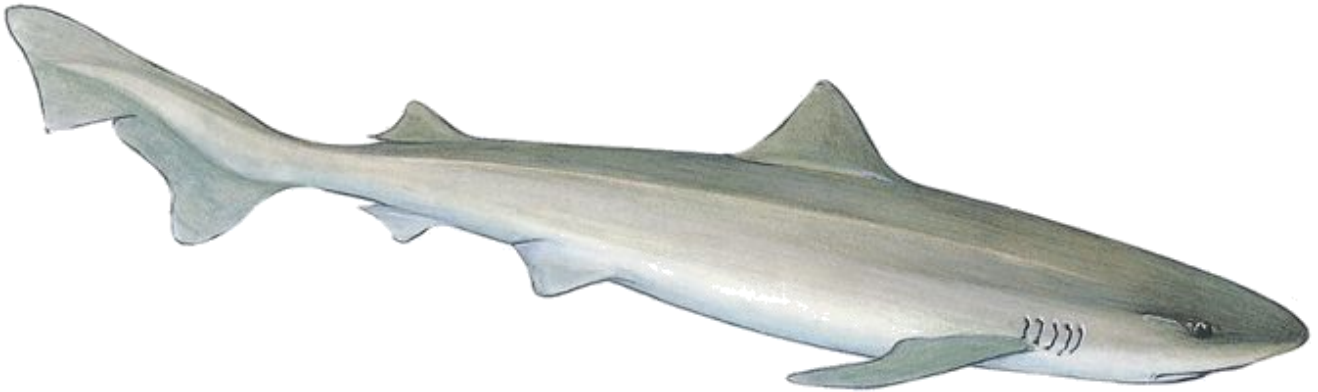


REELING IN Junior Anglers



School Shark

The school shark forms aggregations and are found in gulf, shelf and shelf slope waters out to ~600 m. The species is sometimes caught when targeting Snapper and Whiting in gulf and coastal waters. School sharks are born at 30 cm in length and range in size up to ~1.9 m. The school shark is slow growing and long-lived (60 years). Females mature at ~1.3 m. Litters sizes are generally 30 pups and gestation periods have been found to span 12 months, with a 3-year reproductive cycle. They are a highly mobile species capable of long distance migrations across the central and eastern Great Australian Bight. The species mostly feeds on squids and small to medium sized pelagic fish. Nursery areas are thought to be limited to the south-eastern Australian range, with very few small juveniles (neonates) found in other southern Australian regions where mature adults tend to be caught. The school shark is classified as Conservation Dependent under the Australian Commonwealth Government Environmental Protection, Biodiversity and Conservation Act (EPBC Act) (1999). Fisheries that take the species as bycatch are currently managed via a stock rebuilding strategy, and bag limits need to be low to ensure the recovery of the stock is successful.

School Sharks are characterised by:

- grey back and slender shape
 - slanted eye
- second dorsal fin smaller than the first
- tail upper lobe larger than lower lobe.
- small sharp angular, hooked teeth with three large serrations.