



# SMOOTH STINGRAY

*DASYATIS BREVICAUDATA*

## DID YOU KNOW?

A group of stingrays is called a 'fever'.

Many stingrays like to live by themselves but will gather together for feeding, breeding and migration.

## WHERE AT AQWA?

Underwater tunnel

## SIZE: <430CM

**DIET: FISH, CRABS, PRAWNS, MUSSELS**

**MAIN PREDATOR: KILLER WHALES, GREAT WHITE SHARKS, SMOOTH HAMMERHEAD SHARKS.**

**HABITAT: COASTAL WATER, ESTUARIES SHALLOW WATER TO 170M DEEP**

**FOUND: TEMPERATE WATER. AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, SOUTH AFRICA**

## STING IN THE TAIL!

Smooth stingrays have a sharp, finely serrated barb at the end of their tail. They don't attack with their 'sting', but if provoked will use their barb out of defence. To do this, they raise their tail up like a scorpion. Stings are painful, but usually not fatal.

## FLAT SHARK?

Sharks and stingrays are closely related as they have a skeleton made of cartilage. This is what you have in your nose and your ears. It is much lighter and more flexible than bone.

Stingrays are different to sharks as they have a flat body, large side fins that are connected all the way along their body and gills underneath.

The smooth stingray is the largest stingray in the world. It grows to over 4.3 m in length, 2m wide and weights over 350 kg!

## DAILY GRIND

Smooth stingrays have flat grinding teeth, which they use to crush their food. Having their mouth underneath their body makes them perfectly suited to gathering food from the sea floor.

## WAVING BACKWARDS

To move through the water smooth stingrays, move their fins in a wave – like motion and can swim backwards!

## HIDE AND SEEK

Smooth stingrays spend most of their time near the sea floor and will hide buried underneath the sand. Shuffling your feet as you wade in the water will give any stingrays hidden nearby, enough warning to swim away.

Well known places to see a smooth stingray are Thompsons Bay (Rottnest Island) and Hamelin Bay (just north of Augusta).