

REELING IN Junior Anglers



Southern Fiddler Ray

They are found in both gulfs, saline rivers, mangrove habitats and continental shelf waters of South Australia from shallow intertidal areas out to 200 m. They inhabit patchy sea-grass, sand, and shallow reefs habitats. The species is born at 25 cm and attain at least 1.5 m in length. Females reach sexual maturity at about 90 cm in length. Litters sizes are generally very small from 2-5, with a gestation period of 12 months and pups born in autumn. There is limited biological and ecological data for this species in South Australia.

Southern Fiddler Rays are characterised by:

- slightly pointed snout and oval-like disc shape
- two colour morphs 1. mustard/yellow to brown colouration with a combination of cream/white stripes and spots; rarer morph has blue/black to chocolate-brown with irregular white stripes or spots (formerly known as Magpie Fiddler)
 - white to cream underside
- no poisonous barbs, but have small, reduced bony spines on dorsal side of tail (not harmful)
 - two dorsal fins on tail similar in size to upper lobe of tail.