



PORT JACKSON SHARK

HETERODONTUS PORTUSJACKSONI

DID YOU KNOW?

Port Jackson sharks hatch out of eggs! Their eggs have a frill around them that makes them look like seaweed and they can take up to 12 months to hatch!

WHERE AT AQWA?

Egg: Great Southern
Babies: Perth Coast
Teenagers: Touch Pool
Adults: Shipwreck Coast

SIZE: <165CM

**DIET: FISH,
MOLLUSCS,
CRUSTACEANS**

**MAIN PREDATOR:
LARGER SHARKS**

**HABITAT: ROCKY
REEF**

**FOUND: SOUTHERN
AUSTRALIA ONLY**

COAST TO COAST

Port Jackson sharks are found from their namesake port in Sydney, along the southern coast and over to central Western Australia.

Port Jackson's are part of the horn shark family and have; a boxy head with two raised ridges that run back from the eyes, no anal fin and spines in front of their dorsal fins. They are common and harmless sharks

BOTTOM DWELLERS

Port Jacksons are nocturnal bottom dwellers, resting and hunting in shallow reefs, caves and rocky outcrops. The underside of their body is flattened to sit seamlessly on the bottom and they have paddle-like pectoral fin to give balance and crawl through the sand.

FRONT TO BACK TEETH

Port Jackson sharks feed on small fish, crustaceans and molluscs which they crush. Their scientific name '*Heterodontus*' is Greek and means 'other teeth'. This refers to their unusual and varied teeth. At the front they are small and pointed, while at the rear they are larger and flatter. These teeth can't tear, but are good for holding and grinding.

ARMED WITH SPINES AND CAMO

For protection Port Jackson sharks rely on their characteristic harness-like camouflage to blend them in with the seabed. If spotted by a predator cruising above, their two dorsal spines act to deter a strike.

UNIQUE BREATHERS

By pumping water in their first gill and out through gills 2-5 Port Jackson sharks can eat and breathe at the same time - a unique ability for sharks!