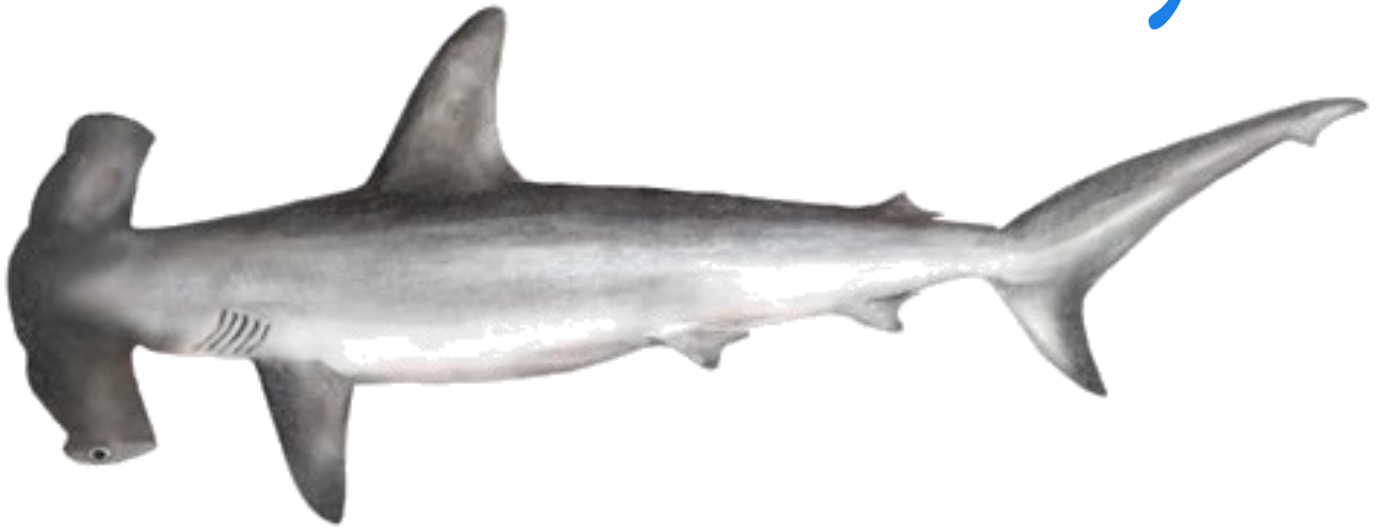


REELING IN Junior Anglers



Smooth Hammerhead Shark

In South Australia, the Smooth Hammerhead is found in waters of both gulfs and continental shelf waters out to depths of ~500 m. The species is most commonly sighted swimming at the surface in gulf waters during calm, hot weather in summer. Smooth Hammerheads range in size up to ~3.5 m and females mature at ~2.7 m. Litters sizes are generally larger than for the whaler sharks (20-50 pups) and gestation periods have been found to span 10-11 months. The species feeds on squids, prawns, crabs and pelagic fish, with large individuals sometimes associated with tuna and mackerel schools. The species is considered to be slow growing as found for other members of the genus. Highest estimated ages for specimens considerably smaller than the known maximum size have exceeded 20 years.

Smooth Hammerheads are characterised by:

- olive to grey-brown back
 - white underside
 - dusky tips on ventral fins
- long upper lobe of tail with large upright dorsal fin that appears over-sized compared to the length of the shark
 - small angular serrated teeth
- hammer-shaped with eyes on each end of head that bulges forward with no central indentation (as found for scalloped hammerhead).