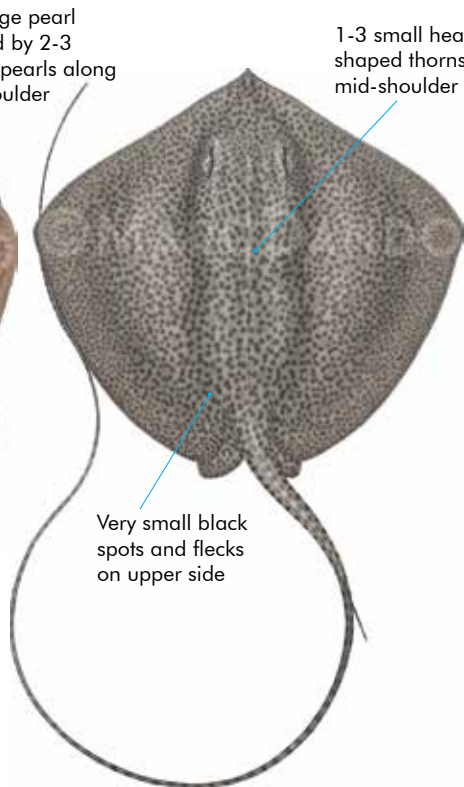
বড়দাগী বাঘা শাপলাপাতা  
**Honeycomb whipray**  
*Himantura undulata*



One large pearl followed by 2-3 smaller pearls along mid-shoulder

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

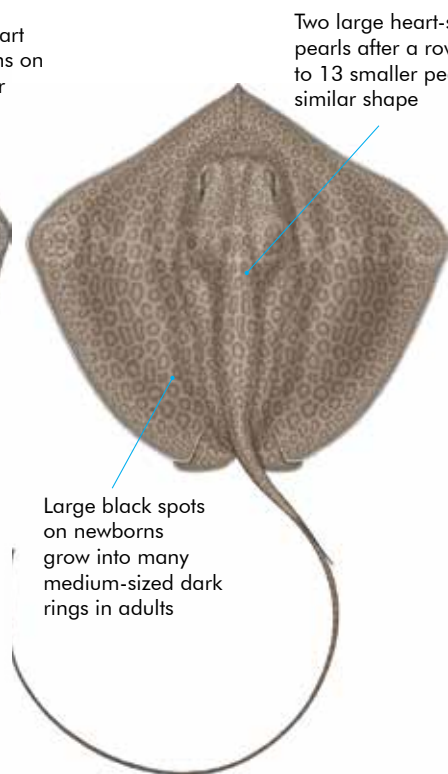
চ্যাপ্টানাক বাঘা শাপলাপাতা  
**Coach (Reticulated) whipray**  
*Himantura uarnak*



1-3 small heart shaped thorns on mid-shoulder

Very small black spots and flecks on upper side

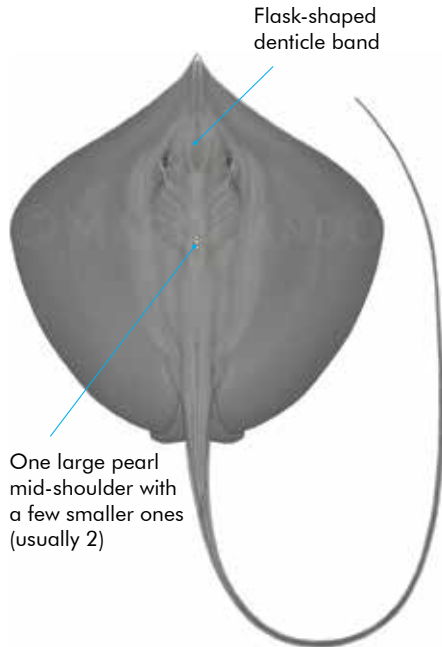
ছোটদাগী বাঘা শাপলাপাতা  
**Leopard whipray**  
*Himantura leoparda*



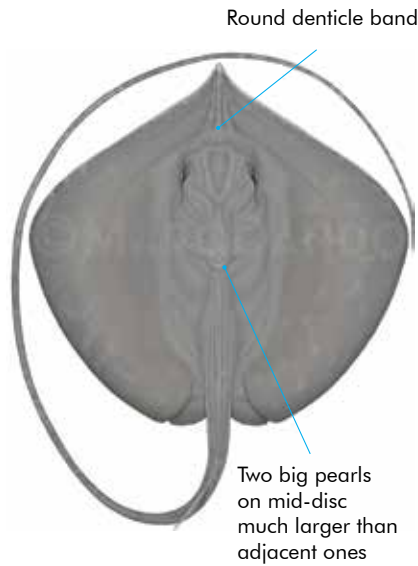
Two large heart-shaped pearls after a row of up to 13 smaller pearls of similar shape

Large black spots on newborns grow into many medium-sized dark rings in adults

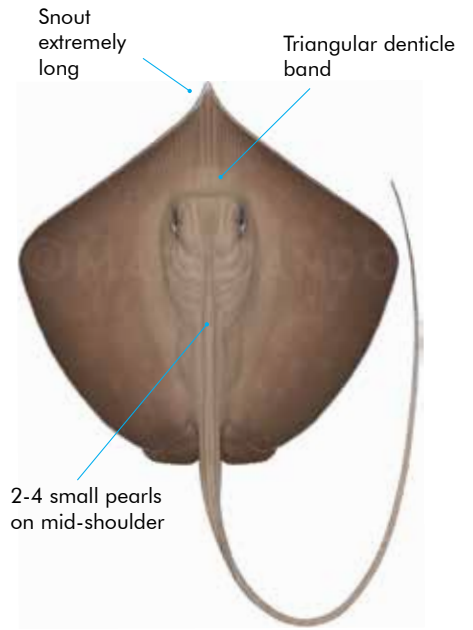
রাম্মি/চুনি শাপলাপাতা  
**Bleeker's whipray**  
*Pateobatis bleekeri*



সাদানাক শাপলাপাতা  
**Whitenose whipray**  
*Pateobatis varnacoides*

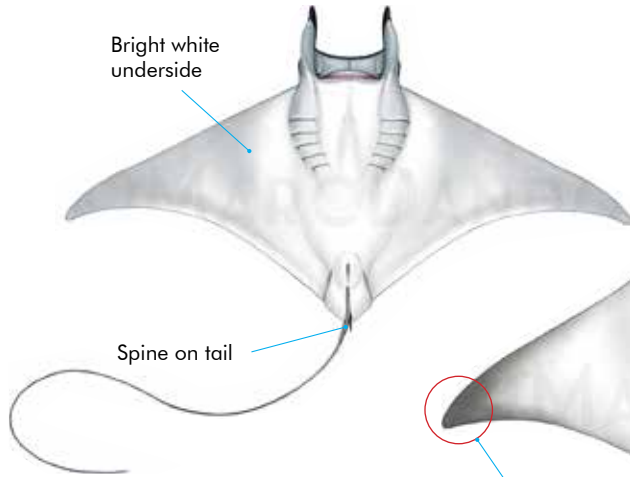


চোঙামুখ শাপলাপাতা  
**Tubemouth whipray**  
*Urogymnus lobistomus*

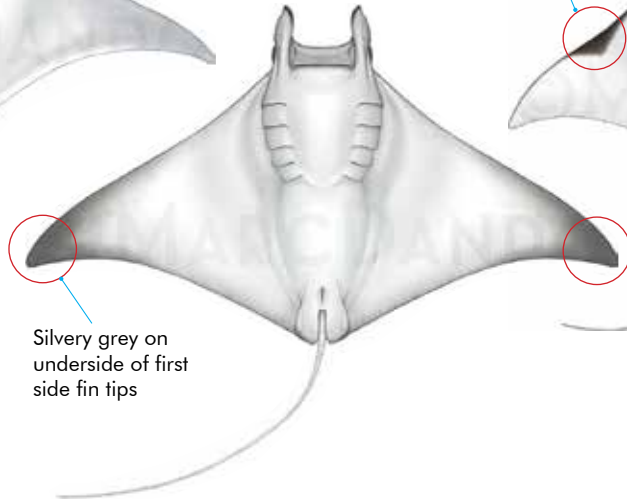


# IDENTIFICATION OF LOOK-ALIKE RAYS

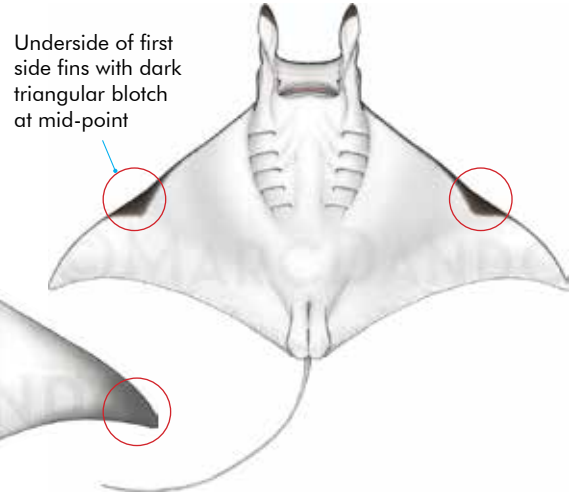
সাদাপেট শিংচোয়াইন  
**Spinetail devilray**  
*Mobula mobular*



ছোটপাখ শিংচোয়াইন  
**Kuhl's devilray**  
*Mobula kuhlii*

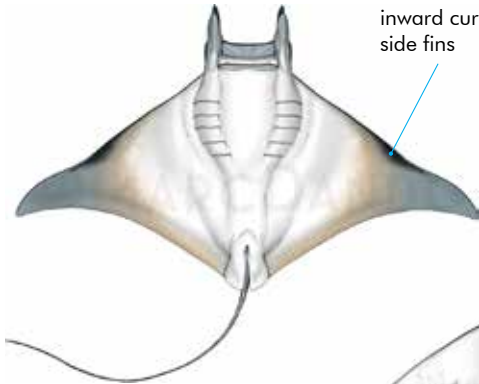


লম্বাশিং ওয়ালা শিংচোয়াইন  
**Longhorned pygmy devilray**  
*Mobula eregodoo*



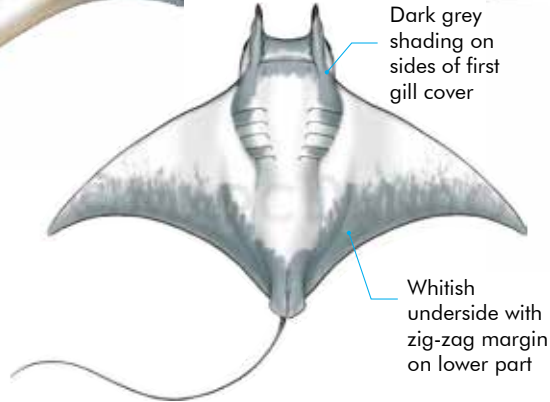


বাঁকাপাখ শিংচোয়াইন  
**Bentfin devilray**  
*Mobula thurstoni*



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

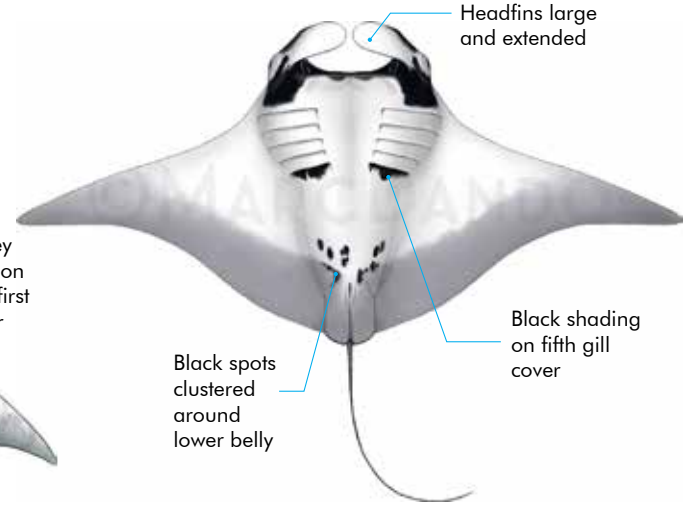
ধুসরপেট শিংচোয়াইন  
**Sicklefin devilray**  
*Mobula tarapacana*



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

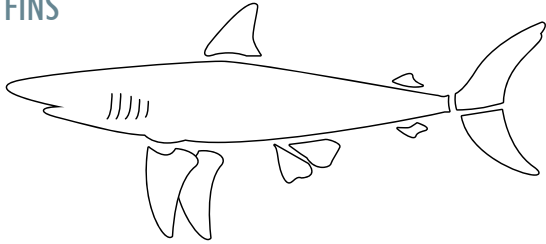
Black spots clustered around lower belly

Black shading on fifth gill cover



# IDENTIFYING COMMONLY TRADED BODY PARTS FROM PROTECTED SHARK AND RAY SPECIES

## FINS

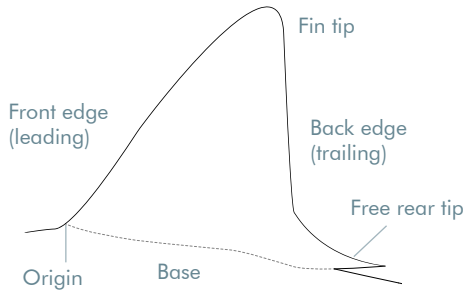


Shark and ray fins are among the most expensive seafood products in the world. The soft needle-thin keratin fibers extracted from dried fins of sharks, sawfish, guitarfish, and wedgefish are considered a luxury food in China.

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.

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



সাদাপাখ কান্তে হাঙ্গর

**Common thresher**

Narrowly rounded apex and short free rear tip



নীল কান্তে হাঙ্গর

**Pelagic 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



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



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



করাত মাছ   **Sawfishes**

Top fins triangular with a short free rear tip



© Alifa Bintha Haque

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)



(See full species description on page 50-51)



Tail fin

Side fin

Top fin

© Iqbal Wihassan

First side fins long, wide, and triangular

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



© Gisela Kaufman



© Daniel Fernando

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

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.

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.



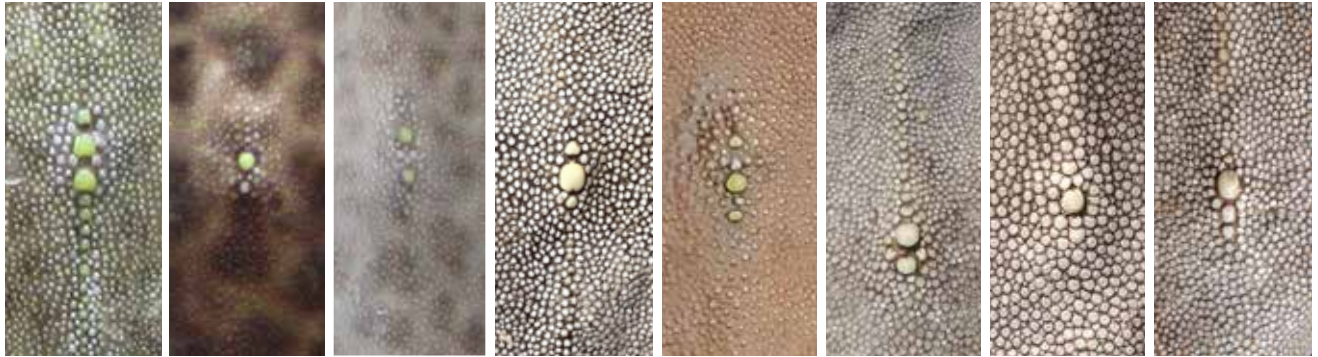
Guitarfish skins drying in the sun

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.

# 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 wedgefish meat is often cut into strips for drying.



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



When dried ray meat generally turns darker.

## OTHER SHARK AND RAY PRODUCTS IN TRADE

### Liver oil

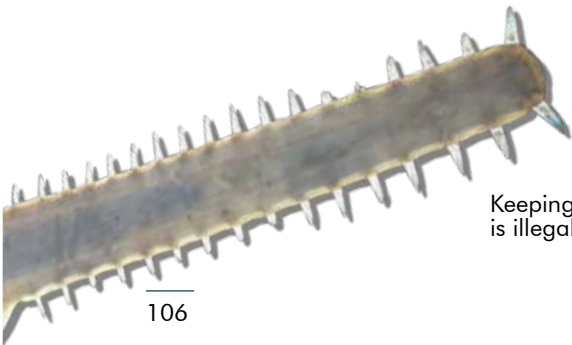
Sharks and rays have large oily livers to keep them afloat. Their liver oil is used in skincare products, animal feed, and for deriving squalene used as a boosting agent in vaccines.

### 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

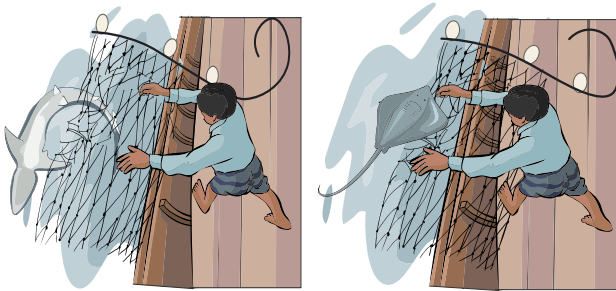


Shark jaws

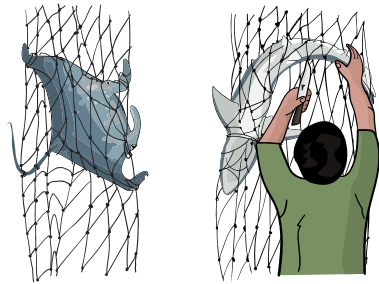
# SAFE RELEASE PROCEDURES

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.



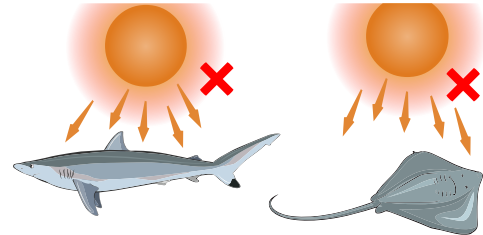
Release sharks and rays in the water, whenever possible.



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.

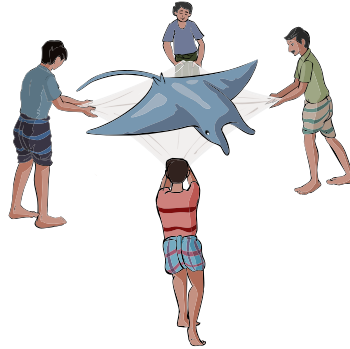


Keep the animal out of the sun.

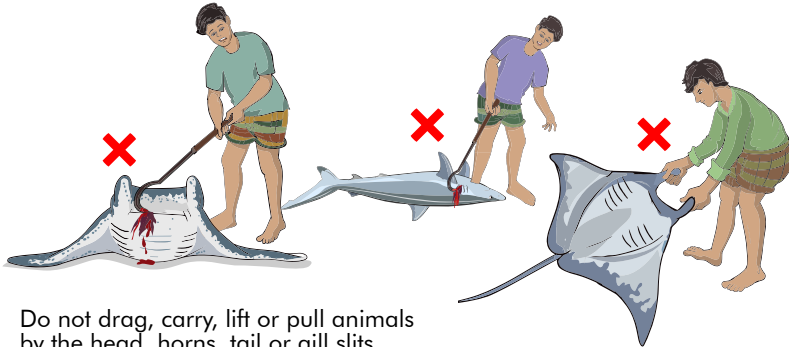
## SAFE RELEASE PROCEDURES



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.