



SOUTHERN FIDDLER RAY

TRYGONORRHINA DUMERILII

DID YOU KNOW?

Baby sharks and rays are called pups!

Fiddler rays get their nickname from their guitar-like shape.

WHERE AT AQWA?

Gently touch a fiddler ray at AQWA's Touch Pool!

SIZE: <150 CM

DIET: SMALL FISH, SHELLFISH, INVERTEBRATES

MAIN PREDATOR: SHARKS, FISH

HABITAT: COASTAL SAND FLATS & SEAGRASS BEDS

FOUND: AUSTRALIA ONLY! FROM WA TO TASMANIA

A STINGRAY WITH NO STING?

Stingrays are a type of ray, however not all rays are stingrays. Fiddler rays alike electric rays, manta rays and sawfish don't have a barb.

The characteristics that all rays share are; a skeleton of cartilage, flattened body, side fins that merge with their body and gills underneath their bodies, not on the sides.

Rays are closely related to sharks and fiddler rays almost look like sharks with their rough skin, shark like tail and shark-like swimming style.

SWIMMING STYLES

Fiddler rays swish their shark like tails from side to side while other rays flap their wings or wave their side fins in an undulating motion.

SAFETY FEATURES

The Southern Fiddler Ray has a characteristic pattern of 3 short bold stripes behind its eyes. A pattern of dark-edged bands continues along their body and these ornate markings camouflage perfectly with the ripples in the sand and the filtered rays of sunlight that reach the shallow sea floor. Fiddler rays have thorn like scales, powerful jaws filled with small blunt crushing teeth

Baby fiddler rays hatch from eggs, however to keep them safe mum keeps the eggs inside her body until they born. The pups take 4-5 months to develop however their growth is then 'paused' so that they are born in autumn.

AUSSIE AUSSIE AUSSIE

There are two species of fiddler rays and all of them are only found in Australia! The eastern and southern fiddler rays are very similar with only their range and patterns telling them apart.

WOW! On the east coast the 3 stripes behind their eyes form a triangle!