

# REELING IN Junior Anglers



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## Southern Eagle Ray

They are found in saline rivers, mangrove habitats, both gulfs and continental shelf waters of South Australia from shallow intertidal areas out to at least 100 m depths. They mostly inhabit the soft sands, mud flats and patchy sea-grass and sand habitats, but are also found over both deep and shallow reefs.

Southern Eagle Rays mostly feed on crabs, molluscs, fish and squids and they regularly bury themselves in the sand for the purposes of camouflage. There is limited biological and ecological data for this species in South Australia but they are considered to be highly mobile.

Southern Eagle Rays are characterised by:

- brown, mustard to olive coloured skin on top and white underside
  - pointed wings
  - blue to grey spots
- a long thin tail with 1 to 2 small serrated poisonous barbs located just behind the small dorsal fin.
  - slimy skin
- large spiracles (holes that take in water to the gills whilst the animal is stationary).