

SYDNEY SKATE

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Dipturus australis
Vulnerable

Skates are quite unique - they are the only species of ray that lay eggs. All other rays give live birth.

SYDNEY SKATE FACTS

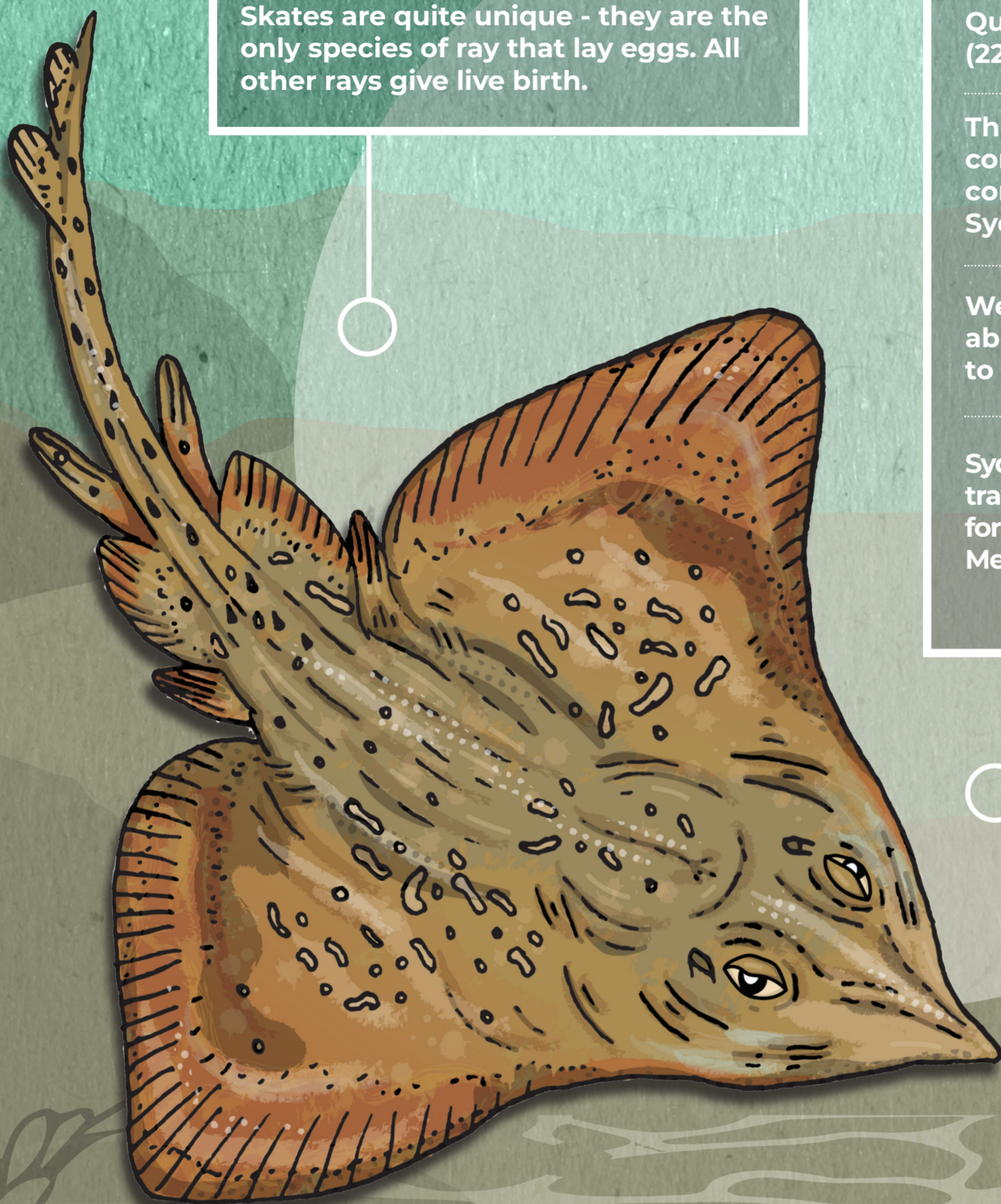
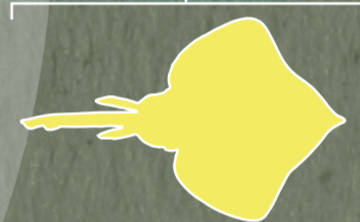
It's found nowhere else in the world except in eastern Australia, ranging from southern Queensland to New South Wales in the deep waters (22-325m) of the continental shelf.

The Sydney skate was once one of the most common skates on the eastern Australian continental shelf. Scientists are worried the Sydney skate may now be 'endangered'.

We need to know more! Virtually nothing is known about the biology of the Sydney skate, and we need to know more to protect it.

Sydney skates killed by trawling are sometimes sold for meat in the city markets of Melbourne and Sydney.

Max size of 55cm



SYDNEY
SKATE
DISTRIBUTION



THREATS & SOLUTIONS

THREAT: Trawl fishing. It lives mostly on and near the seafloor where it can be 'scooped' up. Sydney skates killed by trawling are kept to sell their meat.

SOLUTION: Close off critical habitats to trawling to prevent their extinction.

THREAT: Lack of knowledge. We virtually know nothing about the species or how many there are.

SOLUTION: More funding for scientific studies so we can better protect it from overfishing.



THREAT: Accurate reporting. Because skates look very similar, they are often recorded by fishers as a 'ray' making it very difficult to identify how many are being caught over time.

SOLUTION: ID charts for different species of skates, and better training for fishers so they can accurately report what species they catch.

References:
1. IUCN Red List: Sydney Skate www.iucnredlist.org/species/161637/5470186
2. 2016. Rays of the World. [Eds. Peter R Last, William T White, Marcelo de Carvalho, Bernard Seret, Matthias FW Stehmann, Gavin JP Naylor], CSIRO Publishing, Australia.

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