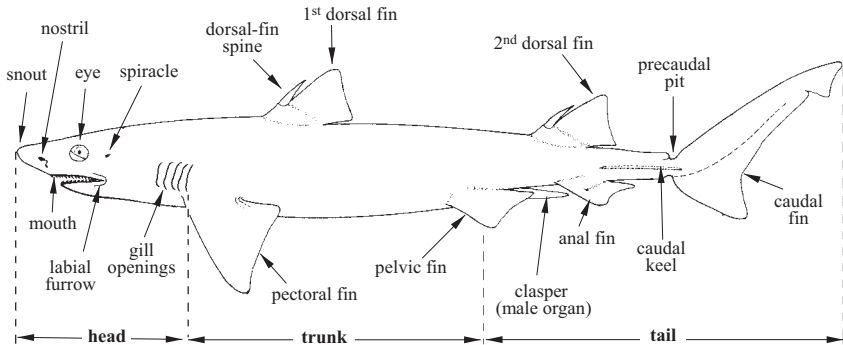
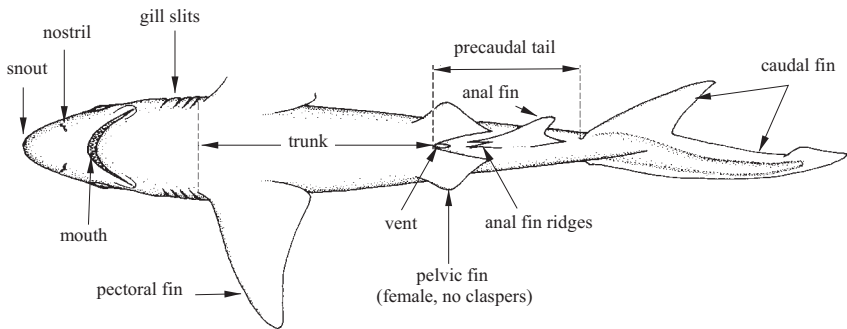


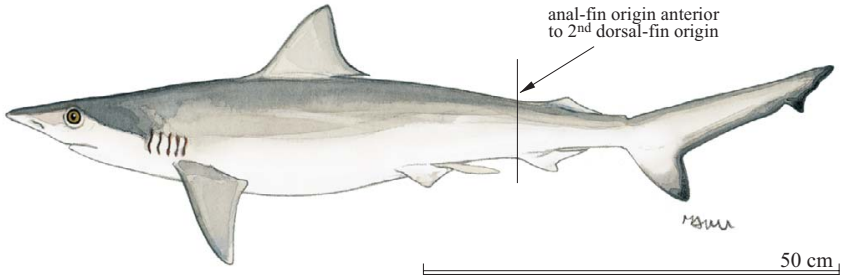
SHARKS





Rhizoprionodon acutus

CARCHARHINIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Milk shark; **Fr** – Requin museau pointu; **Sp** – Tiburón lechoso.

Local names: Qirsh. قرش

Size: Common up to 110 cm.

Conservation status: Lower Risk: Least Concern.

Small shark, second dorsal fin much smaller than first one.

Rhizoprionodon acutus

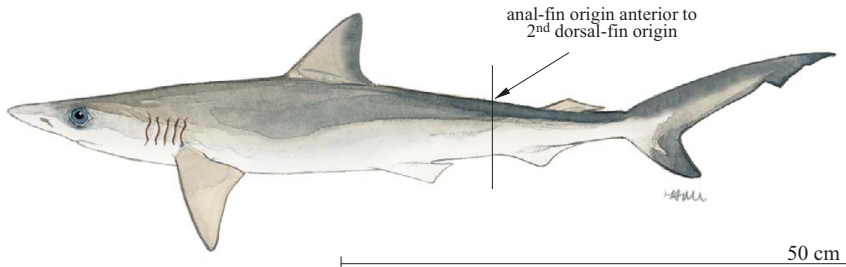
CARCHARHINIDAE

Habitat and biology: An abundant inshore and offshore shark, from the surfline to depths of about 200 m. Viviparous: 2 to 8 young per litter; gestation period about 1 year. Feeds on small bony fishes (lizardfish, goatfish, threadfins, wrasses, hairtails, sardines, croakers, mojarras), squids, octopi, cuttlefish, shrimps, crabs and sea snails.

Importance to fisheries: An important species for inshore small-scale fisheries across its range. Caught with longlines, gillnets and trawls. Utilized fresh and salt-dried for human consumption.

Loxodon macrorhinus

CARCHARHINIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Sliteye shark; **Fr** – Requin sagrin; **Sp** – Tiburón ojuelo.

Local names: Libax; Jeer-Jeer; Al-Qirsh Al-Hindi.

لباكس؛ جير-جير؛ القرش الهندي

Size: To 90 cm.

Conservation status: Least Concern.

Small shark, second dorsal fin much smaller than first one, translucent nose.

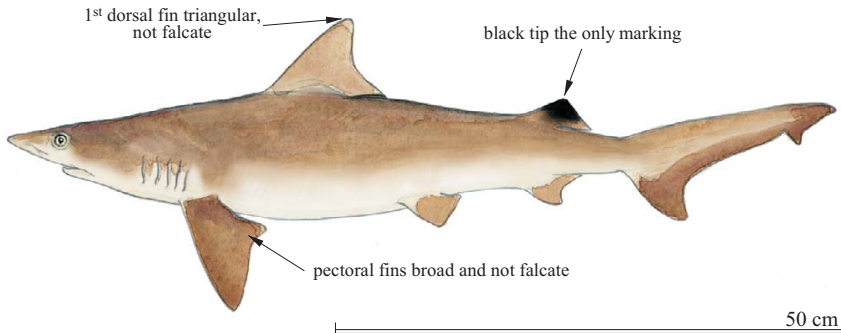
Loxodon macrorhinus

CARCHARHINIDAE

Habitat and biology: Occurs in tropical, coastal, clear waters, near the surface and bottom; at depths from 7 to 80 m. Viviparous; with 2 to 4 young per litter. Feeds on anchovies, croakers, shrimp and cuttlefish.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with floating and bottom gillnets and line gear. Locally important for small-scale fisheries in parts of its range. Utilized fresh and dried for human consumption.

Carcharhinus dussumieri CARCHARHINIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Whitecheek shark; **Fr** – Requin à joues blanches; **Sp** – Tiburón cariblanco.

Local names: Qirsh Al-aamaak.

قرش الأعماق

Size: To about 90 cm.

Conservation status: Lower Risk: Near Threatened.

Small shark, second dorsal fin much smaller than first one, second dorsal with large black marking on top half.

Carcharhinus dussumieri

CARCHARHINIDAE

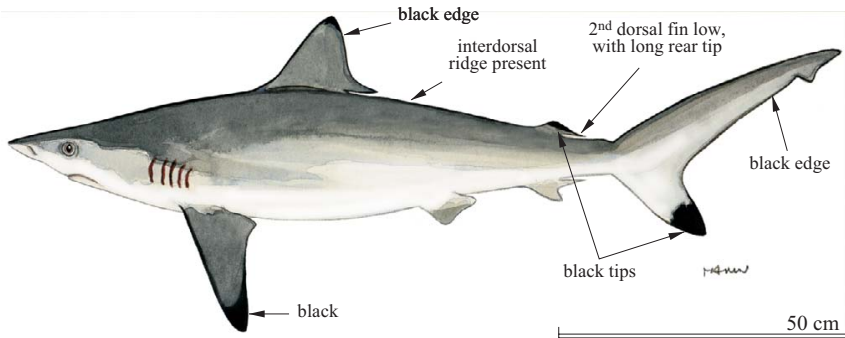
Habitat and biology: A common, but little-known shark of the continental and insular inshore waters. Viviparous; with 1 to 4 young per litter. Feeds primarily on crabs, shrimp and bony fishes, also on other crustaceans, cephalopods and other molluscs.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with gillnets and longlines in small-scale fisheries. Commonly marketed for its meat for human consumption.

Remarks: This species differs from the blackspot shark, *Carcharhinus sealei* by its triangular rather than falcate first dorsal fin, more numerous upper teeth, a broader mouth, broader pectoral fins, and less numerous vertebrae.

Carcharhinus sorrah

CARCHARHINIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Spottail shark; **Fr** – Requin à queue tachetée; **Sp** – Tiburón rabo manchado.

Local names: Qirsh Al-sara. قرش السرى

Size: To 1.6 m.

Conservation status: Data Deficient.

Small shark, second dorsal fin much smaller than first one, lower caudal lobe with large black marking.

Carcharhinus sorrah

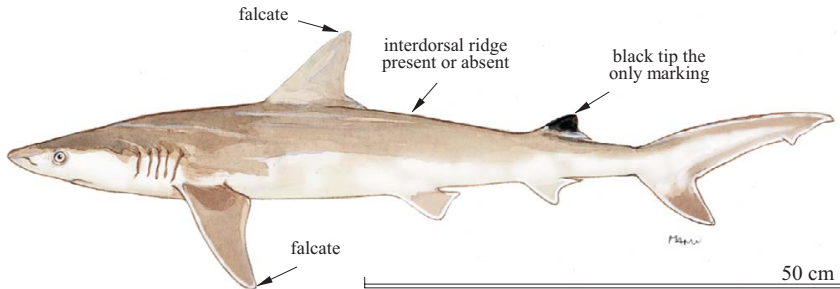
CARCHARHINIDAE

Habitat and biology: Common in inshore waters often around coral reefs, sometimes found also offshore; from the surface to a depth of 140 m. Viviparous; 2 to 6 young per litter. Feeds mainly on small bony fishes (e.g. mugilids, clupeids, siganids, teraponids) but also on cephalopods, crabs and shrimps.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with floating gillnets and longlines. Sometimes locally important in small-scale fisheries. Its meat is utilized dried and fresh for human consumption.

Carcharhinus sealei

CARCHARHINIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Blackspot shark; **Fr** – Requin à taches noires; **Sp** – Tiburón alinegro.

Local names: Qirsh Al-aamak. قرش الأعماق

Size: To 95 cm.

Conservation status: Near Threatened.

Small shark, second dorsal fin much smaller than first one, second dorsal with large black marking on top half.

Carcharhinus sealei

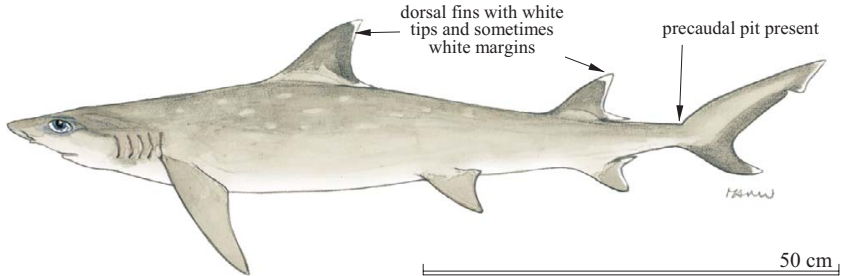
CARCHARHINIDAE

Habitat and biology: A coastal shark of the continental and insular shelves, from the surfline to a depth of 40 m. Viviparous; 2 young per litter; gestation period about 9 months. Feeds on small fishes, squids and prawns.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with line gear and gillnets. Sometimes locally important in small-scale fisheries. Its meat is utilized dried and fresh for human consumption.

Hemigaleus microstoma

HEMIGALEIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Sicklefins weasel shark; **Fr** – Milandre faucille; **Sp** – Comadreja segadora.

Size: To about 110 cm.

Conservation status: Lower Risk: Least Concern.

Small shark, second dorsal fin almost as large as the first one.

Hemigaleus microstoma

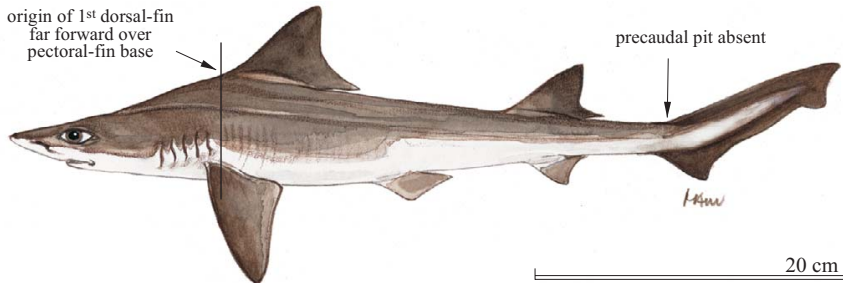
HEMIGALEIDAE

Habitat and biology: Coastal, inshore and offshore at depths down to 170 m. Viviparous; 2 young per litter. Feeds mainly on octopus, cuttlefish and squid, but also on crustaceans and equinoderms.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with floating and bottom gillnets, longlines and hook-and-line. Utilized fresh for human consumption; often used for fishmeal.

Iago omanensis

TRIAKIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Bigeye houndshark; **Fr** – Requin-hâ à gros yeux; **Sp** – Cazón ojigrande.

Local names: Al-Qirsh Al-qezm. القرش القزم

Size: To 60 cm.

Conservation status: –

Small shark, second dorsal fin almost as large as the first one.

Iago omanensis

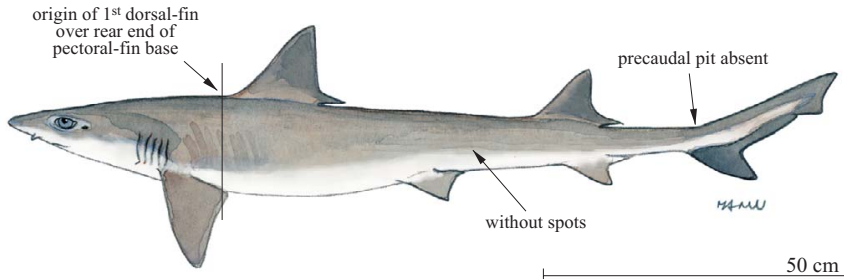
TRIAKIDAE

Habitat and biology: Inhabits deep waters from 110 m or less to at least 1 000 m. Viviparous with 2 to 10 young. Feeds mainly on cephalopods and bony fishes, but also on shrimps, bivalves, gastropods and polychaetes.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with gillnets and handlines, utilized fresh for human consumption.

Mustelus mosis

TRIAKIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Arabian smooth-hound; **Fr** – Emissole d'Arabie; **Sp** – Musola arábiga.

Local names: Mustoulah; Qirsh Al-kalb; Mahmal.

مستولا؛ قرش الكلب؛ محمل

Size: To 1.5 m.

Conservation status: –

Small shark, second dorsal fin almost as large as the first one.

Mustelus mosis

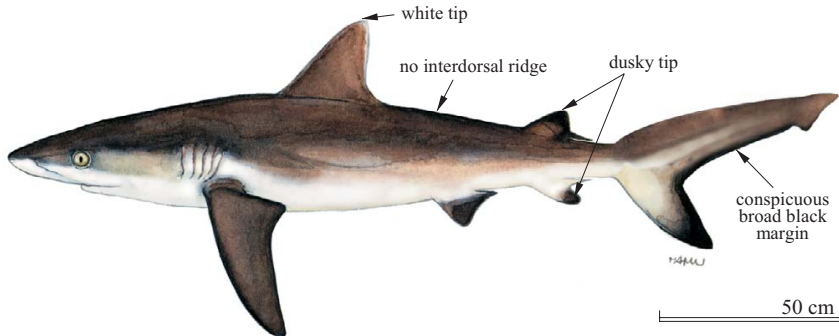
TRIAKIDAE

Habitat and biology: Bottom-dwelling in inshore and offshore waters, also on coral reefs. Viviparous with 6 to 10 young per litter. Feeds on small bottom fishes, molluscs and crustaceans. Lives well in captivity.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with bottom trawls, bottom and floating gillnets, and line gear. Utilized for human consumption.

Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos

CARCHARHINIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Grey reefshark; **Fr** – Requin dagsit; **Sp** – Tiburón de arrecifes.

Local names: Qirsh Al-bahah; Saftet. قرش البجاح؛ سفطيط

Size: To 2.5 m.

Conservation status: Lower Risk: Near Threatened.

Large shark, without interdorsal ridge.

Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos

CARCHARHINIDAE

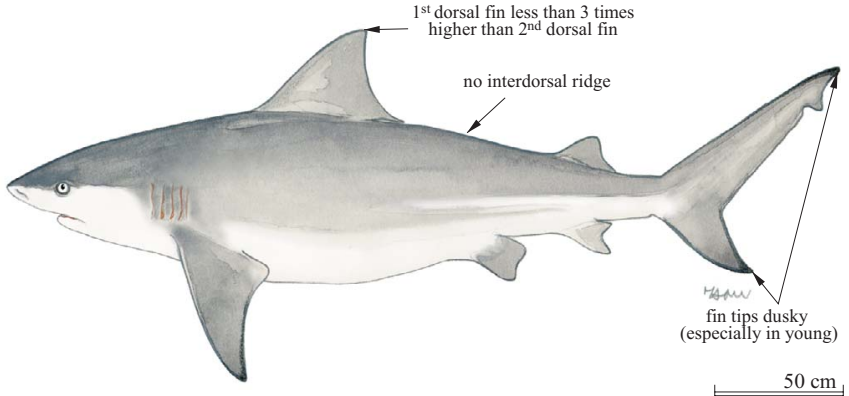
Habitat and biology: A common coastal, inshore to offshore reef species; from the surface to a depth of 140 m. Viviparous; 1 to 6 young per litter; gestation about 12 months. Feeds on surface bottom, and reef fishes, cephalopods, crabs and shrimps.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with line gear and gillnets. Utilized for human consumption salt-dried or fresh; fins used for the oriental shark-fin soup market.

Remarks: This shark can be very aggressive when cornered or confronted.

Carcharhinus leucas

CARCHARHINIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Bull shark; **Fr** – Requin bouledogue; **Sp** – Tiburón sarda.

Size: To 3.5 m.

Conservation status: Lower Risk: Near Threatened.

Large shark, without interdorsal ridge.

Carcharhinus leucas

CARCHARHINIDAE

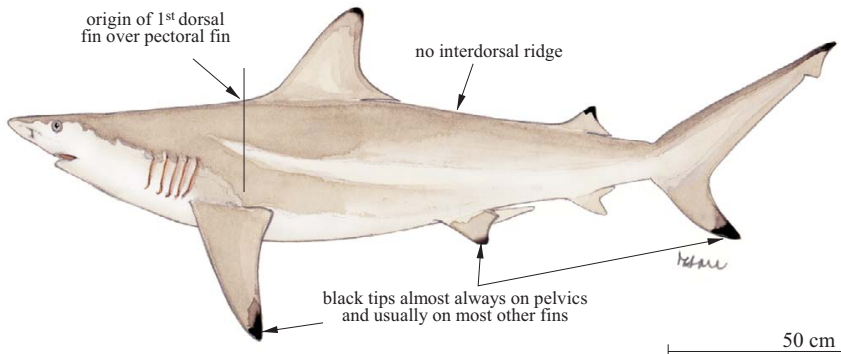
Habitat and biology: In coastal, estuarine, riverine and lacustrine waters, usually found close inshore in marine habitats; occurs from depths of 1 to 152 m. Viviparous; with 6 to 12 young per litter; nursery areas in estuaries and coastal lagoons. Omnivorous, feeding mainly on other sharks and rays and bony fishes, but also on crabs, shrimps, turtles, sea birds and carrion.

Importance to fisheries: A common catch on inshore small-scale shark fisheries, caught with gillnets and longlines. Used for its meat for human consumption, and priced for its fins, hides and livers.

Remarks: One of the most dangerous sharks, known to attack and kill people, especially close to shore in murky waters and rivers.

Carcharhinus limbatus

CARCHARHINIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Blacktip shark; **Fr** – Requin borde; **Sp** – Tiburón macuira.

Local names: Al-Qirh al-akhdar; Qirsh al-sahel; Eisah.

القرش الأخضر؛ قرش الساحل؛ أيساح

Size: To 2.6 m.

Conservation status: Lower Risk: Near Threatened.

Large shark, without interdorsal ridge.

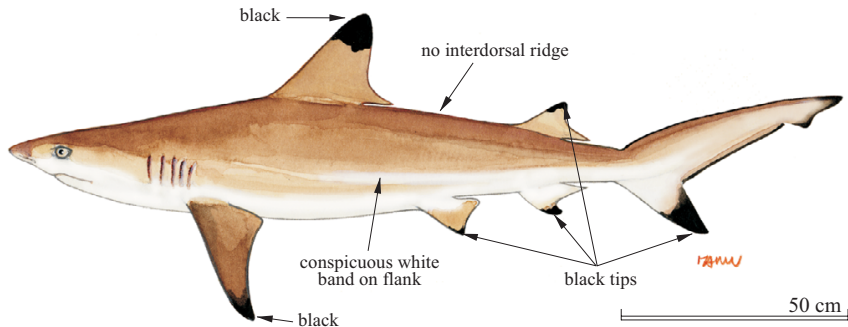
Carcharhinus limbatus

CARCHARHINIDAE

Habitat and biology: A coastal and offshore but not truly oceanic species. Highly migratory, sometimes forming large schools. Fast-moving, sometimes leaping out of the water. Viviparous; with 1 to 10 embryos per litter and a 10 to 12 month gestation period; nursery areas in coastal lagoons. Feeds mainly on schooling fishes but eats also cephalopods and crustaceans.

Importance to fisheries: Caught commercially with floating longlines and gillnets, and incidentally in trawl nets; an important species for sport fishers. Sometimes an important bycatch of coastal tuna fisheries. The newborn young are often caught in large quantities in their coastal nurseries. Its meat is highly appreciated fresh for human consumption; its fins, hides and liver are also utilized.

CARCHARHINIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Blacktip reef shark; **Fr** – Requin pointes noires; **Sp** – Tiburón de puntas negras.

Local names: Abu rishah saudah; Abu sawadah; Noffari.

أبو ريشة سودا؛ أبو سودا؛ نوفاري

Size: To about 2 m.

Conservation status: Lower Risk: Near Threatened.

Large shark, without interdorsal ridge.

Carcharhinus melanopterus

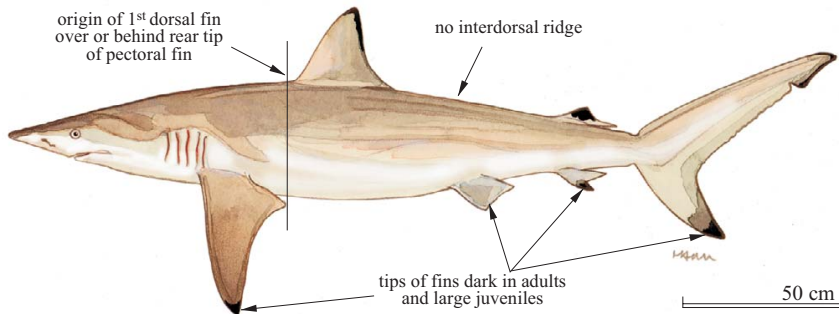
CARCHARHINIDAE

Habitat and biology: Found inshore and sometimes offshore on continental and insular shelves; prefers shallow water on and around coral reefs. Viviparous; with 4 young per litter. Feeds mainly on bony fishes (carangids, leiognathids, monacanthids) and cephalopods.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with longlines and gillnets in coastal fisheries. Utilized fresh or salt-dried for human consumption.

Carcharhinus brevipinna

CARCHARHINIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Spinner shark; **Fr** – Requin tisserand; **Sp** – Tiburón aleta negra.

Local names: Al-Qirsh Al-Suezy. القرش السّويّزي

Size: To 2.8 m.

Conservation status: Lower Risk: Near Threatened.

Large shark, without interdorsal ridge.

Carcharhinus brevipinna

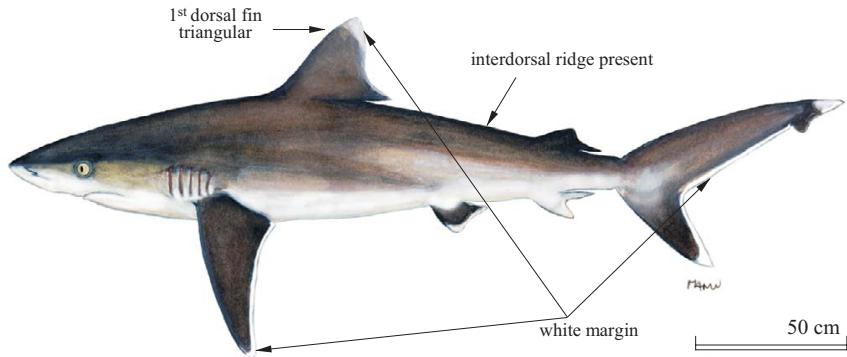
CARCHARHINIDAE

Habitat and biology: Neritic; highly migratory, sometimes forming schools. A fast-swimming shark that sometimes leaps out of the water when feeding. Viviparous; with 6 to 20 embryos per litter. Feeds mainly on small schooling fishes and squids, but also on small sharks and rays.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with drifting gillnets and longlines; also targetted by sport fishers. Utilized fresh and salt-dried for human consumption, fins used in the oriental shark-fin soup market.

Carcharhinus albimarginatus

CARCHARHINIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Silvertip shark; **Fr** – Requin pointe blanche; **Sp** – Tiburón de puntas blancas.

Local names: Al-Qirsh abiad al-haaphah.

قرش أبيض الهفاه

Size: To 3.0 m.

Conservation status: Data Deficient.

Large shark, with interdorsal ridge.

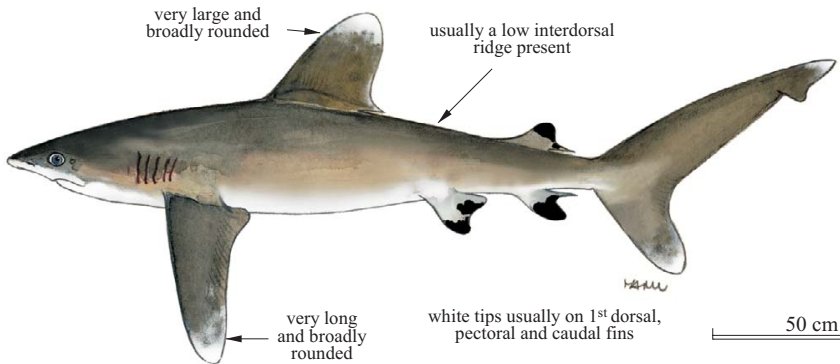
Carcharhinus albimarginatus

CARCHARHINIDAE

Habitat and biology: Coastal and pelagic, from the surface to a depth of 800 m. Viviparous; 1 to 11 young per litter. Feeds on pelagic and bottom fish, including flyingfishes, tunas, soles, eagle rays and cephalopods.

Importance to fisheries: Caught by small-scale fisheries with longlines and gillnets, and also as bycatch in some tuna fisheries.

Carcharhinus longimanus CARCHARHINIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Oceanic whitetip shark; **Fr** – Requin oceanique; **Sp** – Tiburón oceánico.

Local names: Abu rishah baidaa; Oush; Ekhtiemaiah; Tarfei.

أبو ريثة بيضاء؛ أوش؛ اختيامياه؛ طرفي

Size: To 3.5 m.

Conservation status: Vulnerable.

Large shark, with interdorsal ridge.

Carcharhinus longimanus

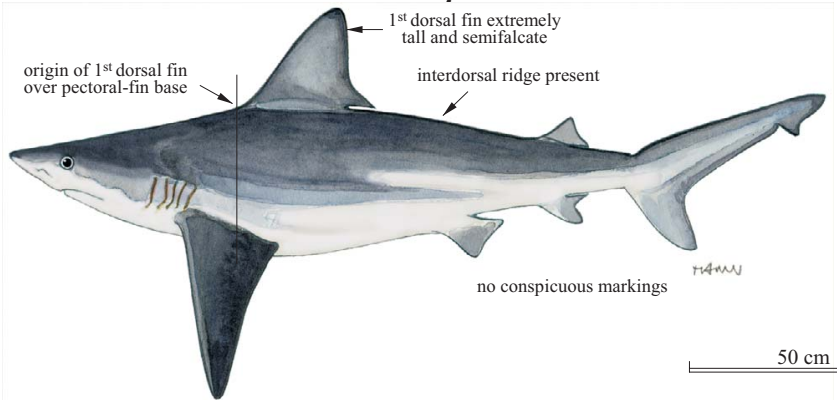
CARCHARHINIDAE

Habitat and biology: An oceanic-epipelagic species found mostly far offshore but occasionally in coastal waters. Viviparous; with 1 to 15 embryos per litter and a gestation period of about one year. Feeds mainly on pelagic fishes and squids, but also on seabirds, turtles and crustaceans.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with floating longlines, drifting gillnets and handlines; an important bycatch of many tropical tuna fisheries. Utilized fresh for human consumption, its fins highly appreciated in the oriental shark-fin soup market.

Carcharhinus plumbeus

CARCHARHINIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Sandbar shark; **Fr** – Requin gris; **Sp** – Tiburón trozo.

Local names: Hawaash; Qirsh tarh; Qirsh Aghbar; Zefa.

حواش؛ قرش طرح؛ قرش أغبار؛ زفة

Size: To possibly 3.0 m.

Conservation status: Lower Risk; Near Threatened.

Large shark, with interdorsal ridge.

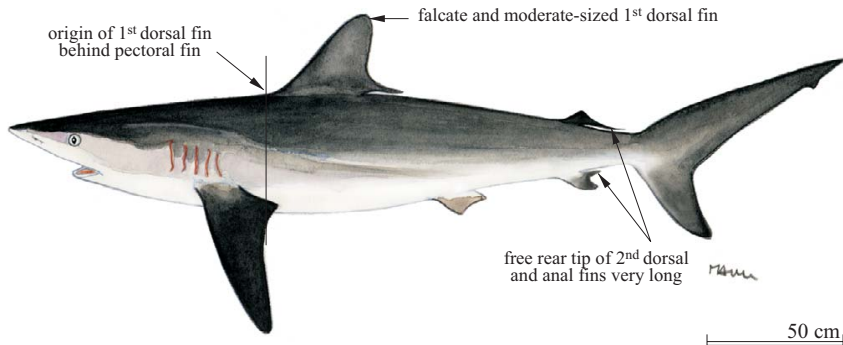
Carcharhinus plumbeus

CARCHARHINIDAE

Habitat and biology: Coastal-pelagic, on continental and insular shelves and in deeper water adjacent to them; from the intertidal zone to a depth of 280 m. Highly migratory in some areas. Viviparous; 1 to 14 young; nursery areas in coastal lagoons. Feeds on sardines, shad, menhaden, mullets, flatfish, and other small fishes, small sharks and batoids, crustaceans and cephalopods.

Importance to fisheries: An important species for fisheries, caught with longlines, hook-and-line, and bottom gillnets. Also sought by sport fishers. Utilized fresh, frozen, smoked or salt-dried for human consumption. Highly appreciated for its fins in the oriental shark-fin soup market. Liver and hides also much appreciated.

Carcharhinus falciformis CARCHARHINIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Silky shark; **Fr** – Requin soyeux; **Sp** – Tiburón jaquetón.

Local names: Al-hariri. الحريري

Size: To 3.3 m.

Conservation status: Lower Risk: Least Concern.

Large shark, with interdorsal ridge.

Carcharhinus falciformis

CARCHARHINIDAE

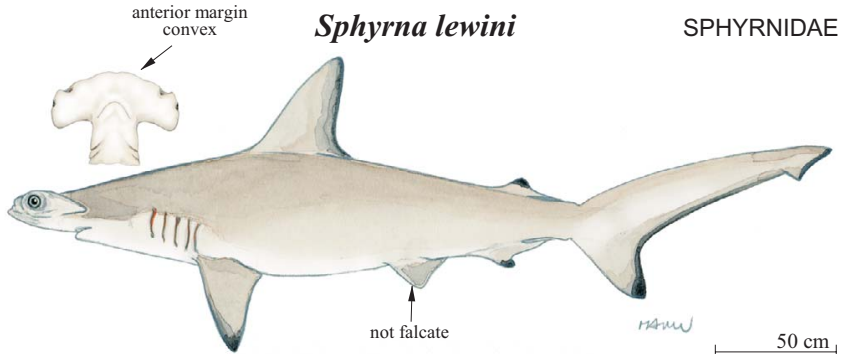
Habitat and biology: Coastal and oceanic, common near shelves and slopes, from the surface to a depth of 500 m. Late juveniles commonly associated with tuna schools. Highly migratory, sometimes forms very large schools especially around offshore islands. Viviparous; with 2 to 16 young per litter; nursery areas in the outer shelves. Feeds mainly on fish, including sea catfish, groupers and snappers, tunids and clupeoids, but also on squids, octopi and crustaceans.

Importance to fisheries: Very important in fisheries throughout its range, caught with longlines, handlines and gillnets. One of the most common bycatches of industrial tropical tuna fisheries with longlines and specially purse seines. Utilized fresh or salt-dried for human consumption, livers used for oil extraction (rich in Vitamin A), fins for the oriental shark-fin soup market, and hides for leather.

Remarks: Reported to be dangerous to humans.

Sphyrna lewini

SPHYRNIDAE



FAO names: En – Scalloped hammerhead; Fr – Requin-marteau halicorne; Sp – Cornuda común.

Local names: Manyasoo; Kernat Al-diplana; Abu-mattrakah.

منيعسو؛ كرنة الدبلانة؛ أبو مطرقة

Size: Common to 3.7 m.

Conservation status: Lower Risk: Near Threatened.

Large shark, head flattened in the shape of a hammer.

Sphyrna lewini

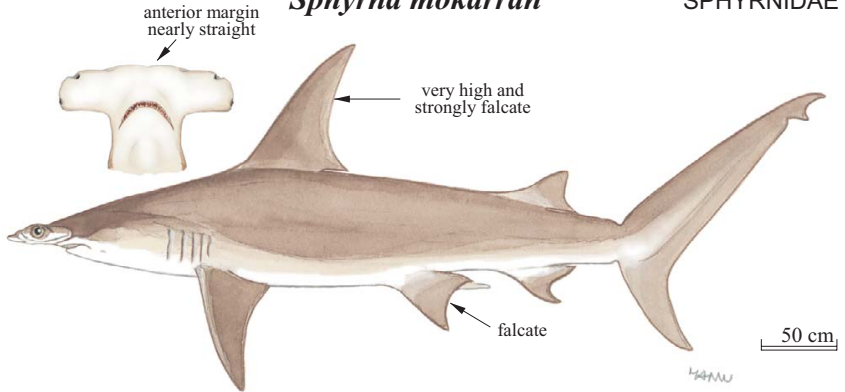
SPHYRNIDAE

Habitat and biology: From inshore to offshore and semi-oceanic waters. Newborns and juveniles common in estuaries and shallow bays; highly migratory, adults form large schools around offshore sea mounts. Viviparous; 15 to 31 young per litter. Feeds on a variety of pelagic and demersal fishes (sardines, anchovies, mackerel, jacks, flatfish, sea catfish, parrotfish, and others) as well as several sharks and rays, squids, lobsters and other crustaceans.

Importance to fisheries: An important species for small and large-scale fisheries throughout its range. Caught with most kinds of longlines and gillnets and particularly vulnerable to the latter around the seamounts where large schools of the species congregate. A common bycatch of tuna and billfish fisheries when operating in coastal waters. Its meat used fresh or salt-dried for human consumption; fins highly appreciated in the oriental shark-fin soup market; hides good for leather production.

Sphyrna mokarran

SPHYRNIDAE



FAO names: En – Great hammerhead; Fr – Grand requin-marteau; Sp – Cornuda gigante.

Local names: Cawar; Kernah; Mokarran.

كوار؛ كرنه؛ مكرن

Size: To 6 m.

Conservation status: Endangered.

Large shark, head flattened in the shape of a hammer.

Sphyrna mokarran

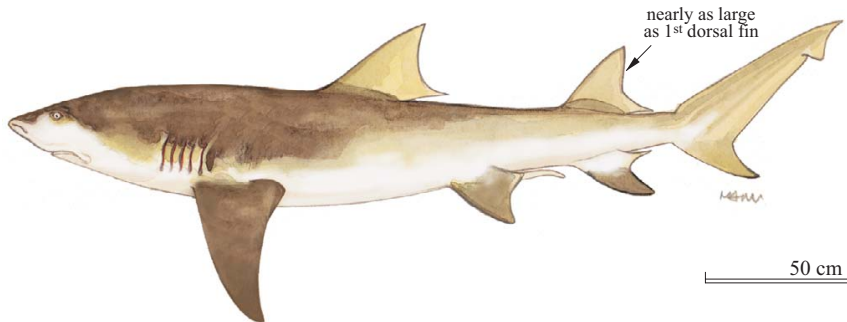
SPHYRNIDAE

Habitat and biology: Semi-oceanic, also in inshore waters, often found around and on coral reefs. Viviparous; 13 to 42 young per litter; gestation at least 7 months. Feeds mainly on skates, rays, groupers and sea catfishes, but takes also other bony fishes, small sharks, squids and lobsters.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with floating gillnets and floating longlines. Its meat used fresh, frozen or salt-dried for human consumption. Fins highly appreciated in the oriental shark-fin soup market. Livers and hides also utilized.

Negaprion acutidens

CARCHARHINIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Sicklefins lemon shark; **Fr** – Requin limon faucille; **Sp** – Tiburón segador.

Local names: Libax; Farluuq; Qirsh Abu-bouse areed. لباكس؛ فرلوق؛ قرش أبوبوس عريض

Size: To 3.1 m.

Conservation status: Vulnerable.

Large shark, second dorsal fin almost as large as the first one.

Negaprion acutidens

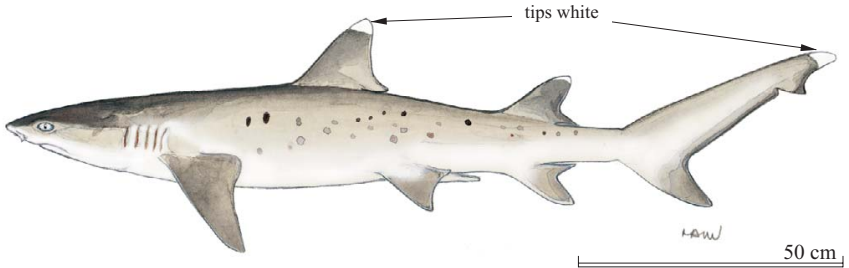
CARCHARHINIDAE

Habitat and biology: Demersal in shallow inshore and offshore waters; often around coral reefs and sandy plateaus near coral, at depths down to at least 23 m. Viviparous; 1 to 13 young per litter; gestation 10 or more months. Feeds on bottom fishes including porcupine fish and stingrays.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with floating and bottom gillnets and line gear. Its meat is utilized fresh or salt-dried for human consumption, fins highly appreciated in the oriental shark-fin soup market, and liver for oil and vitamin A extraction.

Triaenodon obesus

CARCHARHINIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Whitetip reef shark; **Fr** – Requin corail; **Sp** – Cazón coralero ñato.

Local names: Libaax; Daaha; Abu-shaaf; Qirsh salmani. لباكس؛ داحة؛ أبو شعف؛ قرش سلmani

Size: Common to 1.7 m.

Conservation status: Lower Risk: Near Threatened.

Medium-sized shark, second dorsal fin almost as large as the first one.

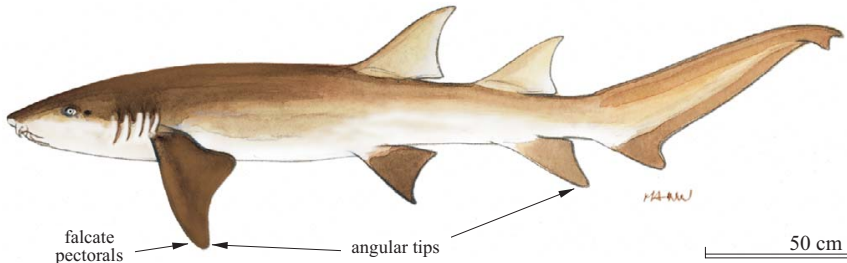
Triaenodon obesus

CARCHARHINIDAE

Habitat and biology: Occurs in coastal clear waters and offshore islands, very commonly associated with coral reefs, lying inside holes or crevices. Viviparous; 1 to 5 young per litter. Feeds on a wide variety of reef fishes (moray eels, parrot fishes, snappers, squirrelfishes, etc.), but also octopus, lobsters and crabs.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with floating and bottom gillnets, and line gear. Its meat utilized fresh or salt-dried for human consumption.

Nebrius ferrugineus GINGLYMOSTOMATIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Tawny nurse shark; **Fr** – Requin nourrice fauve; **Sp** – Gata nodriza atezada.

Local names: Frenkah adeiah; Massasah.

فرنكاي أضياع؛ مساسة

Size: Reported to 3.2 m.

Conservation status: Vulnerable.

Large shark, second dorsal fin almost as large as the first one.

Nebrius ferrugineus

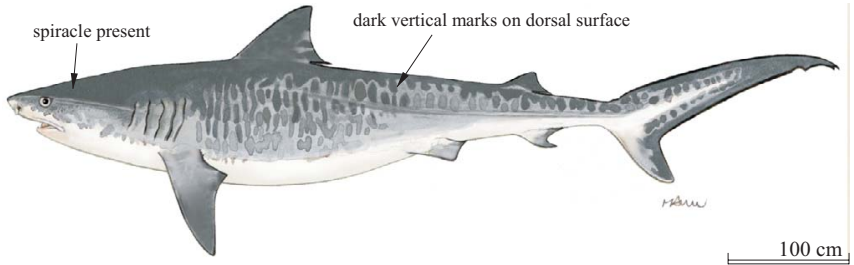
GINGLYMOSTOMATIDAE

Habitat and biology: In shallow waters from the intertidal zone to a depth of at least 70 m. Demersal, on coral and rocky reefs, in lagoons and on sand flats. Ovoviviparous and oophagous. Feeds on a variety of cephalopods, crustaceans, sea urchins, corals, small fishes and occasionally sea snakes.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with gillnets and line gear and utilized for human consumption fresh or salt-dried. Fins used for the oriental trade.

Galeocerdo cuvier

CARCHARHINIDAE



FAO names: En – Tiger shark; Fr – Requin tigre commun; Sp – Tintorera tigre.

Local names: Qirsh namrani; Al-Qirsh Al-Nemer. قرش نمراني؛ القرش النمر

Size: Exceptionally to 7.4 m.

Conservation status: Lower Risk: Near Threatened.

Galeocerdo cuvier

CARCHARHINIDAE

Habitat and biology: An inshore and offshore species, near the surface and bottom; often in shallow waters, including rivers and estuaries. Ovoviviparous; with 10 to 82 young per litter; gestation possibly slightly over a year. A voracious, indiscriminate predator feeding on all kinds of fish, marine mammals, turtles, seabirds, sea snakes, squids, molluscs and crabs.

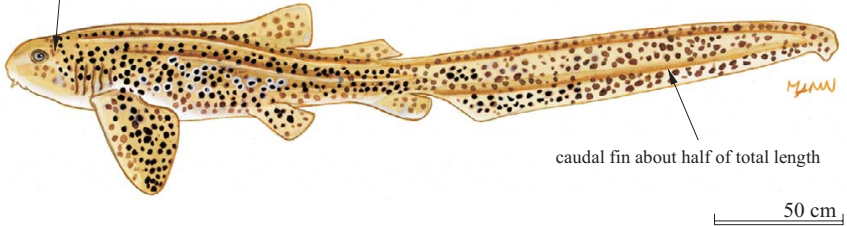
Importance to fisheries: Caught with floating and bottom gillnets and longlines. Also sought by sport fishers. Its meat is utilized fresh, salt-dried, and smoked for human consumption, hide and fins of high quality, liver rich in oil and vitamin A.

Remarks: One of the most dangerous sharks; attacks divers, swimmers and even boats.

Stegostoma fasciatum

STEGOSTOMATIDAE

spiracles subequal in size to eyes



FAO names: En – Zebra shark; Fr – Requin zebre; Sp – Tiburón acebrado.

Local names: Farluuq Shabeellow; Hayyasa; Frenkay mekhatatah.

فرلوق شيبيلو؛ هياصة؛ فرنكاي مخططة

Size: To possibly 3.5 m.

Conservation status: Vulnerable.

Large shark, tail almost as large as rest of body.

Stegostoma fasciatum

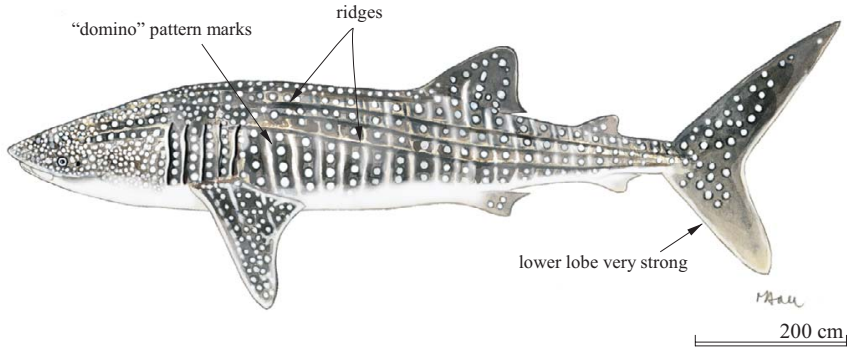
STEGOSTOMATIDAE

Habitat and biology: Inshore, very common on coral reefs. Oviparous. Feeds on molluscs, crustaceans and small bony fishes.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with bottom trawls, floating and fixed bottom gillnets, longlines.

Rhincodon typus

RHINCODONTIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Whale shark; **Fr** – Requin baleine; **Sp** – Tiburón ballena.

Local names: Qirsh al-hoot; Battan; Ballhaa.

قرش الحوت؛ بطان؛ بلهاء

Size: To 12 m.

Conservation status: Vulnerable.

Very large shark, dorsal surface without longitudinal ridges.

Rhincodon typus

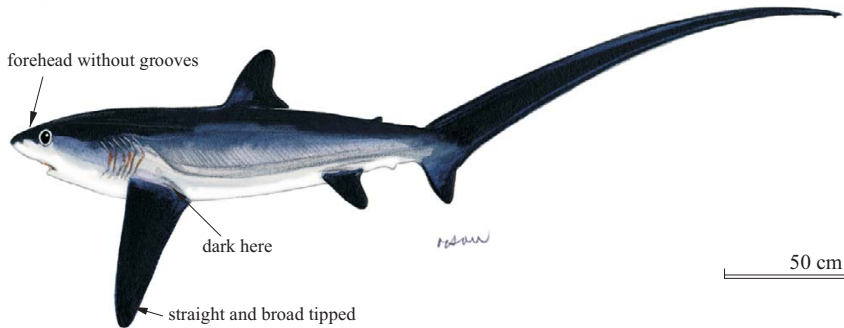
RHINCODONTIDAE

Habitat and biology: A highly migratory pelagic filter feeder, occurring singly or in schools, often near the surface but also down to 980 m. Ovoviviparous with up to 300 embryos per female. Feeds on zooplankton, schooling fishes and squids.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with floating gillnets and harpoons and incidentally in trawls.

Alopias pelagicus

ALOPIIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Pelagic thresher; **Fr** – Renard pelagique; **Sp** – Zorro pelágico.

Local names: Husseni; Qoutt Al-Bahar.

حسيني؛ قوت البحر

Size: To 3.7 m.

Conservation status: Data Deficient.

Large shark, tail almost as large as rest of body.

Alopias pelagicus

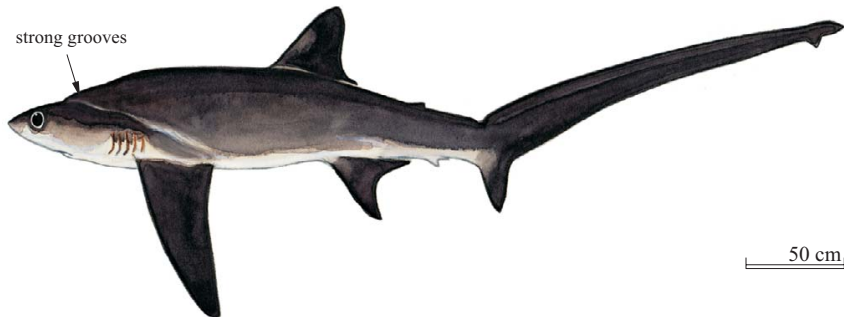
ALOPIIDAE

Habitat and biology: Oceanic, epipelagic, caught near shore where shelf is narrow, from the surface to a depth of at least 152 m. Ovoviviparous and oophagous; two embryos per litter. Presumably feeding on pelagic fish and possibly squid. Thought to use its long tail to herd and stunt prey.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with longlines and driftnets; meat used for human consumption, liver for oil extraction, hide for leather production, and the fins for the oriental soup market.

Alopias superciliosus

ALOPIIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Bigeye thresher; **Fr** – Renard à gros yeux; **Sp** – Zorro ojón.

Local names: Al-Thaalab Abu-aïen kabeerah.

الثعلب أبو عين كبيرة

Size: To 4.6 m.

Conservation status: Data Deficient.

Large shark, tail almost as large as rest of body.

Alopias superciliosus

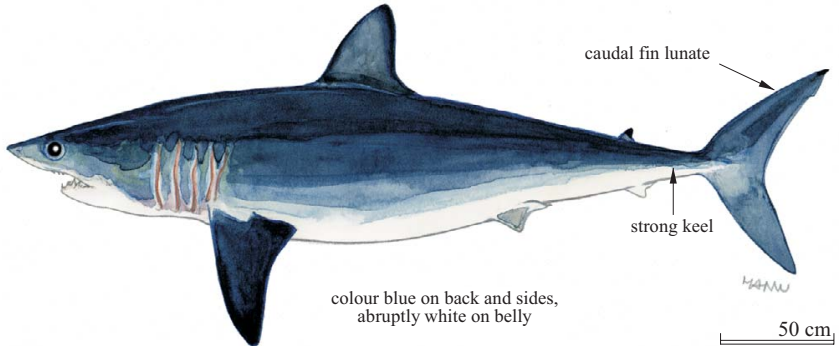
ALOPIIDAE

Habitat and biology: Oceanic and coastal, in depths to 500 m. Ovoviviparous and oophagous with litters of 2 to 4 embryos. Feeds mostly on pelagic fishes such as herring, mackerel and small billfishes, but also on demersal fishes such as hake, and on squids. It probably stunts its prey with its long caudal fin.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with longlines, fixed bottom and pelagic gillnets, and trawls, and occasionally by sport fishers. Meat used fresh, smoked and salt-dried for human consumption, its liver, fins and hide are also utilized.

Isurus oxyrinchus

LAMNIDAE



FAO names: En – Shortfin mako; Fr – Taupe bleu; Sp – Marrajo dientuso.

Local names: Cawar; Qirsh Al-sieb; Deebah.

كوار؛ قرش السّيب؛ ديباح

Size: To 4.0 m.

Conservation status: Lower Risk: Near Threatened.

Isurus oxyrinchus

LAMNIDAE

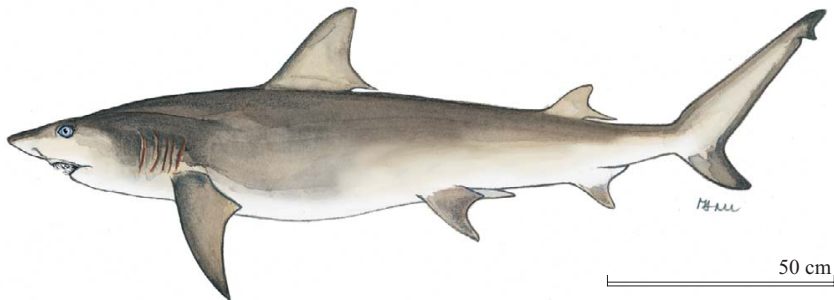
Habitat and biology: Highly migratory, oceanic and coastal, usually in surface waters. Ovoviviparous and oophagous with 10 to 25 young per litter. Feeds mainly on pelagic and demersal fishes, but also eats cephalopods and other sharks and rays.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with longlines, hook-and-line and gillnets; meat of extremely high quality. Very important for sport fisheries.

Remarks: Considered dangerous, responsible for unprovoked attacks on swimmers and boats.

Hemipristis elongatus

HEMIGALEIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Snaggletooth shark; **Fr** – Milandre chicor; **Sp** – Comadreja sobrediente.

Size: To 2.0 m.

Conservation status: Vulnerable.

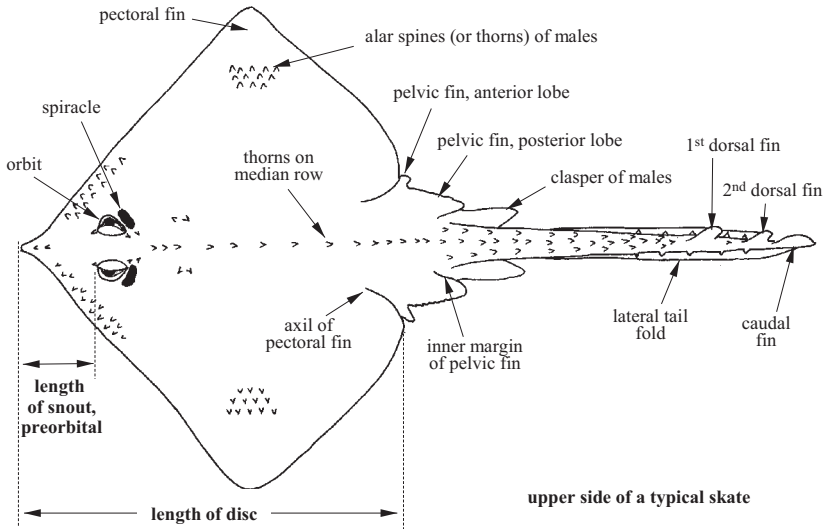
Hemipristis elongatus

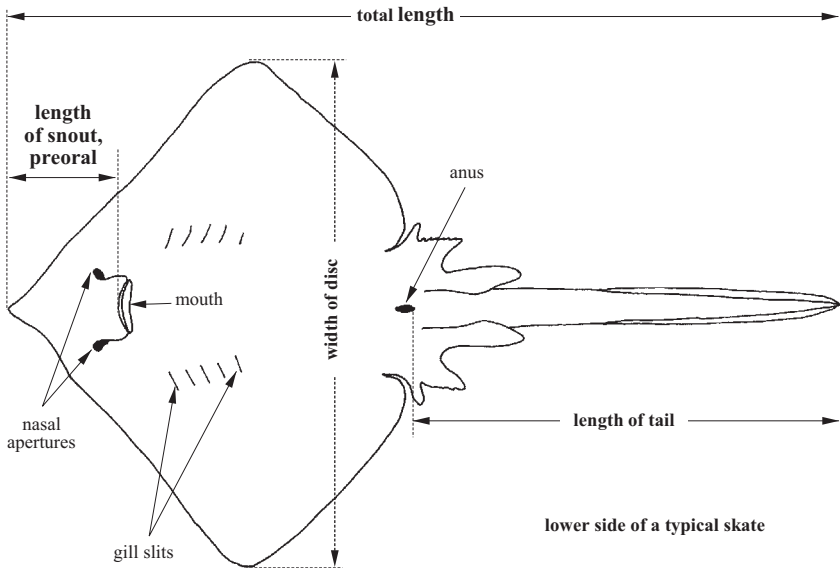
HEMIGALEIDAE

Habitat and biology: Inshore and offshore down to 30 m. Viviparous; 6 to 8 young per litter. Feeds on anchovies, sea catfish, mackerel, croakers, grey sharks and butterfly rays.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with floating and fixed bottom gillnets and floating longlines. Meat used for human consumption, very appreciated in India; liver used for oil extract and fins for the oriental shark-fin soup market.

RAYs, SKATES, GUITARFISHES and MANTAS



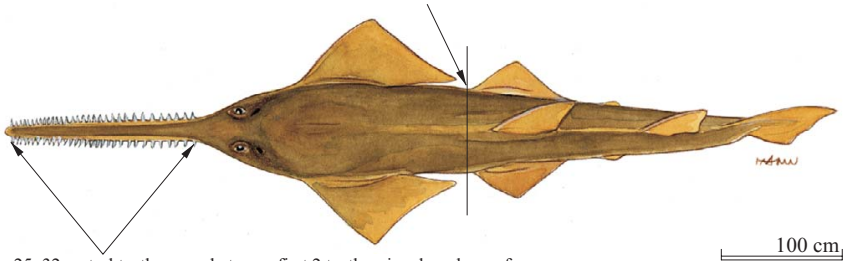


lower side of a typical skate

Pristis zijsron

PRISTIDAE

origin of 1st dorsal fin slightly
posterior to origin of pelvic fins



25–32 rostral teeth, space between first 2 teeth-pairs along base of
rostrum 2–7 times space between last 2 teeth-pairs at tip of rostrum

FAO names: En – Longcomb sawfish.

Size: Reported to reach 7.3 m.

Conservation status: Critically Endangered.

Pristis zijsron

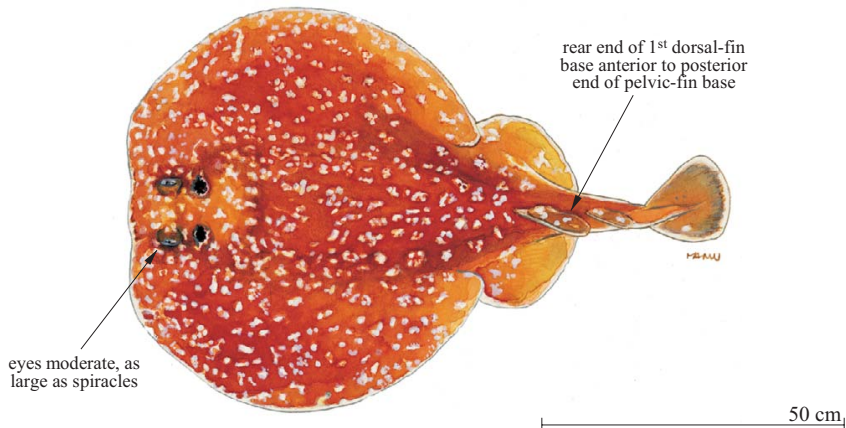
PRISTIDAE

Habitat and biology: In shallow waters, also enters fresh water.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with line gear and bottom trawls. Flesh of good quality. Severely depleted throughout its range. In need of strong conservation measures.

Torpedo panthera

TORPEDINIDAE



FAO names: En – Panther electric ray.

Local names: Raash; Fattarah; Khaddala ramlya; Ruketa kahrabaeia.

رعش؛ فطارة؛ خذالة رملية؛ روكتة كهربائية

Size: To 1 m total length.

Conservation status: Data Deficient.

Torpedo panthera

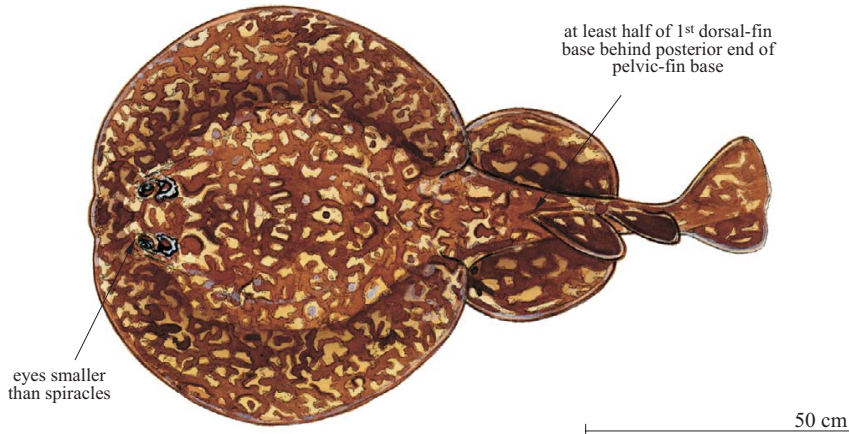
TORPEDINIDAE

Habitat and biology: On mud or sandy bottoms, from shallow water to a depth of 110 m. Can deliver a strong electric shock.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with bottom trawls and hook-and-line.

Torpedo sinuspersici

TORPEDINIDAE



FAO names: En – Marbled electric ray.

Size: To 1.3 m total length, 90 cm disc width.

Conservation status: Data Deficient.

Torpedo sinuspersici

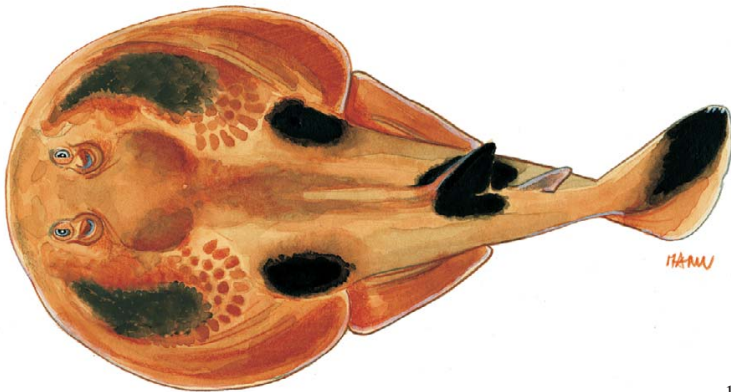
TORPEDINIDAE

Habitat and biology: Inshore waters over sandy bottoms, down to a depth of 200 m. Can deliver a strong electric shock.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with hook-and-line and bottom trawls. Flesh edible.

Heteronarce bentuviai

NARKIDAE



10 cm

FAO names: En – Elat electric ray; Fr – ; Sp – Raya eléctrica de Elat.

Local names:

Size: To 20 cm total length.

Conservation status: –

Heteronarce bentuviai

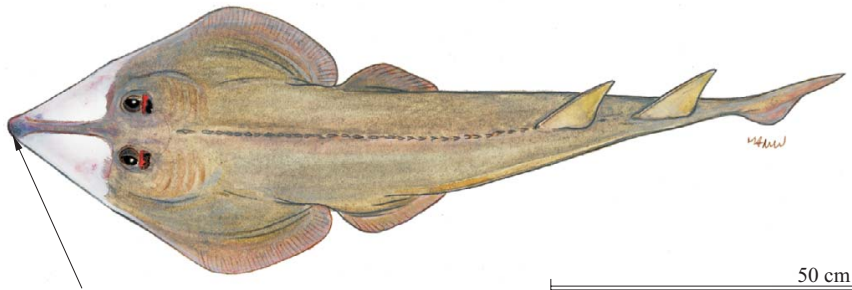
NARKIDAE

Habitat and biology: On sandy and possibly muddy bottoms, from depths of 80 to 200 m. Can deliver a strong electric shock.

Importance to fisheries: Caught as bycatch with gillnets and trawl nets.

Rhinobatos halavi

RHINOBATIDAE



snout moderately long and broad, sides nearly straight

FAO names: En – Halavi guitarfish.

Local names: Halwani khshen; Archetah.

Size: To 150 cm total length.

Conservation status: –

حلواني خشين؛ أرشيطة

Rhinobatos halavi

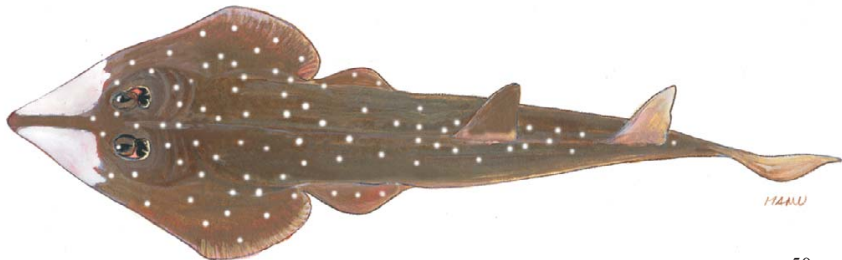
RHINOBATIDAE

Habitat and biology: An inshore species of sandy bottoms. Up to 10 young per litter. Feeds on prawns and other crustaceans.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with gillnets and bottom trawls, utilized for human consumption, fins appreciated in the oriental shark-fin soup market.

Rhinobatos punctifer

RHINOBATIDAE



50 cm

FAO names: En – Spotted guitarfish.

Local names: Salfooh. سلفوح

Size: To 90 cm total length.

Conservation status: –

Rhinobatos punctifer

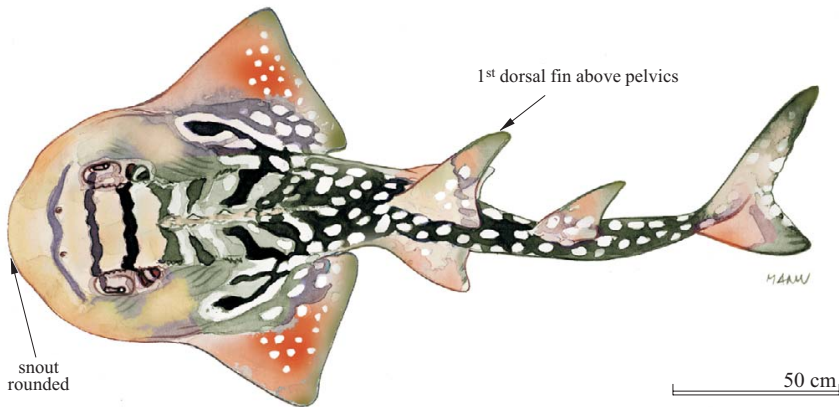
RHINOBATIDAE

Habitat and biology: Presumably a bottom dwelling species like other guitarfishes, but details of its biology unknown.

Importance to fisheries: Caught incidentally with bottom trawls in the northern Red Sea; utilized fresh for human consumption, fins appreciated in the oriental shark-fin soup market.

Rhina ancylostoma

RHYNCHOBATIDAE



FAO names: En - Bowmouth guitarfish; Fr - Angelot.

Local names: Oolo-Oolo; Tuurey Haloul; Al-Bahloul.

Size: To 2.7 m total length.

Conservation status: Vulnerable.

عولو-عولو؛ توري هلول؛ البهلل

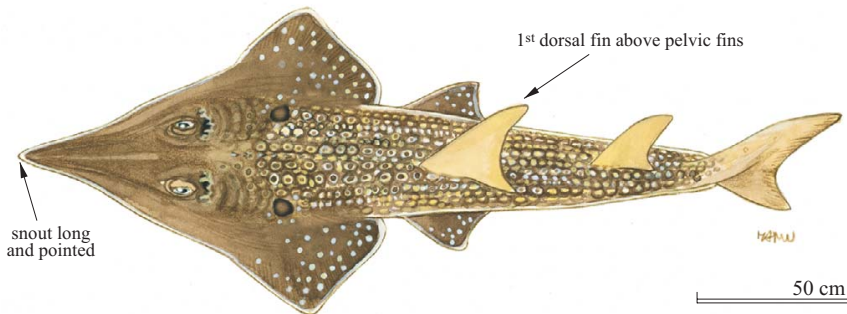
Rhina ancylostoma

RHYNCHOBATIDAE

Habitat and biology: A bottom living species that occurs close inshore and on offshore reefs, from depths of 3 to 90 m. Feeds on crabs and shellfish.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with bottom trawl.

Rhynchobatus djiddensis RHYNCHOBATIDAE



FAO names: En - Giant guitarfish; Fr - Poisson paille à pois; Sp - Pez cuña manchado.

Local names: Oolo-Oolo; Shabeelley; Aurab.

عولو-عولو؛ شبيلي؛ أوراب

Size: To 3 m total length and 230 kg.

Conservation status: Vulnerable.

Rhynchobatus djiddensis

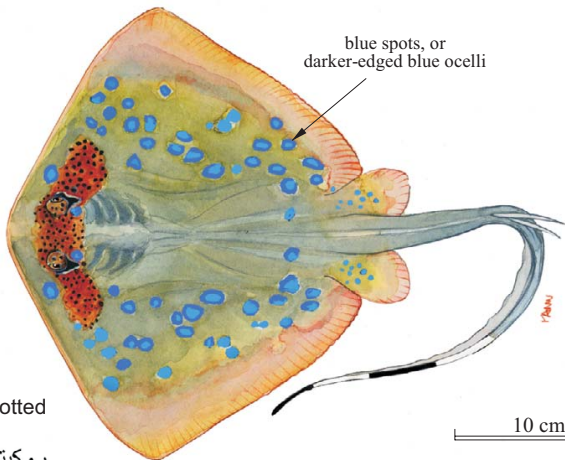
RHYNCHOBATIDAE

Habitat and biology: Occurs in shallow inshore waters, on sandy bottoms, from depths of 2 to 50 m. Feeds on crabs, lobsters, bivalves, small fishes and cephalopods. Ovoviviparous.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with line gear gillnets and bottom trawls. An important species in small-scale fisheries throughout its range. Meat used for human consumption; fins highly appreciated in the oriental shark-fin soup market.

Dasyatis kuhlii

DASYATIDAE



FAO names: En – Bluespotted stingray.

Local name: Rouketah. روكيتة

Size: To 40 cm disc width and about 67 cm total length.

Conservation status: –

Dasyatis kuhlii

DASYATIDAE

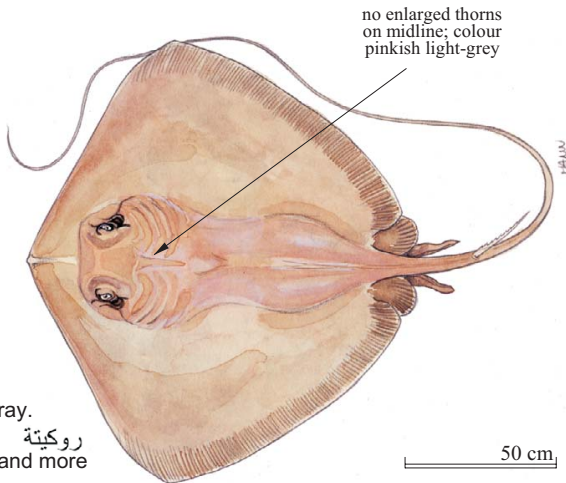
Habitat and biology: In coastal waters, on sandy bottoms often associated with reefs, to a depth of 90 m. Ovoviviparous; feeds on crabs and shrimps.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with line gear and bottom trawls.

Remarks: Its venomous tail spine can inflict painful wounds.

Himantura fai

DASYATIDAE



FAO names: En – Pink whipray.

Local names: Rouketah. روكيتة

Size: To 500 cm total length and more than 150 cm disc width.

Conservation status: –

Himantura fai

DASYATIDAE

Habitat and biology: Occurs in the inner continental shelf, often in aggregations over soft substrates. Ovoviviparous; otherwise biology poorly known.

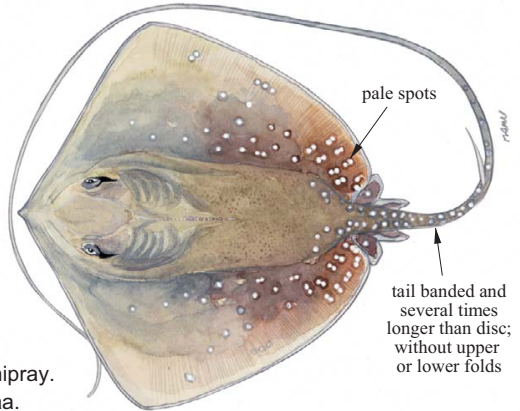
Importance to fisheries: Caught as a bycatch with bottom trawl nets, and presumably utilized for human consumption but details unknown.

Remarks: Its venomous tail spine can inflict painful wounds.

Himantura gerrardi

DASYATIDAE

disc slightly
wider than long



FAO names: En – Whitespotted whipray.

Local names: Al-Rouketah Al-safraa.

روكيتة الصفراء

Size: Length to 200 cm; maximum disc width 90 cm or more.

Conservation status: –

Himantura gerrardi

DASYATIDAE

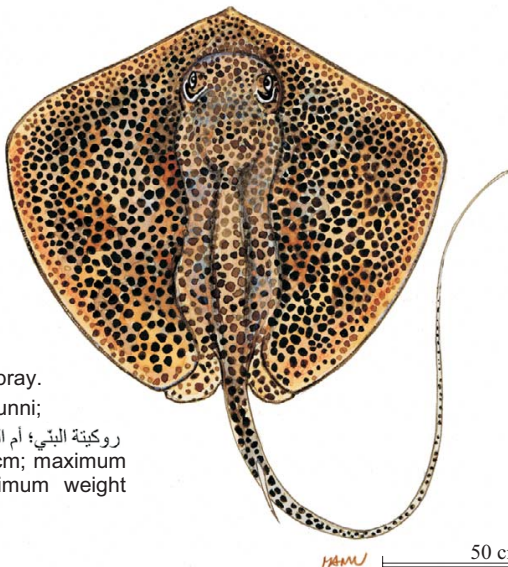
Habitat and biology: Depth distribution limits unknown, but likely to be confined to inner continental shelf on sandy and muddy bottoms; feeds on crabs, shrimps and lobsters.

Importance to fisheries: An important commercial stingray in some areas and the most regularly landed. Meat used for human consumption salt-dried, the skin also used to produce leather.

Remarks: Its venomous tail spine can inflict painful wounds.

Himantura uarnak

DASYATIDAE



FAO names: En – Reticulate whipray.

Local names: Al-Rouketah Al-bounni;
Um Al-Shriet.

روكيتة البني؛ أم الشريط

Size: Maximum total length 450 cm; maximum disc width about 200 cm, maximum weight 120 kg.

Conservation status: –

50 cm

Himantura uarnak

DASYATIDAE

Habitat and biology: Occurs inshore on soft substrates; often on sandy beaches and on sand bottoms around coral reefs; often intertidal but to depths of at least 50 m. Ovoviviparous, feeds on shrimps, crabs, worms and jellyfishes. May enter fresh waters.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with bottom trawls. Important commercial species through some of its range.

Remarks: Several colour morphs exist, some of which may prove to be distinct species. Its venomous tail spine can inflict painful wounds.

Pastinachus sephen

DASYATIDAE

lower skinfold very prominent, terminating before tip of tail

FAO names: En – Cowtail stingray.

Local names: Saphan; Daffaan; Al-Rukeet Abu-resah.

سفان؛ دفعان؛ الروكيتة أبو ريشة

Size: Maximum total length 300 cm; maximum disc width 180 cm.

Conservation status: –



Pastinachus sephen

DASYATIDAE

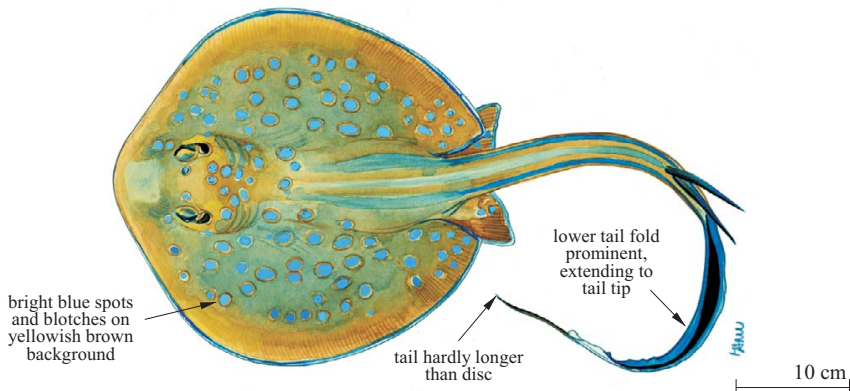
Habitat and biology: Common inshore to a depth of 60 m or more in coral and sedimentary habitats. Enters estuaries and fresh water. Ovoviviparous, feeds on bonyfishes, crabs, worms and shrimps.

Importance to fisheries: Marketed throughout its range in small to moderate quantities. Its skin is highly appreciated for 'shagreen' leather production.

Remarks: Its venomous tail spine can inflict painful wounds.

Taeniura lymma

DASYATIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Bluespotted ribbontail ray; **Fr** – Pastenague queue à ruban; **Sp** – Raya latigo rabo cinta.

Local names: Rukeetet Sheab; Shafane; Um Salem; Um Qurbaj.

روكيتة شياب؛ شفان؛ أم سالم؛ أم قرباج

Size: To 70 cm total length and about 30 cm disc width.

Conservation status: Lower Risk: Near Threatened.

Taeniura lymma

DASYATIDAE

Habitat and biology: In coastal waters over sandy bottoms and especially on coral reefs, to depths of at least 20 m. Feeds mainly on molluscs, worms, shrimps and crabs. Ovoviviparous.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with line gear. Small specimen popular in the aquarium trade.

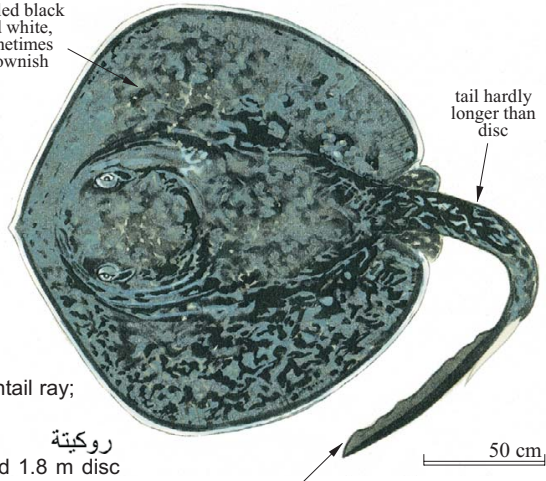
Remarks: Its venomous tail spine can inflict painful wounds.

Taeniura meyeni

DASYATIDAE

mottled black
and white,
sometimes
brownish

tail hardly
longer than
disc



FAO names: En – Blotched fantail ray;
Fr – Pastenague eventail.

Local names: Rouketah.

روكيتة

Size: To 3.3 m total length and 1.8 m disc
width up to 150 kg in weight.

Conservation status: Vulnerable.

lower tail fold prominent,
extending to tail tip

50 cm

Taeniura meyeni

DASYATIDAE

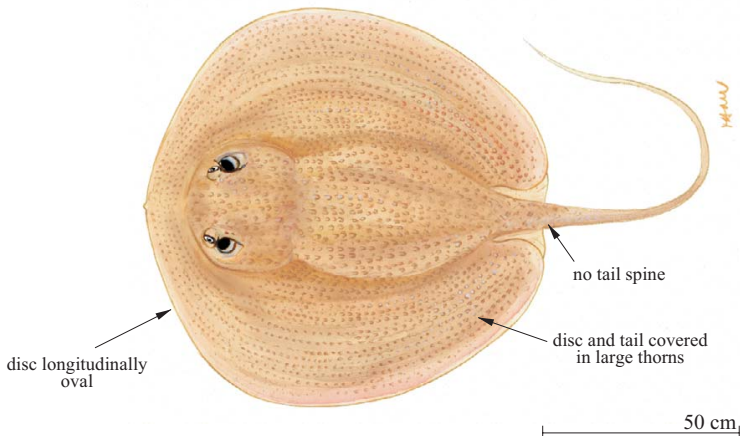
Habitat and biology: Found in coral reefs and offshore on soft bottoms. Most common between depths of 20 and 60 m, but known to occur in a depth of 450 m. Ovoviviparous, feeds on bottom fish, bivalves, crabs and shrimps.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with line gear and bottom trawls. Utilization unknown.

Remarks: Its venomous tail spine can inflict painful wounds.

Urogymnus asperrimus

DASYATIDAE



FAO names: En – Porcupine ray.

Local names: Rouketah. روكيتة

Size: Up to 1 m disc width.

Conservation status: Vulnerable.

Urogymnus asperrimus

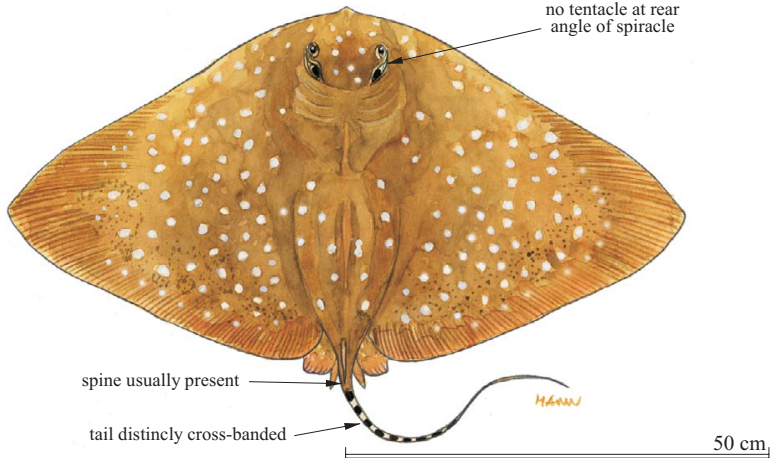
DASYATIDAE

Habitat and biology: Demersal in shallow inshore waters, associated to coral reefs and also found in brackish waters and sandy bottoms, often in caves. Ovoviviparous, feeds on polychaetes, bottom crustaceans and some bony fishes.

Importance to fisheries: Of very little or no importance to fisheries but often caught in trawls and beach seines. Utilized seasonally for its liver in some localities in the Red Sea.

Gymnura poecilura

GYMNURIDAE



FAO names: En – Longtail butterfly ray.

Size: To a total length of 66 cm and width of 80 cm.

Conservation status: Near Threatened.

Gymnura poecilura

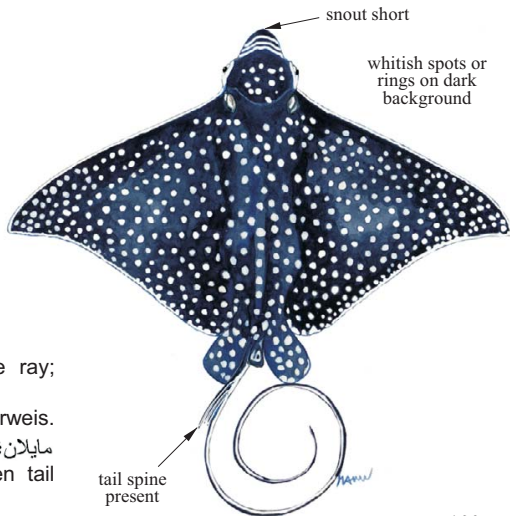
GYMNURIDAE

Habitat and biology: Locally common, found in shallow inshore waters over sandy and muddy bottoms. Ovoviviparous. Feeds mainly on crustaceans and clams.

Importance to fisheries: Caught as bycatch in bottom trawls and sometimes by hook-and-line. Utilized for human consumption in some parts of its range.

Aetobatus narinari

MYLIOBATIDAE



FAO names: En – Spotted eagle ray;
Fr – Aigle de mer leopard.

Local names: Maylan; Abu-rweis.

مايلان؛ أبو رويس

Size: To 8.8 m total length when tail undamaged and 3.3 m disc width.

Conservation status: Near Threatened.

Aetobatus narinari

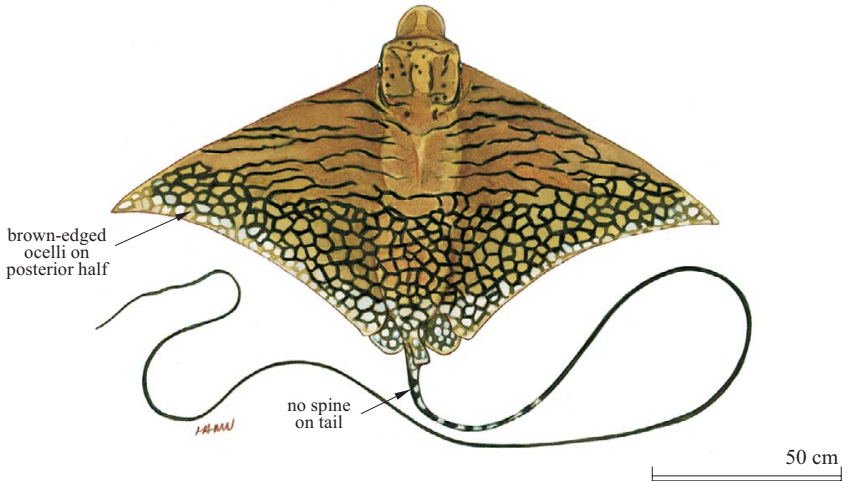
MYLIOBATIDAE

Habitat and biology: Inshore semi-pelagic found around coral reefs, estuaries, off beaches, and enclosed bays; to a depth of 80 m. Can form large schools and can leap out of the water. Ovoviviparous with number of young usually 4. Feeds mainly on bivalves, but also on shrimps, crabs, octopi and worms.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with hook-and-line and harpoons. Flesh edible but seldom utilized.

Aetomylaeus vespertilio

MYLIOBATIDAE



FAO names: En – Ornate eagle ray.

Size: To 160 cm disc width and 385 cm total length.

Conservation status: Endangered.

Aetomylaeus vespertilio

MYLIOBATIDAE

Habitat and biology: Occurs inshore and offshore associated with muddy bays and coral reefs; to a depth of 110 m. Ovoviviparous; biology poorly known.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with gillnets and probably other gear. Utilized for human consumption, but details lacking.

Rhinoptera javanica

RHINOPTERIDAE

FAO names: En – Javanese cownose ray;

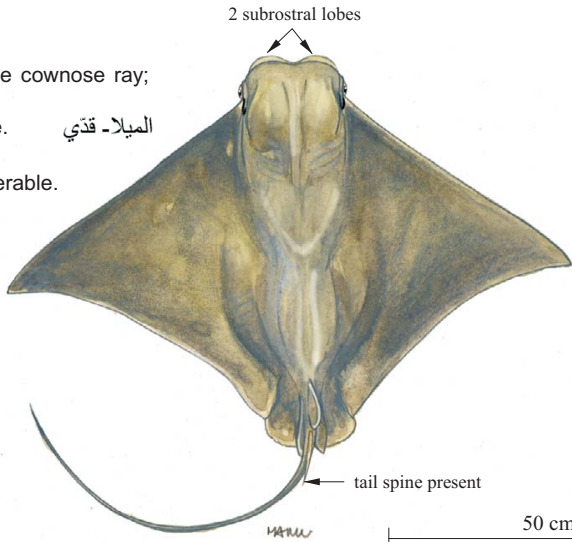
Fr – Mourine javanaise.

Local names: Mayla-Cadde.

الميللا - قدي

Size: To 1.5 m disc width.

Conservation status: Vulnerable.



Rhinoptera javanica

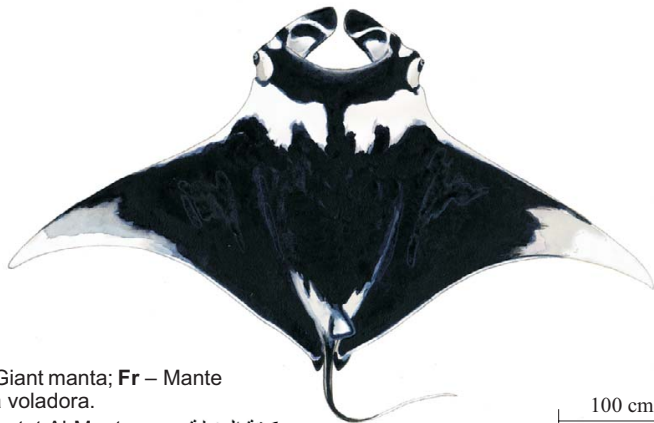
RHINOPTERIDAE

Habitat and biology: In coastal waters. Gregarious, often occurring in large numbers. Ovoviviparous. Feeds mainly on clams, oysters and crustaceans.

Importance to fisheries: Caught in gillnets, hook-and-line, and beach seines; edible but seldom utilized. Fished by sport fishers; kept in public aquaria.

Manta birostris

MOBULIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Giant manta; **Fr** – Mante geante; **Sp** – Manta voladora.

Local names: Rukeetet Al-Manta. روكيتة المنطة

Size: Disc width 6.70 m, possibly up to 9 m; weight up to 3 000 kg.

Conservation status: Near Threatened.

Manta birostris

MOBULIDAE

Habitat and biology: A common inshore and offshore inhabitant of all temperate and tropical seas, pelagic, found in shallow muddy bays and the intertidal as well as river mouths and off coral reefs and at least to 120 m depth. Occurs individually, or in groups probably highly migratory. Ovoviviparous with up to two young per litter; feeds on zooplankton and small to moderate-sized fishes.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with harpoons. Utilized for human consumption in some parts of its range. Easy to be approached by divers and willing to investigate them. A preferred species for eco-touristic diving operations.

Mobula japanica

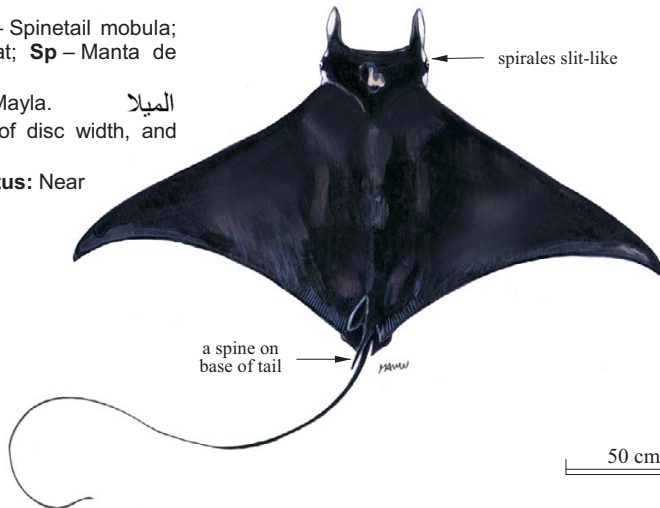
MOBULIDAE

FAO names: **En** – Spinetail mobula;
Fr – Mante aiguillat; **Sp** – Manta de
aguijón.

Local names: Al-Mayla. الميلا

Size: To 310 cm of disc width, and
probably larger.

Conservation status: Near
Threatened.



Mobula japanica

MOBULIDAE

Habitat and biology: Occurs singly or in groups inshore, offshore and probably in oceanic waters in warm-temperate and tropical seas. Ovoviviparous with only one young per litter; birth size about 85 cm; feeds on euphausiids, copepods and crustacean larvae.

Importance to fisheries: Poorly known, but likely to be mostly a bycatch species. Caught incidentally with floating longlines in the Gulf of Aden and presumably utilized there for human consumption.

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This set of cards on Sharks and Rays of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden is aiming at providing a quick reference and identification tool for the elasmobranchs of the area. The pocket format and the plastic support make it an easy-to-carry tool that can be used in wet environments and underwater. It is aiming at serving the needs of those involved in collecting data on sharks and rays and more generally agencies and the public having an interest in these species. The use of colour painting instead of photographs was retained as it gives better possibilities to show all the characteristic features on a single illustrations and also provides a reliable representation of the colours.

