

ZEBRA SHARK

ZEBRA FACTS

Where are its stripes!? Only juveniles have dark brown and white 'stripes' similar to a zebra. Length at birth is 20-36 cm

Often found in and around coral and rocky reefs, eating mostly crustaceans, molluscs and small fish.

Although reasonably abundant in Australia, zebra sharks are globally listed as 'Endangered' because of overfishing in south-east Asia for their meat and fins.

Seasonally travels over 1000 km, forming aggregations of 20-30 individuals in the summer months.

A docile shark, popular with scuba divers and snorklers.

Max. size 246cm



ZEBRA SHARK

Stegostoma fasciatum

Least Concern (Australia)

Endangered (Global)

JUVENILE ZEBRA SHARK

Females mature at 6-8 years old and lay 40-80 eggs each year.

AUSTRALIAN ZEBRA SHARK DISTRIBUTION



THREATS & SOLUTIONS

THREAT: Trawl fishing.

It sometimes rests on, and swims close to the seafloor where it can be 'scooped' up. If caught, zebra sharks are usually thrown back alive.

SOLUTION: Trawlers with escape hatches in the trawl nets have reduced the numbers caught in Australia.

THREAT: Shark nets.

Queensland's Shark Control Program accidentally catches zebra sharks amongst a variety of wildlife not considered dangerous to humans.

SOLUTION: Remove shark nets and instead use tools like aerial surveillance, signage, and education for bather safety.

References:
1. IUCN Red List: Zebra shark www.iucnredlist.org/species/161360/68644464