



GREY NURSE SHARK

CARCHARIUS TAURUS

DID YOU KNOW?

While inside their mum, grey nurse sharks will eat each other until only one remains!

WHERE AT AQWA?

Surround yourself with sharks in Australia's largest walk-through aquarium; AQWA's Shipwreck Coast.

SIZE: <360CM

DIET: FISH, SMALL SHARKS, RAYS

MAIN PREDATOR: TIGER SHARK, LEMON SHARK

HABITAT: SHALLOW COASTAL WATERS NEAR ROCKY REEFS OR ISLANDS

FOUND: TROPICAL & TEMPERATE OCEANS AROUND THE WORLD

SHARP TOOTHED BULL

Pointy teeth and a stocky bull-like body give grey nurse sharks their scientific name: Cacharo means sharp pointed or jagged in Greek, while taurus means bull in Latin.

When feeding, they concentrate their food in one area by slowly 'nursing' or rounding up small fish into tight schools. These features lead to their common name, 'grey nurse'.

OVERHANGING TEETH

Grey nurse sharks have long, pointed teeth which are always visible, even if their mouth is closed!

Their teeth are designed for grabbing slippery prey, but they can't chew! They grab small to medium sized fish and swallow them whole.

SO SLOW THEY HOVER

The two small dorsal fins of the grey nurse shark are a sign that it is a slow mover! Rather than race around, they slowly drift or catch easy rides on strong currents.

By swallowing air at the surface and holding it in the stomach like a floaty, the grey nurse is also able to do something usual - hover in one place.

SWIFT ESCAPE

This slow moving shark normally hovers and drifts, but if a quick escape is needed it can flick its tail so fast it parts the water, making a bubble that cracks like thunder as it pops!

PROTECTED PREDATOR

Grey nurse sharks were the first sharks in the world to be protected.