



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Shark Identification Guide



For commercial fishers in northern Australia

Acknowledgements

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) would like to acknowledge Queensland Department of Primary Industries (QDPI), Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) Fisheries WA for their contribution to this document. Shark images and descriptions were provided courtesy of the State of Queensland, CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection, and DPIRD Fisheries WA. Species distribution maps have been provided courtesy of CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection.

© Commonwealth of Australia 2024

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority must be attributed as the author of the material. As far as practicable, material for which the copyright is owned by a third party will be clearly labelled. The agency has made all reasonable efforts to ensure that this material has been reproduced in this document with the full consent of the copyright owners.

Copyright requests and enquiries concerning further authorisation should be addressed to:

Communication Manager
Australian Fisheries Management Authority
PO Box 7051 Canberra ACT 2610

or emailed to communications@afma.gov.au.

This work is copyright. Apart from any use permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced by any process, nor may any other exclusive right be exercised, without the permission of the AFMA.

While every effort has been taken to ensure information in this publication is correct, AFMA shall not be liable for any loss, damage or injury suffered by the user consequent upon, or incidental to, the existence of errors or omissions in the information.

Contents

Introduction.....	5
Shark anatomy.....	6
Identification key.....	7
Whaler sharks – <i>Carcharhinidae</i>	
Silvertip shark <i>Carcharhinus albimarginatus</i>	9
Bignose shark <i>Carcharhinus altimus</i>	10
Graceful shark <i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchoides</i>	11
Grey reef shark <i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i>	12
Pigeye shark <i>Carcharhinus amboinensis</i>	13
Spinner shark <i>Carcharhinus brevipinna</i>	14
Nervous shark <i>Carcharhinus cautus</i>	15
Whitecheek shark <i>Carcharhinus coatesi</i>	16
Silky shark <i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	17
Creek whaler <i>Carcharhinus fitzroyensis</i>	18
Bull shark <i>Carcharhinus leucas</i>	19
Common blacktip shark <i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i>	20
Oceanic whitetip shark <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	21
Hardnose shark <i>Carcharhinus macloti</i>	22
Blacktip reef shark <i>Carcharhinus melanopterus</i>	23
Dusky whaler <i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i>	24
Sandbar shark <i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i>	25
Spot-tail shark <i>Carcharhinus sorrah</i>	26
Tiger shark <i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i>	27
Australian blacktip shark <i>Carcharhinus tilstoni</i>	28
Sliteye shark <i>Loxodon macrorhinus</i>	29
Lemon shark <i>Negaprion acutidens</i>	30
Blue shark <i>Prionace glauca</i>	31
Milk shark <i>Rhizoprionodon acutus</i>	32
Australian sharpnose shark <i>Rhizoprionodon taylori</i>	33
Whitetip reef shark <i>Triaenodon obesus</i>	34

Mackerel sharks – *Lamnidae*

Great white shark <i>Carcharhinus carcharias</i>	35
Shortfin mako shark <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	36

Nurse sharks – *Odontaspidae*

Grey nurse shark <i>Carcharhinus taurus</i>	37
---	----

Sawfishes – *Pristidae*

Narrow sawfish <i>Anoxypristis cuspidata</i>	38
Dwarf sawfish <i>Pristis clavata</i>	39
Freshwater sawfish <i>Pristis pristis</i>	40
Green sawfish <i>Pristis zijsron</i>	41

Hammerhead sharks – *Sphyrnidae*

Winghead shark <i>Eusphyrna blochii</i>	42
Scalloped hammerhead shark <i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	43
Great hammerhead shark <i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	44
Smooth hammerhead shark <i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	45

Angelsharks – *Squatinaidae*

Eastern angelshark <i>Squatina albipunctata</i>	46
---	----

Introduction

This identification guide has been developed to assist Australian commercial fishers to accurately identify sharks listed under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) that are encountered during fishing operations.

The shark species detailed within this guide are EPBC Act listed species that occur or have been caught in the Coral Sea Fishery (CSF) using demersal longline, dropline, trotline, handline and setline methods.

It is important that fishers report captures of sharks accurately, as good quality data and information from commercial fishers is fundamental to ensuring that our fisheries remain sustainable.

Some species contained within this guide cannot be landed by commercial fishers and must be returned to the water upon capture. Commonwealth operators should ensure they are familiar with the no-take species and handling practices detailed in their fishing concession conditions.

Reporting requirements for listed and threatened species are outlined in Table 1. Classifications are accurate at time of printing; however, it is the responsibility of the operator to keep up-to-date with threatened species listings.

Table 1. Description of reporting requirements for classifications

EPBC Act*	CITES – No NDF	CITES – Positive NDF#
No take. Interactions must be recorded in Listed Marine and Threatened Species Form in e-log.	No take. Interactions must be recorded in Listed Marine and Threatened Species Form in e-log.	Catch is permitted to be retained. Catch must be recorded in e-log to species level .

**Shortfin mako sharks may be retained if they are brought up dead; however, live sharks must be returned to the sea unharmed.*

Species listed on CITES Appendix I or II are automatically listed as migratory under the EPBC Act, unless a positive non-detriment finding (NDF) is in place.

For further information contact AFMA on 1300 723 621.

Shark anatomy

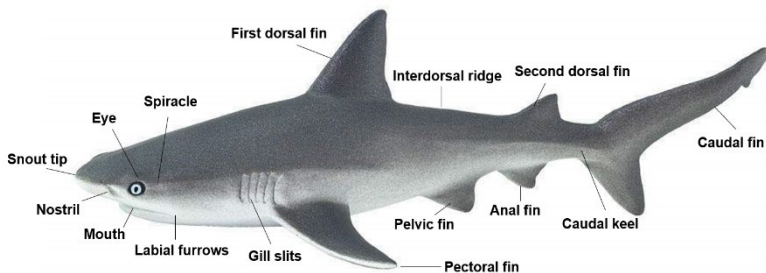


Figure 1. Structural features of sharks for identification

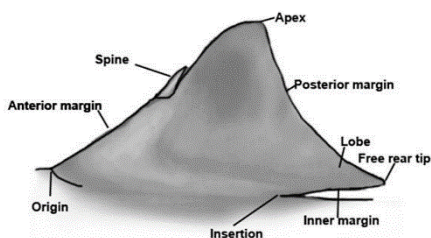


Figure 2. Features of first dorsal fin

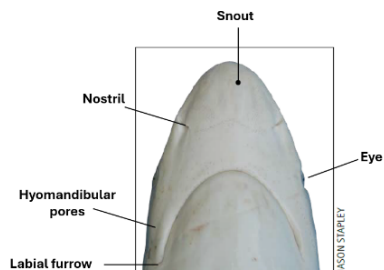
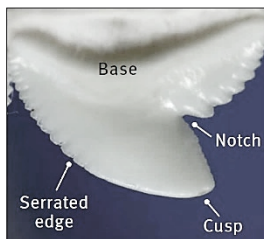
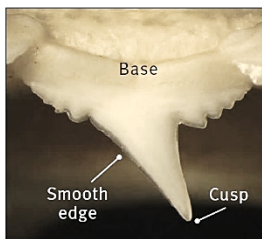


Figure 3. Features of snout (ventral view)

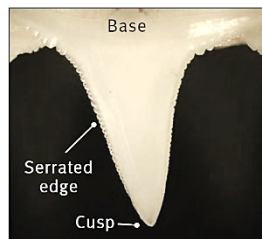
4th tooth on right hand side from central jaw join symphysis (as you look into the mouth).



Oblique tooth





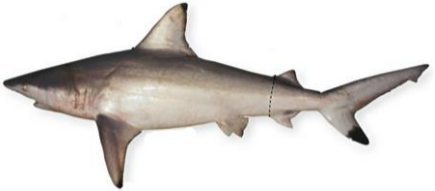







Semi-oblique tooth







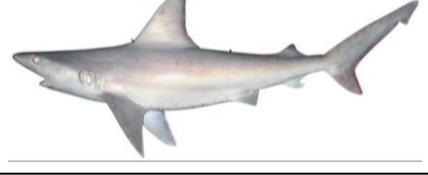





Erect tooth


Figure 4. Features of teeth from upper jaw

Identification key


Whaler sharks – <i>Carcharhinidae</i>	
<p>Silvertip shark <i>Carcharhinus albimarginatus</i></p>	
<p>First dorsal fin with white tip originates above pectoral fin rear tips; white tips on pectoral and caudal fins; interdorsal ridge present; small second dorsal fin that originates opposite anal fin (go to page 9)</p>	
<p>Bignose shark <i>Carcharhinus altimus</i></p>	
<p>Tall dorsal fin with narrowly rounded tip which originates above pectoral fin insertions; prominent interdorsal ridge; long pectoral fins with slightly curved rear margins (go to page 10)</p>	
<p>Graceful shark <i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchoides</i></p>	
<p>Dusky or dark pectoral fins; first dorsal fin originates just behind pectoral fin insertions; second dorsal fin originates opposite anal fin (go to page 11)</p>	
<p>Grey reef shark <i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i></p>	
<p>Tall first dorsal fin, white tip in smaller specimens; interdorsal ridge weak or absent; broad black margin on back edge of caudal fin (go to page 12)</p>	
<p>Pigeye shark <i>Carcharhinus amboinensis</i></p>	
<p>Small eyes; first dorsal fin tall and erect; black markings on underside of pectoral fins; anal fin notch forms acute angle (go to page 13)</p>	
<p>Spinner shark <i>Carcharhinus brevipinna</i></p>	
<p>First dorsal fin origin over pectoral fin rear tips; first dorsal fin has black tip in specimens >100cm; second dorsal fin origin opposite anal fin (go to page 14)</p>	
<p>Nervous shark <i>Carcharhinus cautus</i></p>	
<p>Dark margin usually along front edge of dorsal and pectoral fins; pectoral fins sometimes with black tips; thin dark margins along front and rear edges caudal fin upper lobe; lower lobe of caudal fin black tip (go to page 15)</p>	
<p>Whitecheek shark <i>Carcharhinus coatesi</i></p>	
<p>Rounded snout; large oval eyes; pectoral fins with rounded rear margin and pointed tips; interdorsal ridge usually present; distinct black tip on second dorsal fin (go to page 16)</p>	
<p>Silky shark <i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i></p>	
<p>First dorsal fin relatively low and rounded which originates behind pectoral fins; pectoral fins long and slightly rounded with curved rear margins; interdorsal ridge present; second dorsal and anal fin have long inner margins and free rear tips (go to page 17)</p>	
<p>Creek whaler <i>Carcharhinus fitzroyensis</i></p>	
<p>Long narrow snout; large broadly triangular pectoral fins; first dorsal fin originates over rear of pectoral fins; 5 pairs of short gill slits (go to page 18)</p>	

Whaler sharks – <i>Carcharhinidae</i>	
<p>Bull shark <i>Carcharhinus leucas</i></p>	
<p>Large eyes, black markings on underside of pectoral fins; first dorsal fin broad and slightly curved at tip; anal fin notch forms obtuse angle; thin dusky margin on back of upper lobe of caudal fin (go to page 19)</p>	
<p>Common blacktip shark <i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i></p>	
<p>Pointed snout; long gill slits; black tips on dorsal, pectoral, pelvic and caudal fins which are sometimes faded in larger specimens (go to page 20)</p>	
<p>Oceanic whitetip shark <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i></p>	
<p>Snout short and broadly rounded; first dorsal fin large and broadly rounded; mottled white tips on first dorsal, pectoral, and caudal fins; interdorsal ridge present (go to page 21)</p>	
<p>Hardnose shark <i>Carcharhinus macloti</i></p>	
<p>Long pointed snout; long inner margin of first dorsal fin; weak interdorsal ridge; small second dorsal fin that originates behind anal fin with long free rear tips (go to page 22)</p>	
<p>Blacktip reef shark <i>Carcharhinus melanopterus</i></p>	
<p>Black tips on all fins; elongated pectoral fins; thin dark margin along front and rear margin of caudal fin (go to page 23)</p>	
<p>Dusky whaler <i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i></p>	
<p>Indistinct dusky pectoral fin tips; first dorsal fin low with narrowly round tip which originates above pectoral fin rear tips; low interdorsal ridge; second dorsal fin small with long inner margin (go to page 24)</p>	
<p>Sandbar shark <i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i></p>	
<p>First dorsal fin is triangular, tall, and erect originating above pectoral fins; interdorsal ridge present (go to page 25)</p>	
<p>Spot-tail shark <i>Carcharhinus sorrah</i></p>	
<p>Distinct dark black spots on pectoral fin tips and lower lobe of caudal fin; interdorsal ridge present; second dorsal fin very low with long inner margin and dark black spot (go to page 26)</p>	
<p>Tiger shark <i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i></p>	
<p>Dark vertical bars/blotches in specimens less than 3-metres; pronounced interdorsal ridge; low rounded lateral keels; upper lobe of caudal fin tapers to a point (go to page 27)</p>	
<p>Australian blacktip shark <i>Carcharhinus tilstoni</i></p>	
<p>Long pointed snout; black tips on all fins but anal fin; first dorsal fin is sickle-shaped and originates above pectoral fin insertions (go to page 28)</p>	

Whaler sharks – *Carcharhinidae*

<p>Sliteye shark <i>Loxodon macrorhinus</i></p>	
--	--


Large eye with notch at rear; first dorsal fin originates behind pectoral fins and may have dark upper edge; pale tips on pectoral fins, pelvic fin, and lower lobe of caudal fin; second dorsal fin originates behind anal fin insertion; upper lobe of caudal fin sometimes with dark edges (**go to page 29**)

<p>Lemon shark <i>Negaprion acutidens</i></p>	
--	--

Small eyes; first dorsal fin set well behind pectoral fins; dorsal fins similar in height; relatively large anal fin (**go to page 30**)

<p>Blue shark <i>Prionace glauca</i></p>	
---	--


Long narrowly rounded snout; pectoral fins long and slender with dusky tips; small first dorsal fin originates well behind pectoral fins; upper lobe of caudal fin much longer than lower lobe (**go to page 31**)

<p>Milk shark <i>Rhizoprionodon acutus</i></p>	
---	--

Large eyes; small second dorsal fin that originates well behind anal fin; upper lobe of caudal fin sometimes with dark margins (**go to page 33**)


<p>Australian sharpnose shark <i>Rhizoprionodon taylori</i></p>	
--	--

Pointed snout and large eye; pores on either side of mouth; first dorsal fin has curved rear margin and originates over pectoral fin tips; dark rear margins on upper lobe of caudal fin (**go to page 34**)


<p>Whitetip reef shark <i>Triaenodon obesus</i></p>	
--	--

Scattered dark spots on dorsal surface; white tips on first dorsal fins and upper lobe of caudal fin, sometimes on second dorsal and lower lobe of caudal fin; second dorsal fin half height of first dorsal fin (**go to page 32**)

Mackerel sharks – *Lamnidae*


<p>Great white shark <i>Carcharhinus carcharias</i></p>	
--	--

First dorsal fin originates over pectoral fin inner margins; very small second dorsal fin; prominent caudal keel; crescent shaped caudal fin with similar sized lobes (**go to page 35**)

<p>Shortfin mako shark <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i></p>	
--	--

First dorsal fin originates above/just above pectoral fin rear tips; very small pelvic fin; prominent caudal keels; crescent-shaped caudal fin with similar sized lobes (**go to page 36**)

Nurse sharks – *Odontaspidae*

<p>Grey nurse shark <i>Carcharhinus taurus</i></p>	
---	--

Pointed snout and small eyes; first dorsal fin set back on body closer to pelvic fins; dorsal fins and anal fins similar size (**go to page 37**)

Sawfishes – *Pristidae*

<p>Narrow sawfish <i>Anoxypristis cuspidata</i></p>	
--	---


Narrow rostral saw; 18-22 pairs of white teeth along non-tapered rostrum; no teeth on basal quarter of rostrum; caudal fin with large lower lobe which is more than half the length of upper lobe (**go to page 38**)

<p>Dwarf sawfish <i>Pristis clavata</i></p>	
--	---

Broad rostral straw; 18-22 evenly spaced teeth protruding sideways along extent of rostrum; first dorsal fin originates over pelvic fin; tall caudal fin with no lower lobe (**go to page 39**)


<p>Freshwater sawfish <i>Pristis pristis</i></p>	
---	---

Broad rostral saw distally tapered; 18-24 teeth evenly spaced along rostrum; first dorsal fin originates well in front of pelvic fin; tall caudal fin with small lower lobe but distinct fork (**go to page 40**)

<p>Green sawfish <i>Pristis zijsron</i></p>	
--	--

Slender rostral straw that is untapered; 24-28 pairs of teeth that are more closely spaced at the tip; first dorsal fin originates behind pelvic fin; tall caudal fin with no lower lobe (**go to page 41**)


Hammerhead sharks – *Sphyrnidae*

<p>Winghead shark <i>Eusphyr a blochii</i></p>	
---	---


Wide hammer-shaped head (half total body length) with narrow blades; tall sickle-shaped rear margin; pelvic fin with straight rear margin; small second dorsal fin which originates well behind anal fin (**go to page 42**)

<p>Scalloped hammerhead shark <i>Sphyrma lewini</i></p>	
--	---

Hammer-shaped head that is curved forward; scallop-like indentation in front margin of head; first dorsal fin tall with moderately curved rear margin; pelvic fin has straight rear margin; small second dorsal fin originates behind anal fin (**go to page 43**)

<p>Great hammerhead shark <i>Sphyrma mokarran</i></p>	
--	---

Large rectangular hammer-shaped head; sickle shaped first dorsal fin; dusky or dark pectoral fin tips (juveniles); pelvic fin has concave rear margin; pronounced second dorsal fin originates opposite anal fin (**go to page 44**)

<p>Smooth hammerhead shark <i>Sphyrma zygaena</i></p>	
--	---

Hammer-shaped head curved front margin with no median indentation; first dorsal fin large and sickle shaped with rounded tip; pectoral fins with near straight rear margin and dark edges underneath; interdorsal ridge present (**go to page 45**)

Angelsharks – *Squatina*

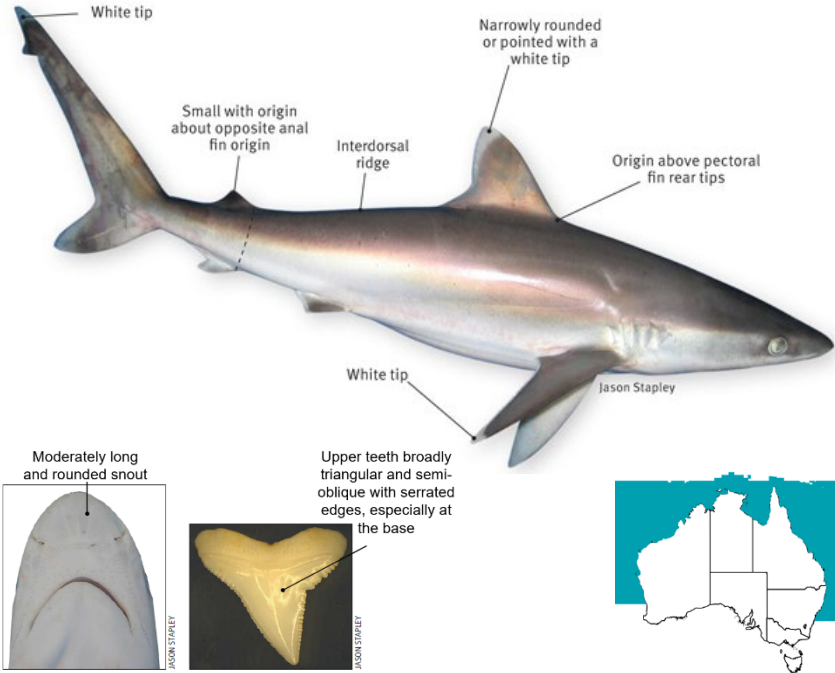
<p>Eastern angelshark <i>Squatina albipunctata</i></p>	
---	---

Dorsoventrally flattened body; eyes on upper surface of head; gills on side of head; large, broad pectoral fins; long depressed tail with no anal fin (**go to page 46**)

Silvertip shark

Carcharhinus albimarginatus

Images courtesy of the State of Queensland



CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection

CAAB: 37 018027

Other names: white-fringed whaler

Classification: Positive NDF

Size: 50cm to 300cm

Colouration: grey-brown to bronze dorsal side; dusky fins before white margin; white underside

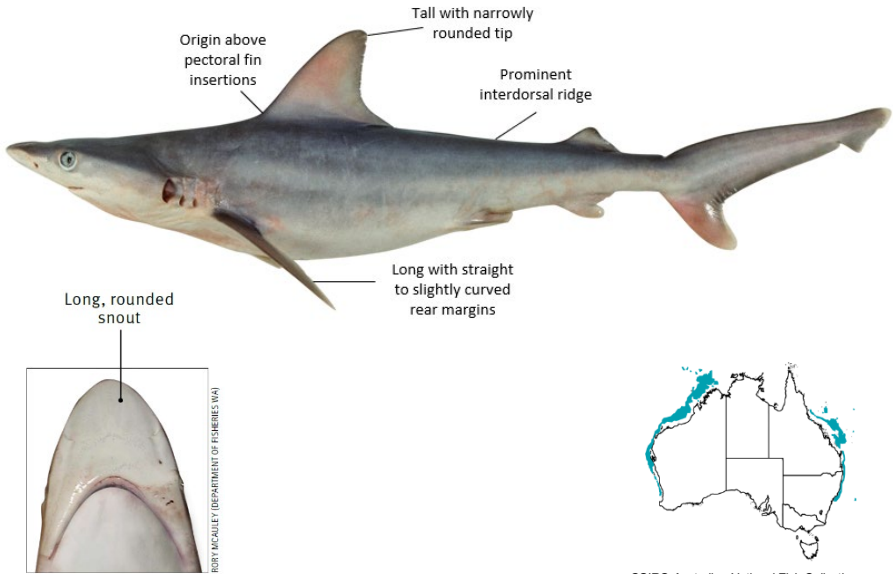
Distribution: inshore and offshore, reefs and shoals

Depth: 0-800m

Bignose shark

Carcharhinus altimus

Image courtesy of CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection



CAAB: 37 018012

Classification: CITES

Size: 60cm to 300cm

Colouration: light grey to bronze dorsal side; white underside; dusky fin tips

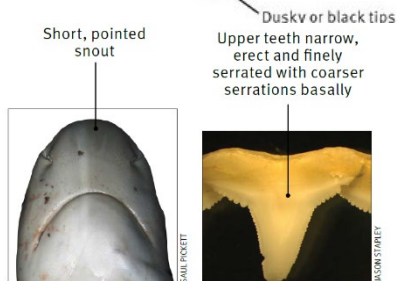
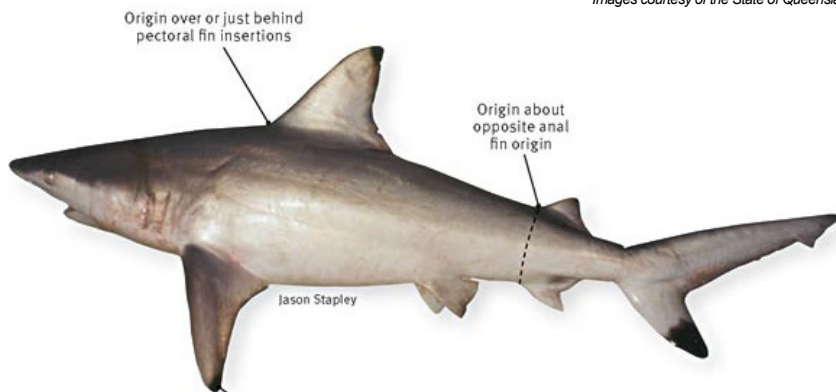
Distribution: demersal on deep continental shelves and insular slopes by day and may be pelagic by night

Depth: 30-340m

Graceful shark

Carcharhinus amblyrhynchoides

Images courtesy of the State of Queensland



CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection

CAAB: 37 018033

Other names: Queensland shark

Classification: CITES

Size: 50cm to 170cm

Colouration: grey to grey-brown dorsal side; cream to white underside; white bank on flanks

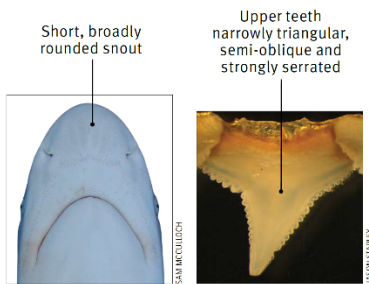
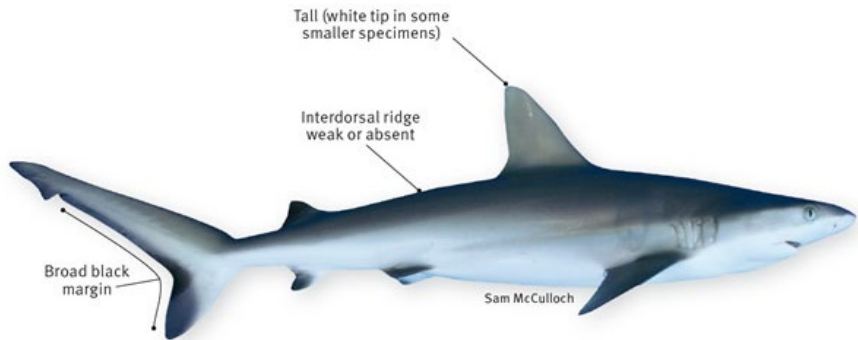
Distribution: inshore and offshore

Depth: 0-50m

Grey reef shark

Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos

Images courtesy of the State of Queensland



CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection

CAAB: 37 018030

Other names: black-vee whaler, longnose blacktail shark

Classification: Positive NDF

Size: 50cm to 180cm, maximum 255cm

Colouration: bronze to grey dorsal side; white underside; white stripe above pelvic fin; caudal fin with dark rear margin

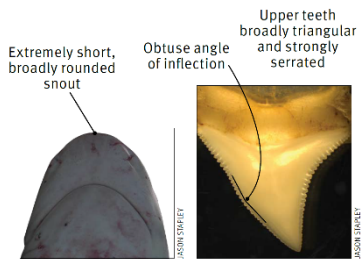
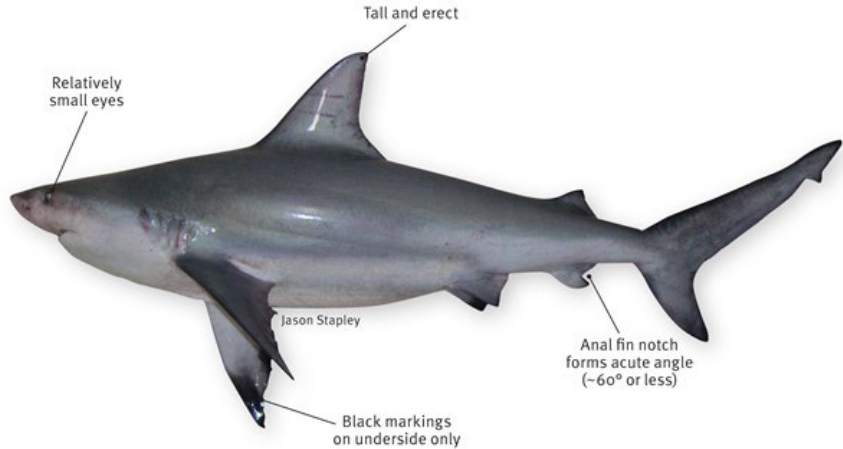
Distribution: inshore and offshore, reefs and shoals

Depth: 0-280m

Pigeye shark

Carcharhinus amboinensis

Images courtesy of the State of Queensland



CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection

CAAB: 37 018026

Other names: java shark

Classification: CITES

Size: 60cm to 280cm

Colouration: grey dorsal side; pale underside; dusky fin tips

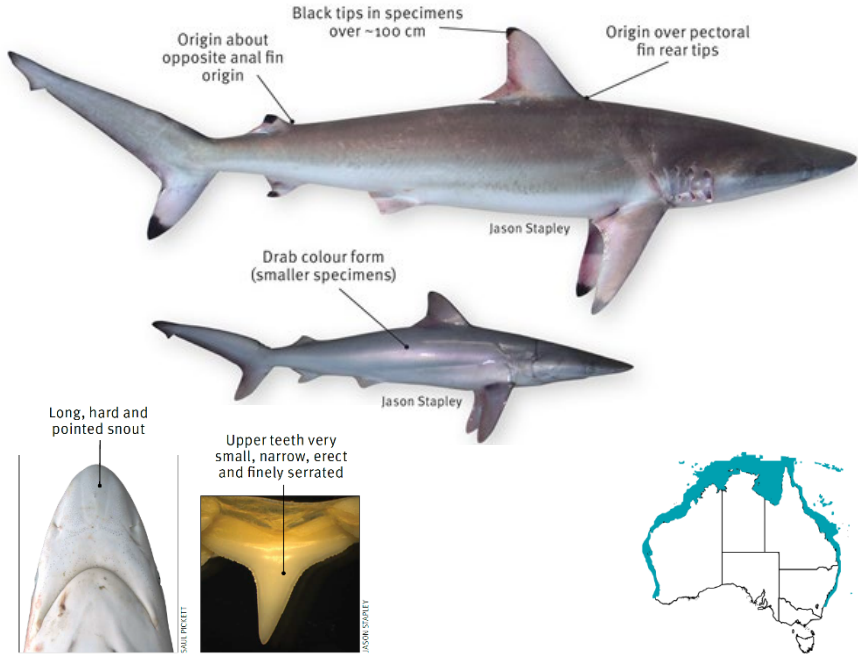
Distribution: inshore (including estuaries and rivers) and offshore

Depth: 0-100m

Spinner shark

Carcharhinus brevipinna

Images courtesy of the State of Queensland



CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection

CAAB: 37 018023

Other names: inkytail shark, longnose grey shark, longnose grey whaler, longnose whaler, smoothfang shark

Classification: CITES

Size: 60cm to 280cm

Colouration: grey-bronze dorsal side; white underside; faint white band on flanks

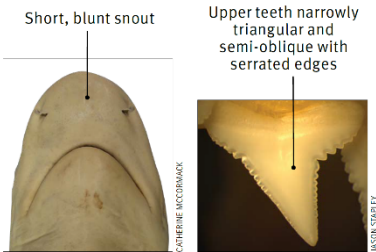
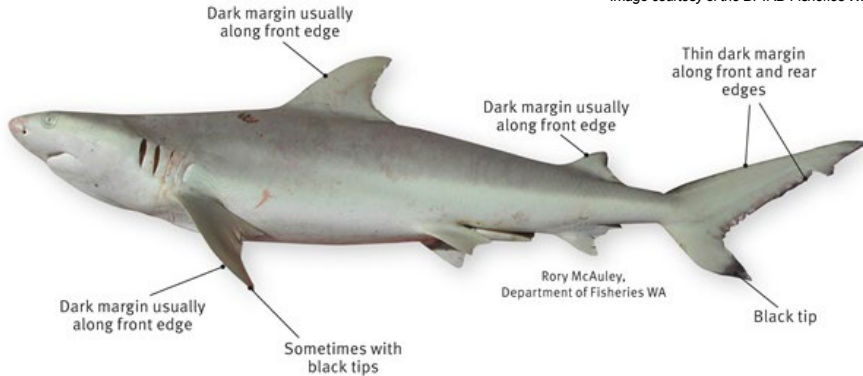
Distribution: inshore and offshore

Depth: 0-200m

Nervous shark

Carcharhinus cautus

Image courtesy of the DPIRD Fisheries WA



Images courtesy of the State of Queensland



CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection

CAAB: 37 018034

Classification: CITES

Size: 35cm to 150cm

Colouration: grey to light brown dorsal side; white underside; white bank on flank; dark margins on dorsal, caudal, pectoral fins

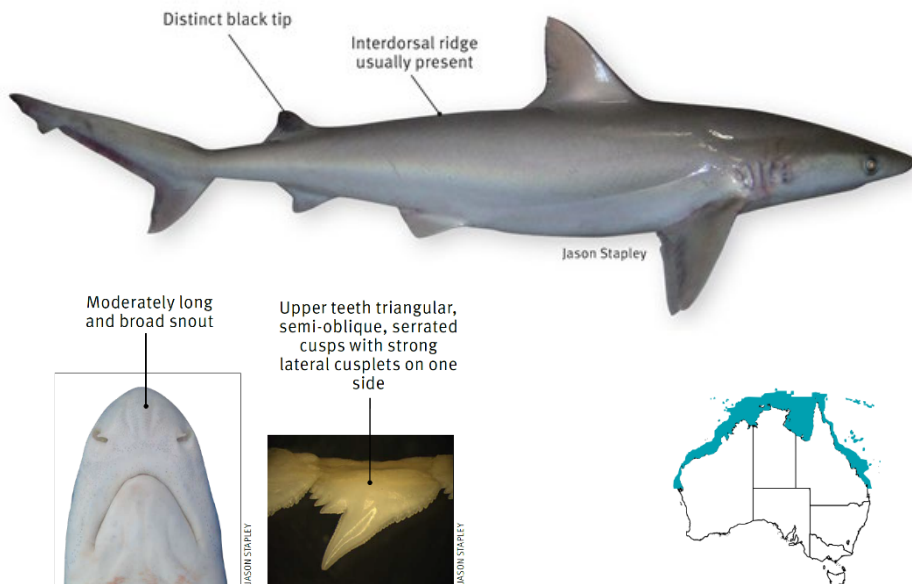
Distribution: predominately inshore, sometimes offshore

Depth: 0-45m

Whitecheek shark

Carcharhinus coatesi

Images courtesy of the State of Queensland



CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection

CAAB: 37 018009

Other names: whitecheek whaler, widemouth blackspot shark

Classification: CITES

Size: 35cm to 100cm

Colouration: grey to grey-brown on dorsal side fading to cream underside; black blotch on second dorsal fin

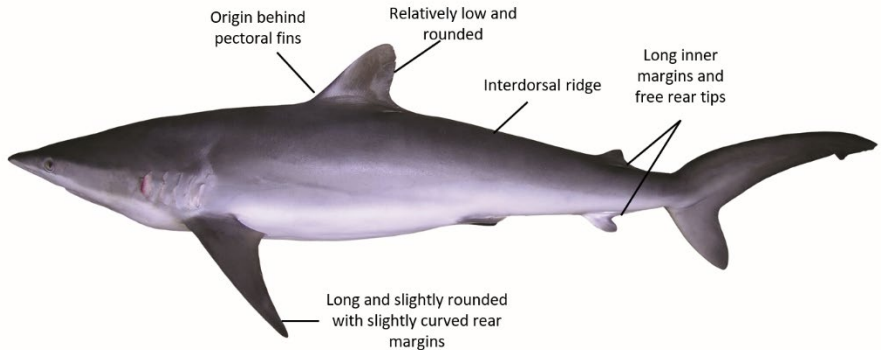
Distribution: inshore and offshore

Depth: 0-170m

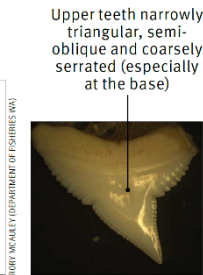
Silky shark

Carcharhinus falciformis

Image courtesy of CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection



Images courtesy of the State of Queensland



NIHAY MCMAULEY (DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES WA)

JASON STARREY



CAAB: 37 018008

Other names: silky whaler

Classification: EPBC Act

Size: 55cm to 350cm

Colouration: metallic grey to dark brown dorsal side; white underside

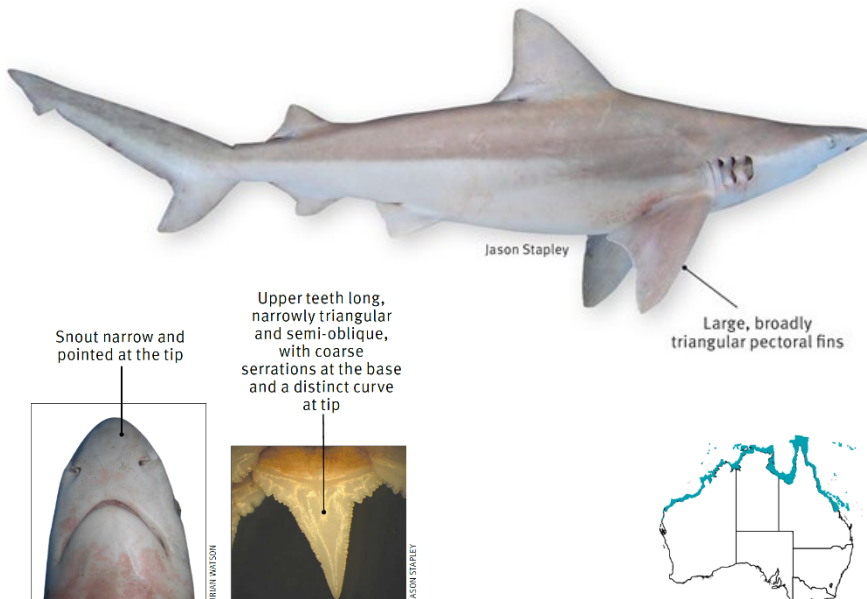
Distribution: offshore

Depth: 0-500m

Creek whaler

Carcharhinus fitzroyensis

Images courtesy of the State of Queensland



CAAB: 37 018035

Other names: floppy fin shark

Classification: CITES

Size: 50cm to at least 135cm

Colouration: grey bronze dorsal side; pale underside; without conspicuous fin markings

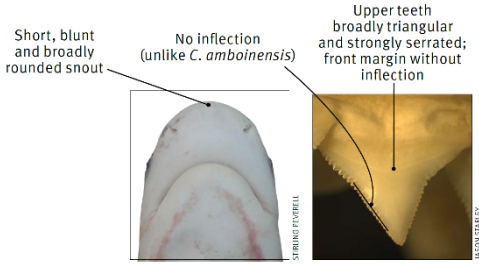
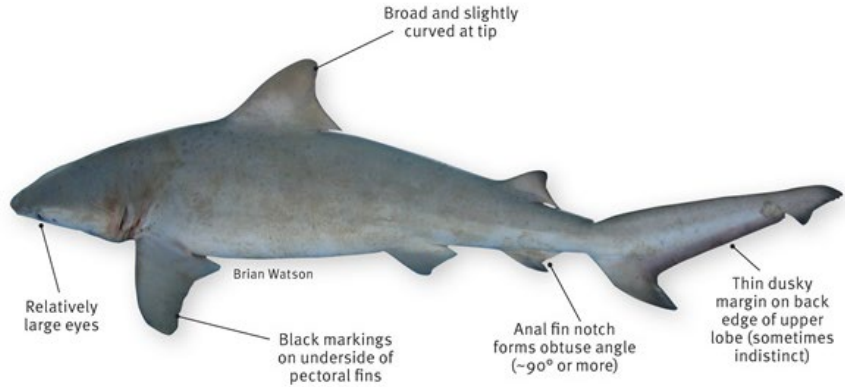
Distribution: predominately inshore, occasionally offshore

Depth: 0-40m

Bull shark

Carcharhinus leucas

Images courtesy of the State of Queensland



CAAB: 37 018021

Other names: freshwater whaler, river whaler

Classification: CITES

Size: 55cm to at least 340cm

Colouration: dull grey dorsal side; pale underside

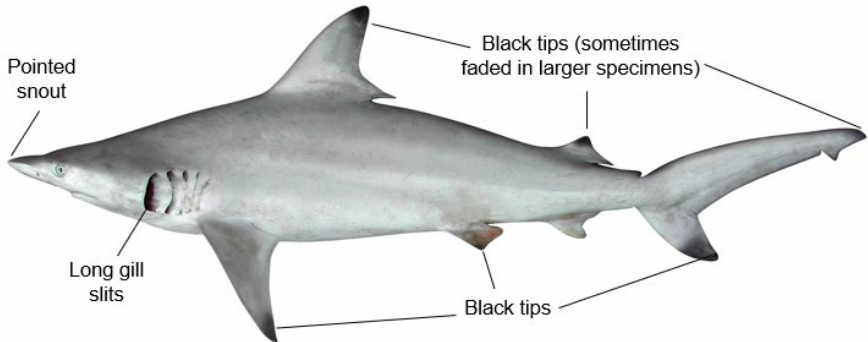
Distribution: inshore (including estuaries and rivers), some larger specimens offshore

Depth: 0-150m

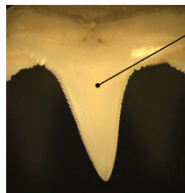
Common blacktip shark

Carcharhinus limbatus

Image courtesy of CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection



Images courtesy of the State of Queensland



Upper teeth narrow, erect and moderately serrated with coarser serrations at the base



CAAB: 37 018039

Other names: blacktip shark, blacktip whaler

Classification: Positive NDF

Size: 40cm to at least 250cm

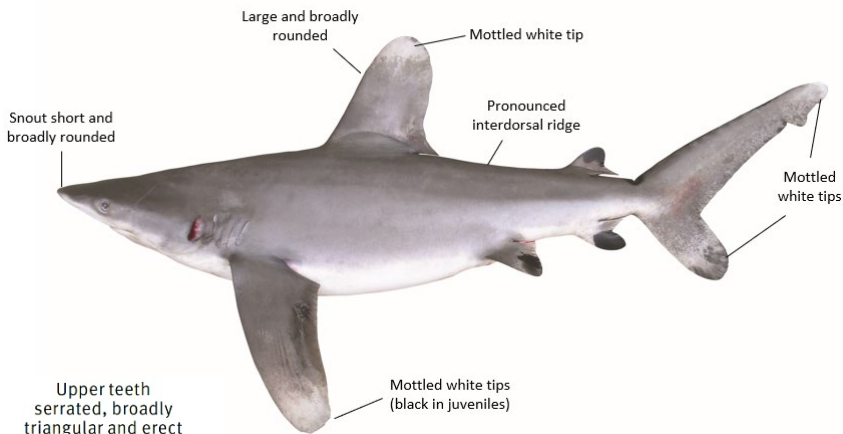
Colouration: bronze dorsal side; white underside; black fin tips

Distribution: inshore and offshore

Depth: 0-64m

Oceanic whitetip shark *Carcharhinus longimanus*

Image courtesy of CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection



CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection

CAAB: 37 018032

Other names: whitetip whaler

Classification: EPBC Act

Size: 60cm to 300cm

Colouration: grey-bronze dorsal side; white underside; distinct mottled white fin tips

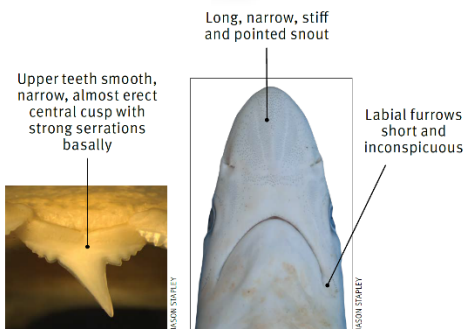
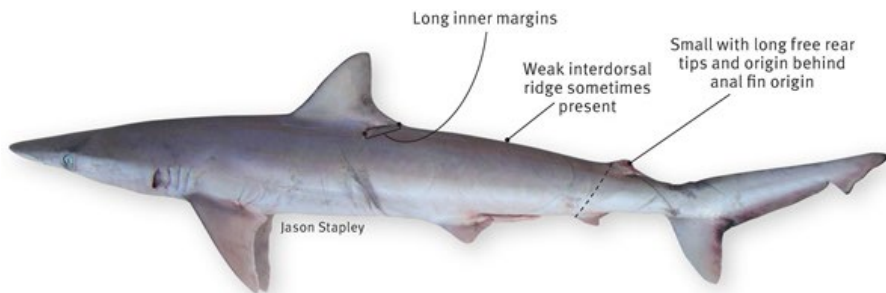
Distribution: offshore

Depth: 0-150m

Hardnose shark

Carcharhinus macloti

Images courtesy of the State of Queensland



CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection

CAAB: 37 018025

Classification: CITES

Size: 45cm to 110cm

Colouration: grey to grey-brown dorsal side; white underside

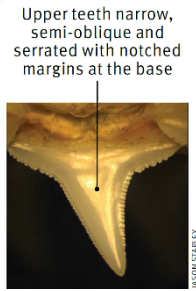
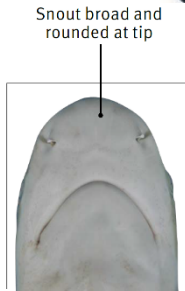
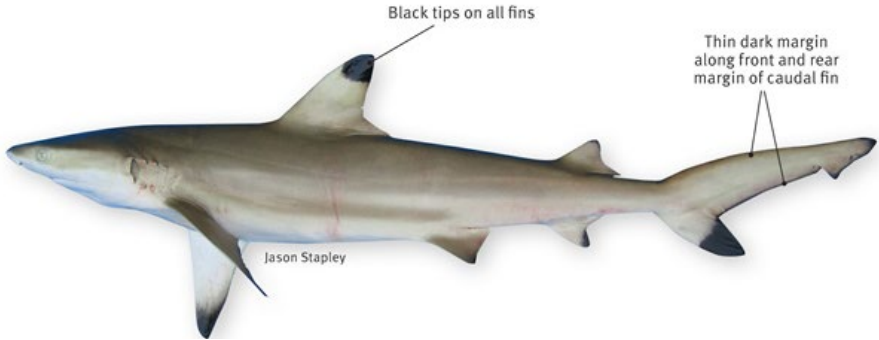
Distribution: inshore and offshore

Depth: 0-170m

Blacktip reef shark

Carcharhinus melanopterus

Images courtesy of the State of Queensland



CAAB: 37 018036

Other names: blacktip shark, guliman, mullet shark

Classification: Positive NDF

Size: 48cm to 140cm, maximum 180cm

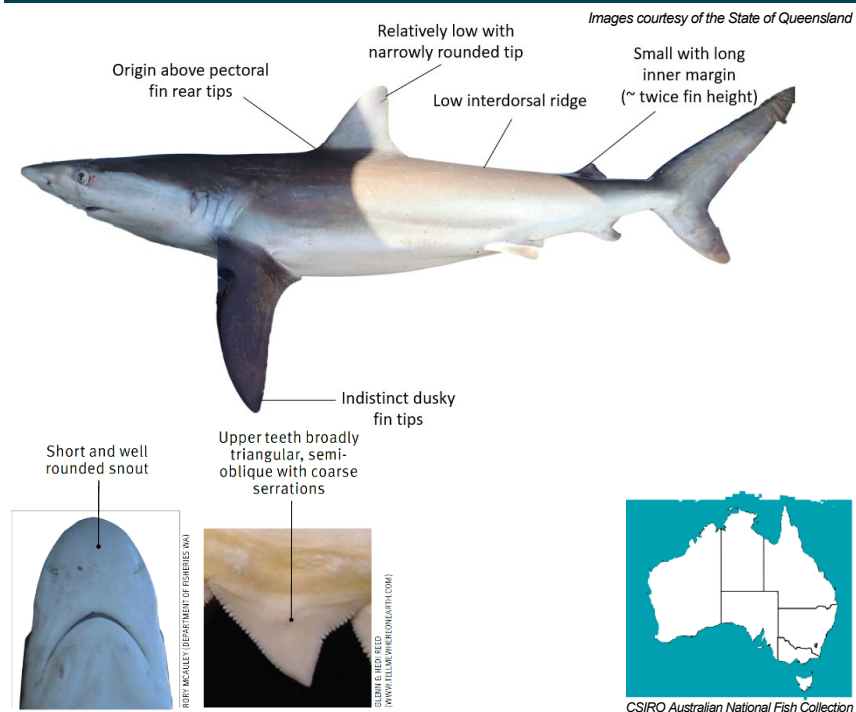
Colouration: yellow-brown to grey dorsal side; white underside; black fin tips

Distribution: inshore and offshore, associated with coral reefs and shoals

Depth: 0-75m

Dusky whaler

Carcharhinus obscurus



CAAB: 37 018003

Other names: black whaler, bronze whaler

Classification: CITES

Size: 70cm to 400cm

Colouration: bronze-grey to dark-grey dorsal side; white underside; faint pale stripe on flanks

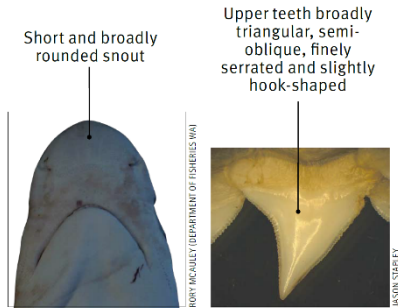
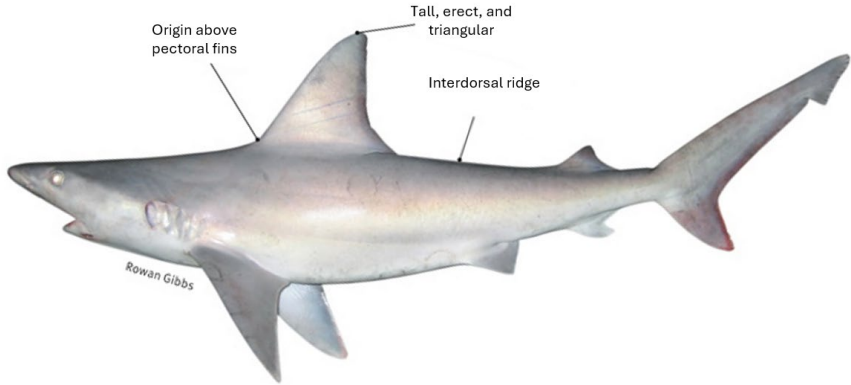
Distribution: inshore and offshore

Depth: 0-500m

Sandbar shark

Carcharhinus plumbeus

Images courtesy of the State of Queensland



CAAB: 37 018007

Other names: thickskin shark

Classification: CITES

Size: 55cm to 240cm

Colouration: grey-brown to bronze dorsal side; white underside

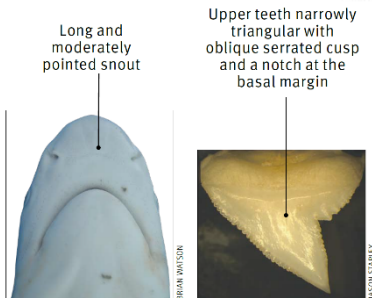
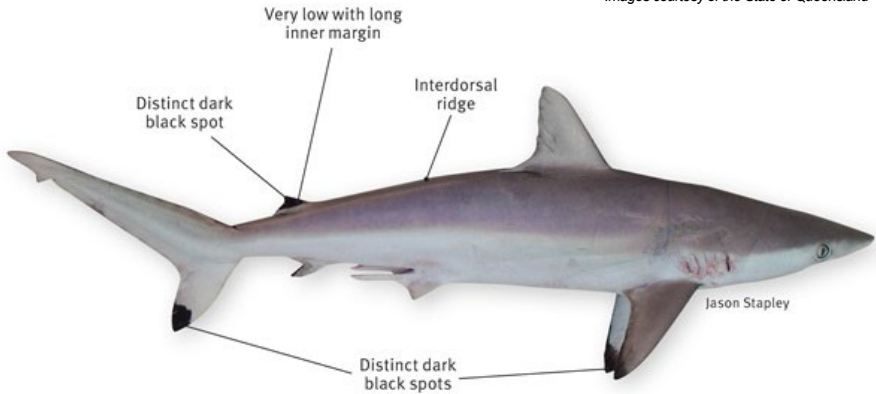
Distribution: inshore and offshore

Depth: 0-280m

Spot-tail shark

Carcharhinus sorrah

Images courtesy of the State of Queensland



CAAB: 37 018013

Classification: CITES

Size: 50cm to 160cm

Colouration: grey to grey-brown dorsal side; white underside; golden-brown sheen between eyes and gill slits

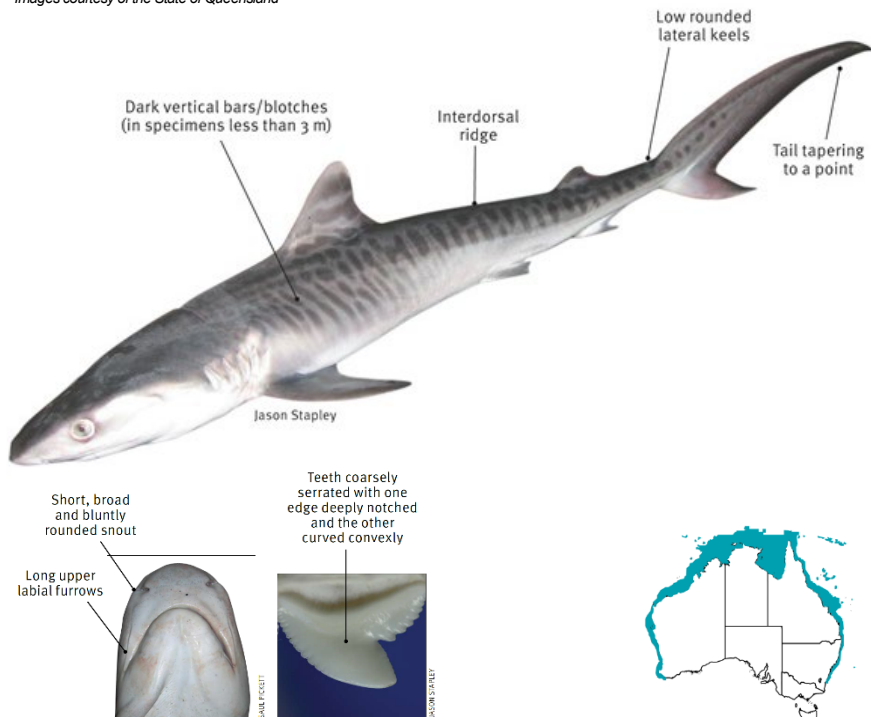
Distribution: inshore and offshore

Depth: 0-140m

Tiger shark

Galeocerdo cuvier

Images courtesy of the State of Queensland



CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection

CAAB: 37 018022

Classification: Not listed

Size: 50cm to 600cm

Colouration: grey with dark grey vertical bars or spots on flanks; pale white underside

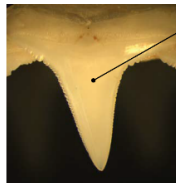
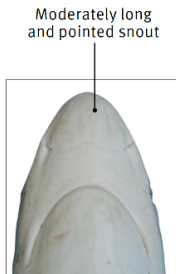
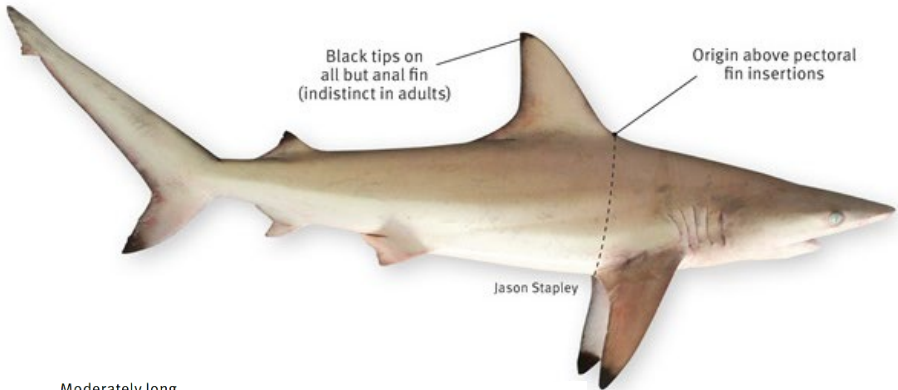
Distribution: inshore and offshore

Depth: 0-150m (up to 1000m)

Australian blacktip shark

Carcharhinus tilstoni

Images courtesy of the State of Queensland



CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection

CAAB: 37 018014

Other names: blacktip shark, blacktip whaler

Classification: Positive NDF

Size: 60cm to at least 200cm

Colouration: bronze dorsal side (grey after death); white underside; pale stripe on flanks

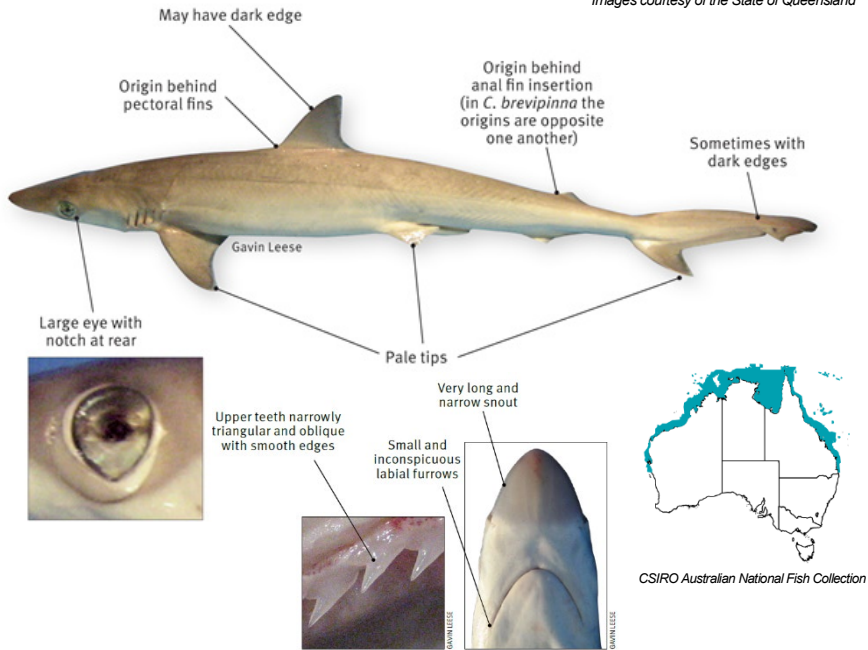
Distribution: inshore and offshore

Depth: 0-150m

Sliteye shark

Loxodon macrorhinus

Images courtesy of the State of Queensland



CAAB: 37 018005

Other names: Jordan's blue dogshark, slender dogshark

Classification: CITES

Size: 40cm to 90cm

Colouration: grey dorsal side; pale underside

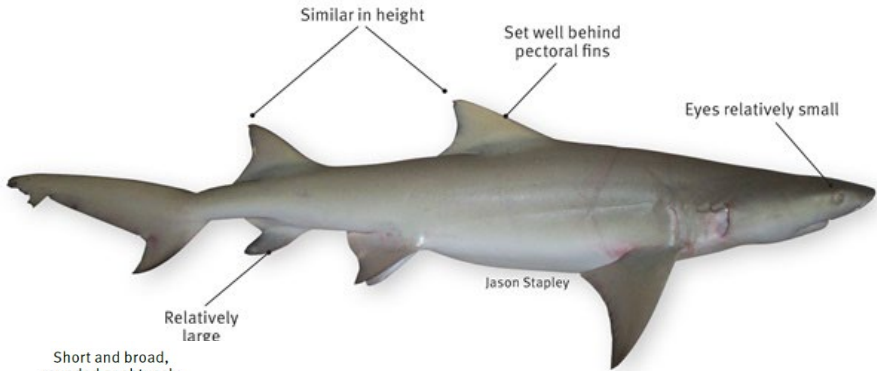
Distribution: inshore and offshore

Depth: 0-107m

Lemon shark

Negaprion acutidens

Images courtesy of the State of Queensland



Short and broad, rounded or obtusely wedge-shaped snout



Teeth erect and smooth with a long central cusp (with fine serrations at the base on some larger specimens)



CAAB: 37 018029

Other names: sharptooth lemon shark, sharptooth shark, sicklefin lemon shark

Classification: CITES

Size: 50cm to 300cm

Colouration: yellow-brown to olive dorsal side; white underside; without conspicuous fin markings

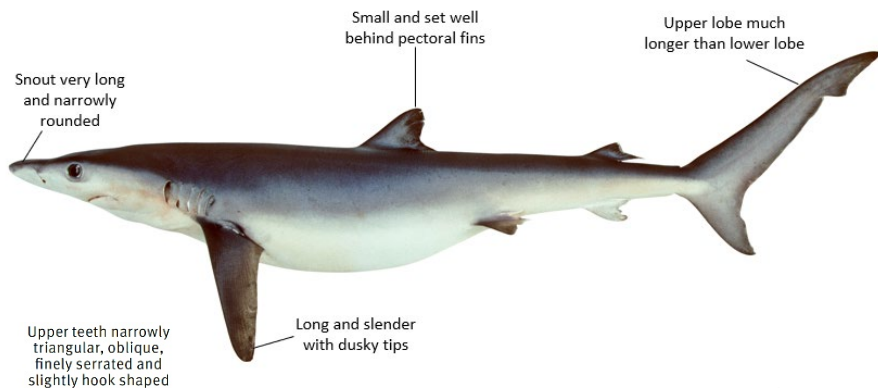
Distribution: inshore and offshore

Depth: 0-90m

Blue shark

Prionace glauca

Image courtesy of CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection



CSIRO AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FISH COLLECTION



CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection

CAAB: 37 018004

Other names: blue pointer, blue whaler, great blue shark

Classification: CITES

Size: 35cm to at least 380cm

Colouration: dark blue dorsal side becoming bright on flanks; white underside

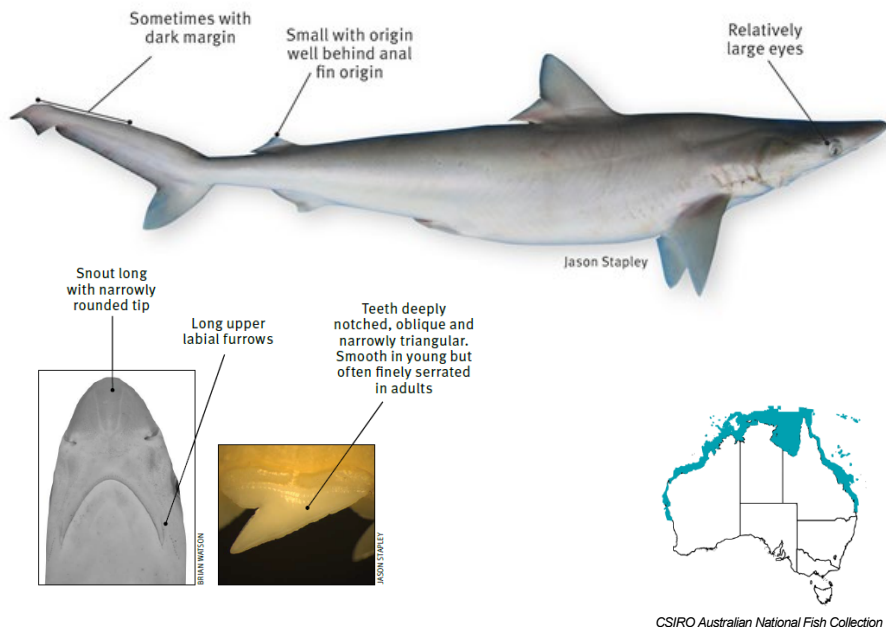
Distribution: mostly offshore

Depth: 0-1000m

Milk shark

Rhizoprionodon acutus

Images courtesy of the State of Queensland



CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection

CAAB: 37 018006

Other names: sharptooth lemon shark, sharptooth shark, sicklefin lemon shark

Classification: CITES

Size: 50cm to 300cm

Colouration: grey to grey-brown dorsal side fading to white underside; dusky fins slightly darker than body

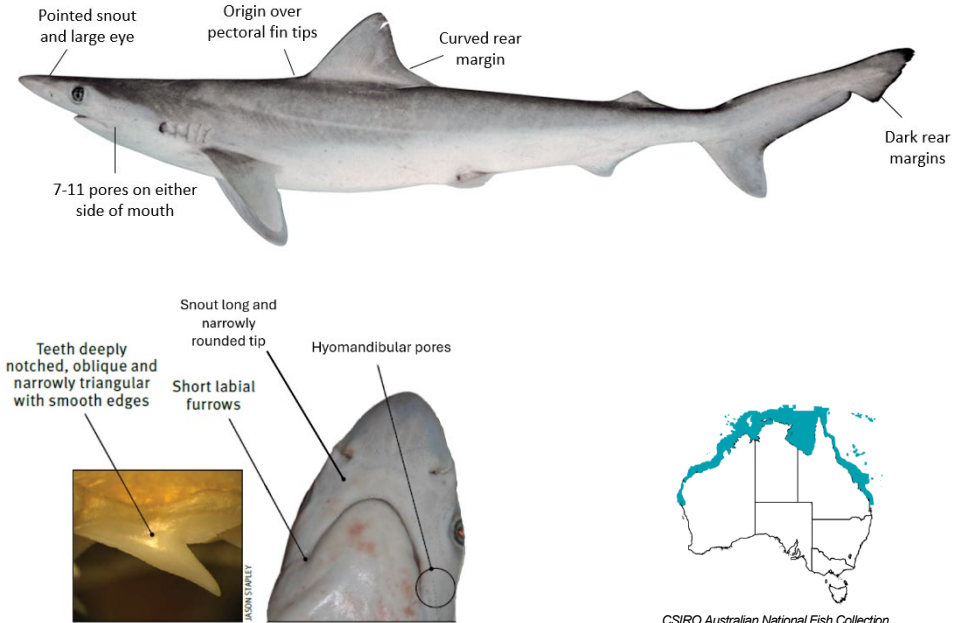
Distribution: inshore and offshore

Depth: 0-200m

Australian sharpnose shark

Rhizoprionodon taylori

Image courtesy of CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection



Images courtesy of the State of Queensland

CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection

CAAB: 37 018024

Classification: CITES

Size: 25cm to 67cm

Colouration: brownish grey dorsal side; white underside

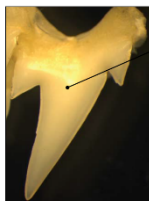
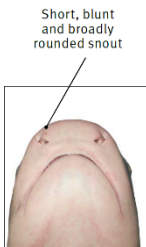
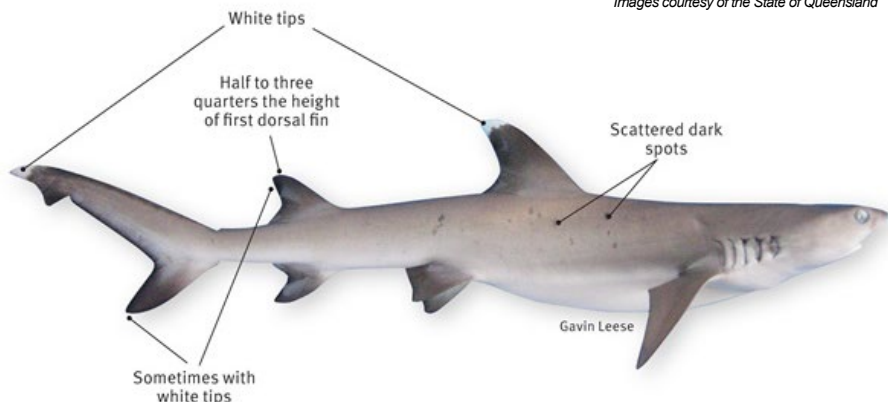
Distribution: inshore and offshore

Depth: 0-100m

Whitetip reef shark

Triaenodon obesus

Images courtesy of the State of Queensland



CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection

CAAB: 37 018038

Other names: blunthead shark, whitetip shark

Classification: Positive NDF

Size: 52cm to 170cm

Colouration: brown-grey on dorsal side fading to white on underside; scattered dark spots on flanks; first dorsal fin and upper caudal fin lobe with distinct white spots

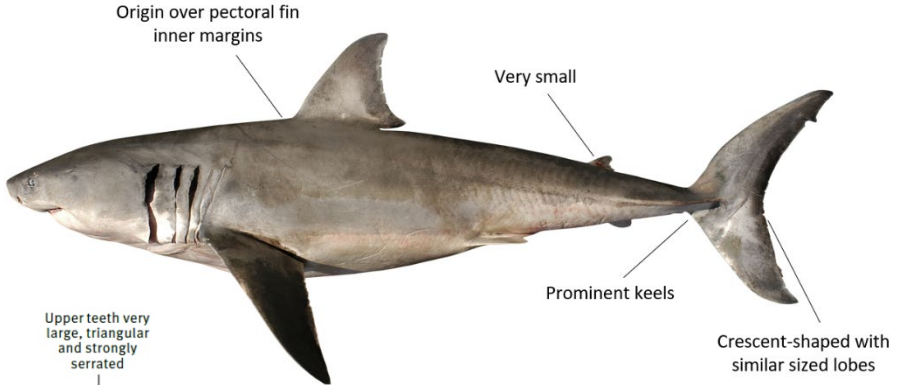
Distribution: inshore and offshore, reefs and shoals

Depth: 8-40m, rarely to 300m

Great white shark

Carcharhinus carcharias

Image courtesy of CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection



CAAB: 37 010003

Other names: white shark, white death, white pointer

Classification: EPBC Act

Size: 130cm to 600cm

Colouration: dark grey to brown dorsal side transitioning abruptly to white on underside

Distribution: inshore and offshore

Depth: 0-1300m

Shortfin mako shark

Isurus oxyrinchus

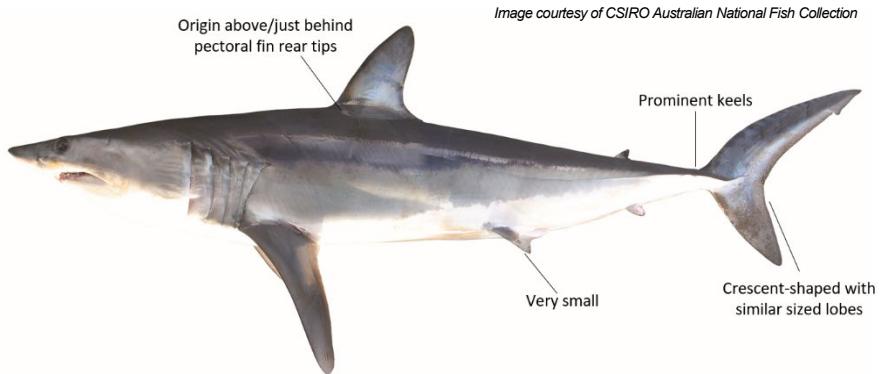


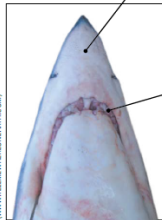
Image courtesy of CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection

Long, smooth and sharply pointed at the front of the mouth and shorter and more triangular towards the sides



CELIA WILSON/ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

Long and sharply pointed snout



ISTOCKPHOTO.COM/DAVID WILSON

Prominently protruding teeth



CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection

CAAB: 37 010001

Other names: mako shark, mackerel shark, blue pointer, snapper shark

Classification: EPBC Act*

Size: 70cm to 400cm

Colouration: dark blue to grey dorsal side; light metallic blue flanks; white underside

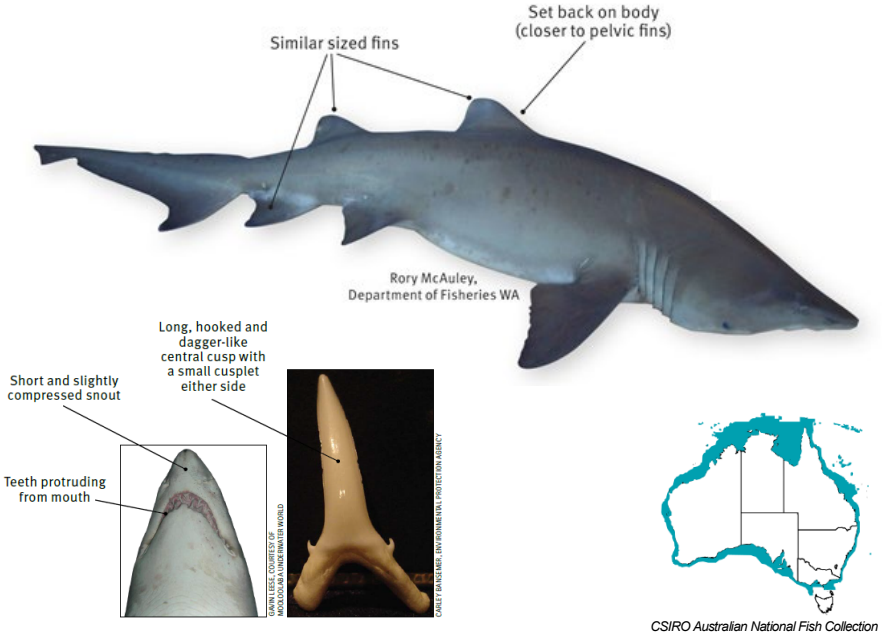
Distribution: predominately offshore

Depth: 0-650m

Greynurse shark

Carcharhinus taurus

Image courtesy of the DPIRD Fisheries WA



CAAB: 37 008001

Other names: sand tiger shark, spotted raggedtooth shark

Classification: EPBC Act

Size: 318cm, maximum 400cm

Colouration: grey-brown dorsal side; dusky white underside; juveniles have red-brown spots on rear half of body and tail

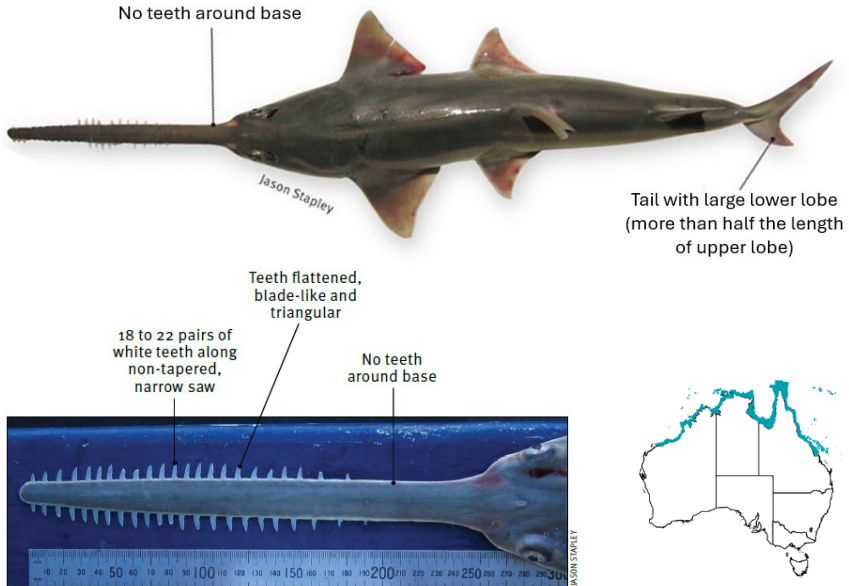
Distribution: inshore and offshore

Depth: 0-190m

Narrow sawfish

Anoxypristis cuspidata

Images courtesy of the State of Queensland



CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection

CAAB: 37 025002

Other names: knifetooth sawfish, slimy sawfish

Classification: EPBC Act

Size: Maximum 470cm

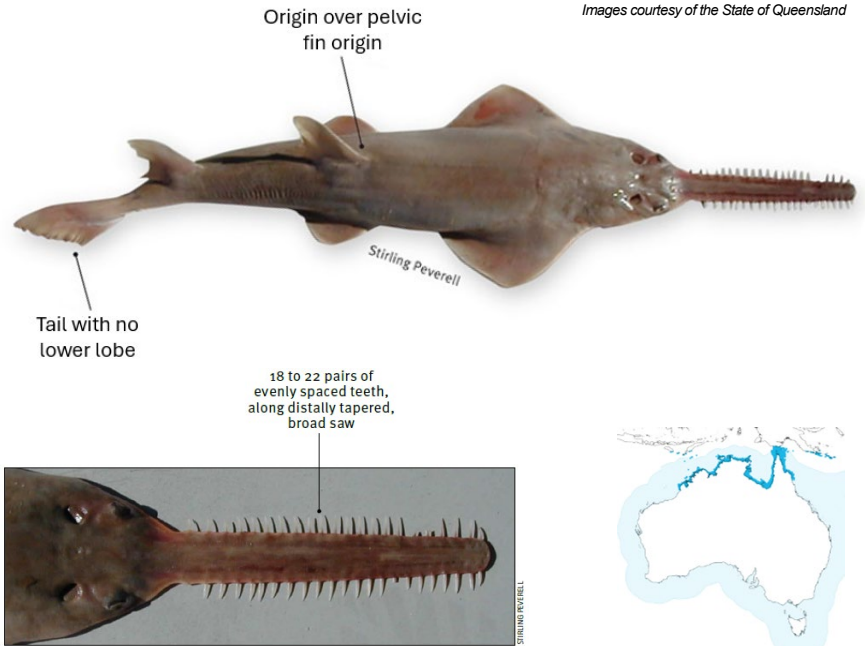
Colouration: dark grey dorsal side; pale grey underside; grey rostrum with white teeth

Distribution: Inshore and offshore

Depth: 0-40m

Dwarf sawfish

Pristis clavata



CAAB: 37 025004

Other names: Broad billed sawfish, Queensland sawfish

Classification: EPBC Act

Size: Commonly up to 150cm

Colouration: greenish-brown dorsal side; white underside; paler fins

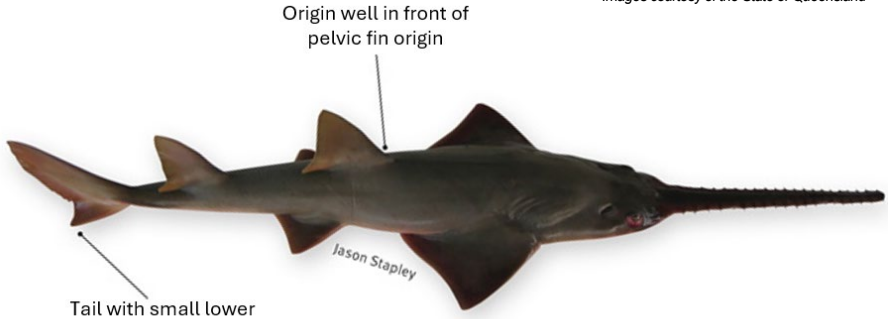
Distribution: northern, western and southern Gulf of Carpentaria; juveniles in coastal foreshores and embankments, adults in marine waters

Depth: 0-25m

Freshwater sawfish

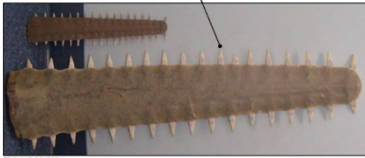
Pristis pristis

Images courtesy of the State of Queensland



Tail with small lower lobe, but distinct fork

18-24 pairs of evenly spaced teeth, along distally tapered broad saw



© STIRLING PEVERELL



CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection

CAAB: 37 025003

Other names: Largetooth sawfish, Leichhardt's sawfish, great tooth sawfish

Classification: EBPC Act

Size: 76cm to 700cm

Colouration: golden to dark brown dorsal side; white underside

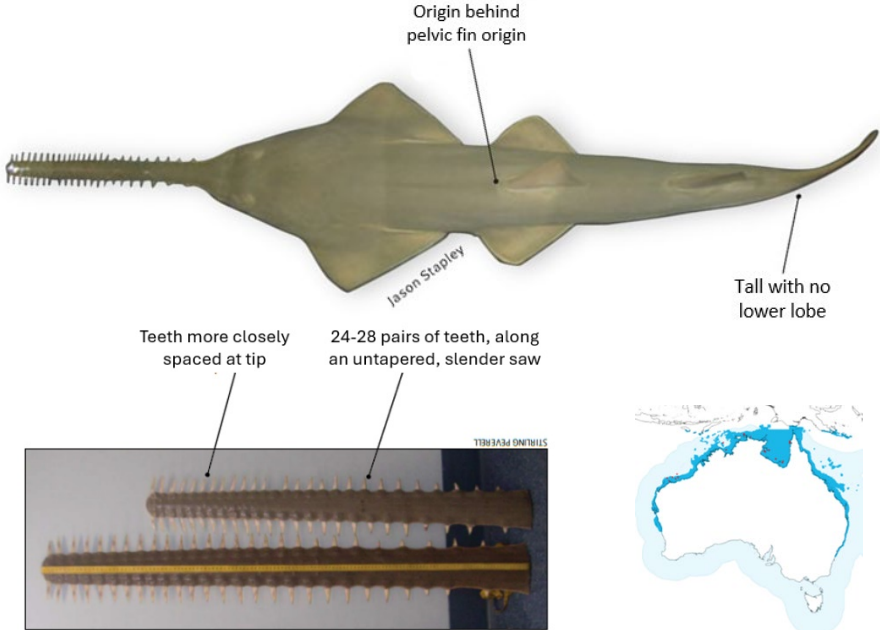
Distribution: juveniles in freshwater and estuarine environments; adults in estuarine and marine waters

Depth: 0-60m

Green sawfish

Pristis zijsron

Images courtesy of the State of Queensland



CAAB: 37 025001

Other names: Narrowsnout sawfish

Classification: EPBC Act

Size: 80cm to 500 cm

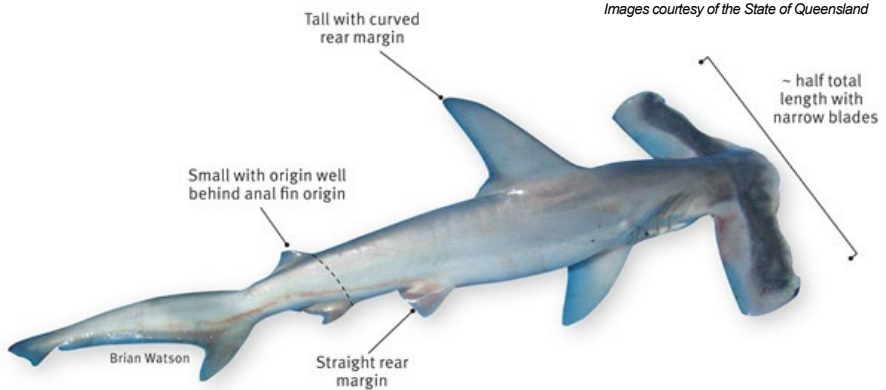
Colouration: green-brown to olive dorsal side; pale to white underside

Distribution: inshore and offshore; juveniles in foreshores and embayments; adults in deeper shelf waters but seasonally inshore

Depth: 0-70m

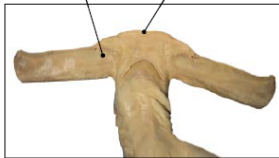
Winghead shark

Eusphyra blochii

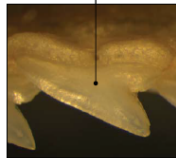


Very long narrow blades

Shallow central indentation



Upper and lower teeth small, triangular, oblique and smooth edged



CAAB: 37 019003

Other names: handlebar hammerhead shark, slender hammerhead shark

Classification: CITES

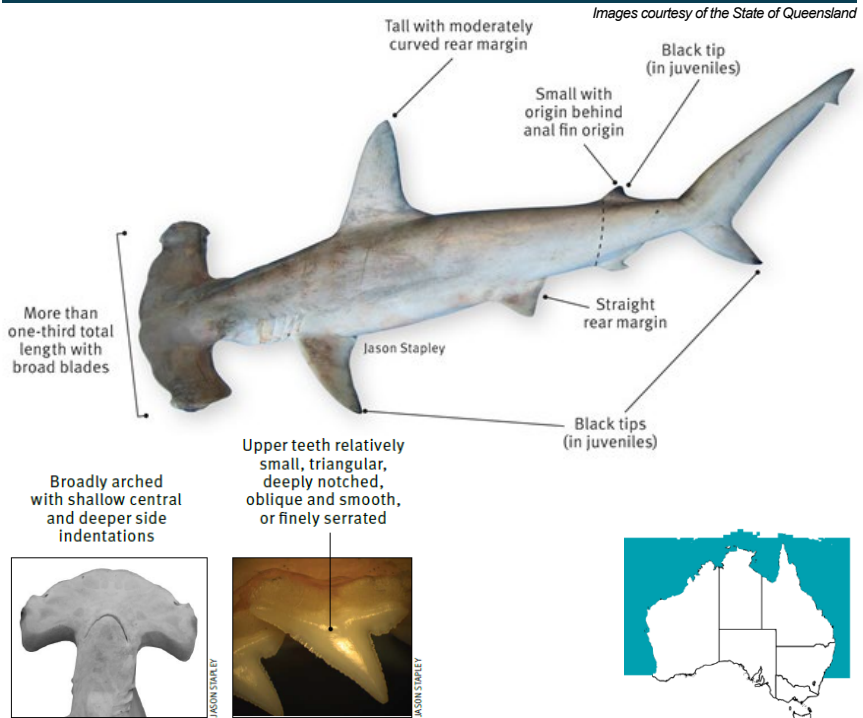
Size: 45cm to 186cm

Colouration: grey to grey-brown dorsal side with dark bands on blades; off-white underside

Distribution: inshore and offshore

Depth: 0-40m

Scalloped hammerhead shark *Sphyrna lewini*



CAAB: 37 019001

Other names: kidney headed shark

Classification: EPBC Act

Size: 45cm to 350cm

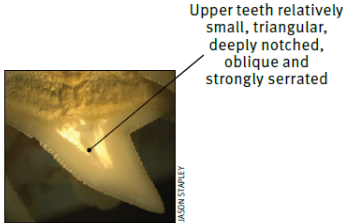
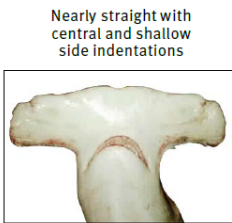
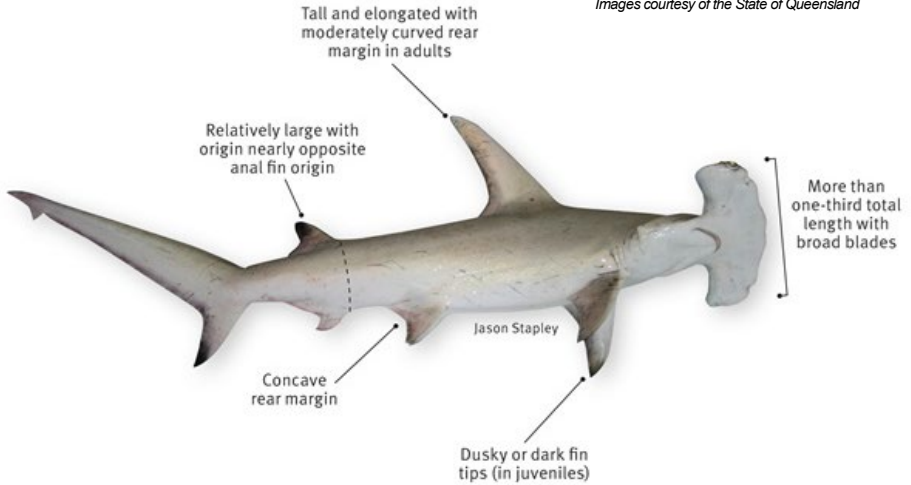
Colouration: brown, bronze, or olive dorsal side fading below; dusky underside of pectoral fins

Distribution: inshore and offshore

Depth: 0-275m

Great hammerhead shark *Sphyrna mokarran*

Images courtesy of the State of Queensland



CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection

CAAB: 37 019002

Classification: CITES

Size: 65cm to 600cm

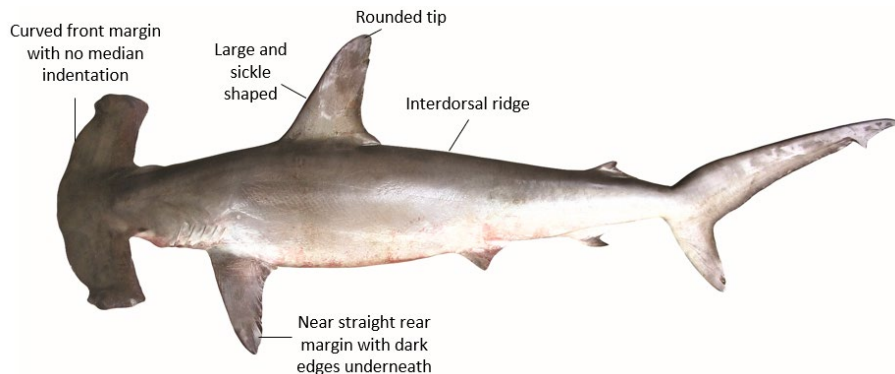
Colouration: dark brown, olive or light grey dorsal side; fading to white on underside

Distribution: inshore and offshore

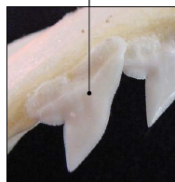
Depth: 0-300m

Smooth hammerhead shark *Sphyrna zygaena*

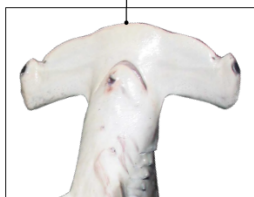
Image courtesy of CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection



Upper teeth small, triangular and oblique, with smooth or finely serrated edges



No central indentation



CAAB: 37 019004

Other names: common hammerhead

Classification: CITES

Size: 50cm to 350cm

Colouration: olive-grey to dark grey-brown dorsal side; white underside; dusky underside of pectoral fins

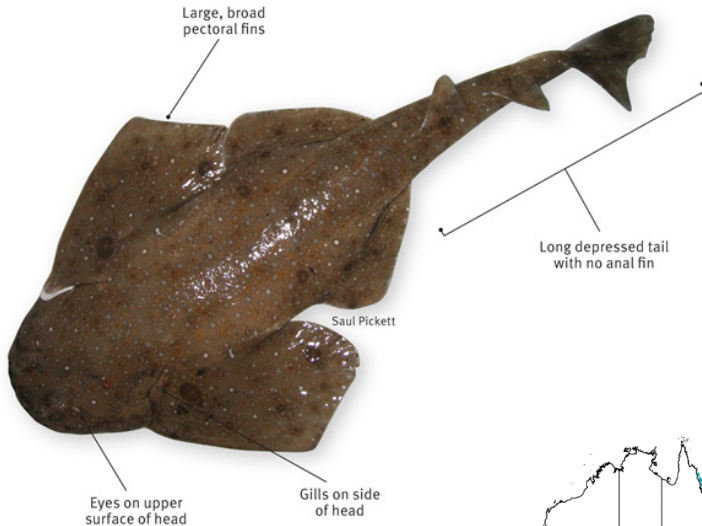
Distribution: inshore and offshore

Depth: 0-80m

Eastern angelshark

Squatina albipunctata

Image courtesy of the State of Queensland



CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection

CAAB: 37 024004

Classification: EPBC Act

Size: 30cm to 130cm

Colouration: yellow-brown to chocolate-brown with pattern of symmetrical fine white spots on dorsal side; no ocelli or black spots

Distribution: outer continental shelf

Depth: 15-415m