



ROUNDFACE BATFISH

PLATAX TEIRA

DID YOU KNOW?

Four of the world's 5 species of Batfish can be found in WA!

One species, the orbicular batfish, follows turtles around ready to eat their poo!

WHERE AT AQWA?

Look for Batfish as you relax in AQWA's Marina Bay amphitheatre.

SIZE:<70CM

DIET: PLANKTON, ALGAE, BENTHIC INVERTEBRATES

MAIN PREDATOR: UNKNOWN HABITAT: REEF

FOUND: TROPICAL INDO-WEST PACIFIC

FLYING FINS

Batfish are named for their over sized dorsal and anal fins that resemble the webbed wings of bats. These fins are especially large in juveniles, who can be more than 3 times as tall as they are wide!

Their genus name *Platax* comes from the Greek word *platys*, meaning 'flat', describing their very narrow bodies.

YOUNG TRICKSTERS

Young batfish are known to trick predators by swimming on their side. Their extremely flat bodies and long fins help them to disguise as a drifting leaf, or even less appealing, a toxic flatworm! As they float in the currents they form loose schools with other juveniles.

OCEAN EXPLORERS

Batfish are ocean explorers found in a variety of habitats. Juveniles drift beneath seaweed patches while adults are found in shallow fringing reefs, offshore coral atolls or investigating shipwrecks in water up to 70m deep!

WAVES OR WAVES

Bats use sound waves to locate food while batfish use waves in the water to find theirs! Fish feel movements in the water through rows of cells along their body called lateral lines. The batfish's body is so thin that their lateral line often bulges out!

MOON FACE

The roundface batfish is the largest of the family reaching lengths of 70cm. It is distinguished from similar species by its moon-like face, dusky yellow pelvic fins and a dark patch under its side fins.