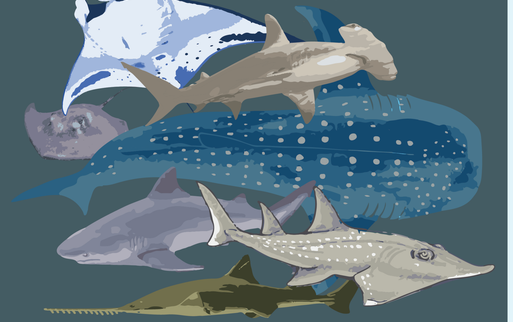
Protected Sharks and Rays of Bangladesh

Sharks and rays are fish with soft bones and without gill slit covers. Most sharks and rays are top predators with strong jaws that use smell, sight, touch, and sound to find their prey. Rays have flat bodies with wide side fins attached to their head. Their eyes are on top of the head, but their mouth and gill slits on the underside.

Sharks and rays are critical to a healthy ocean and healthy people. If sharks and rays disappear, fisheries could collapse which means less jobs for fishers and less food for people.

Sharks and rays are disappearing quickly because too many are being caught and sold. Fins, gill plates, skins, and meat are highly valued in other countries. People in Bangladesh eat their meat and process low-value parts into animal feed.



Ocean Guardians ensure a healthy ocean and healthy people.

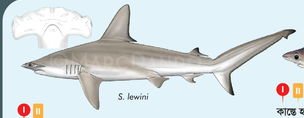
Abide by fishery, protected area, and species laws and rules.

Safely release protected species at sea.

Inspire others to become Ocean Guardians.

WE STAND FOR WILDLIFE[BD]

SHARKS



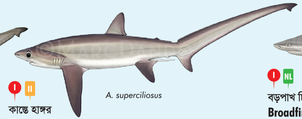
S. lewini

I II

হাতুড়ি হাঙর/কাইন্যা/কাউন্যা/জুলিয়া মাগর

Hammerhead sharks Sphyrnidae

Hammerhead sharks get their name from their wide head that looks like a hammer. Their eyes are on the outer edges of their flattened head, so they can always see above and below. Large fins allow these sharks, which can grow up to 20 feet long, to make sudden and sharp turns. Females start reproducing when they are about 5 feet long or 15 years old.



A. superciliosus

I II

কাস্তে হাঙর

Thresher sharks Alopiidae

Thresher sharks have an unusually long, sickle shaped upper tail fin which they use to stun their prey. These sharks grow up to 16 feet long and prefer deep ocean water. Female threshers are pregnant for 12 months and usually give birth to 2 pups in shallow coastal waters.

I NL

বড়পাখ চিনারি হাঙর

Broadfin shark *Lamiopsis temminckii*

Broadfin sharks can grow up to 6 feet long. Their fins are very wide and the top fins almost equal in size. This rarely seen shark lives in our shallow coastal waters. Females give birth to 4-8 pups after 8 months pregnancy.

II II

রেশমি/সিল্কি হাঙর

Silky shark *Carcharhinus falciformis*

Silky sharks have bronzy smooth skin and a rounded first top fin. They can grow up to 12 feet long. The young live in shallow coastal waters but move offshore to deeper waters as adults. Females mature at around 7 feet length, giving birth to 6-16 pups after 12 months pregnancy.

II NL

ঘূর্ণি হাঙর/কালা লতাবলি হাঙর

Spinner shark *Carcharhinus brevipinna*

Spinner sharks migrate in large schools through inshore and offshore waters. When feeding, they often spin through and snap at schools of fish. Adults grow up to 10 feet long with black tips on all their fins. In juveniles, the anal fin has no black tip. Females give birth in shallow coastal waters after a year-long pregnancy to 3-15 pups.

II NL

ফোটালেজী/কালা লতাবলি হাঙর

Spottail shark *Carcharhinus sorrah*

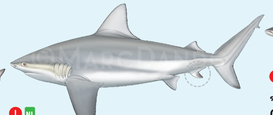
A distinct spot on its lower tail fin gives this shark its name. Spottail sharks grow more than 6 feet long. They live in deep open waters. Females start giving birth at the age of 2-3 years to a litter of 1-8 pups per year.

I NL

ষ-বলি হাঙর

Bull shark *Carcharhinus leucas*

Bull sharks can grow up to 12 feet long and have a wide, blunt snout that is shorter than their mouth. They live in brackish inshore waters and travel far upstream in rivers. Females start giving birth when they are about 18 years old to 1-14 pups after 10 months pregnancy.



I NL

ভোঁতা বলি হাঙর

Pigeye shark *Carcharhinus amboinensis*

Pigeye sharks look very similar to bull sharks, but their anal fin is pale. Pigeye sharks can grow up to 10 feet long. They live in brackish water but can travel far offshore. Females give birth to 6-13 pups every two years after 9-12 months pregnancy.

I NL

গাঙ্গেয় চিনারি হাঙর

Ganges shark *Glyphis gangeticus*

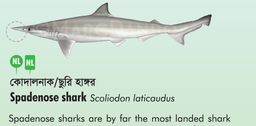
Ganges sharks are among the rarest sharks in the world. They can grow up to 8 feet long. Their wide fins make them look like broadfin sharks, but their second top fin is only half the size of the first top fin and their large first side fins have a curved edge. Little is known about their lifecycle.

II NL

বাঘা হাঙর

Tiger shark *Galeocerdo cuvier*

Young tiger sharks have dark stripes on their bodies that fade as they grow up to 24 feet long. Females give birth in 10-83 pups that hatch inside the mother's body and remain there for more than one year until they are fully developed. Tiger sharks start their life in shallow coastal waters, moving offshore as deep as 1,000 feet as adults.



NL NL

কোদালনাক/ছুরি হাঙর

Spadenose shark *Scoliodon laticaudus*

Spadenose sharks are by far the most landed shark species in Bangladesh. They grow only 3 feet long and live in large schools in shallow muddy coastal and estuarine waters. Females mature at around 2 years and 1 foot in length. They give birth after a 5–6-month pregnancy to 6-20 pups that are about 5 inches long.

NL NL

আঠাইন্যা/সোনালি লতাবলি হাঙর

Grey sharpnose shark *Rhizoprionodon oligolinx*

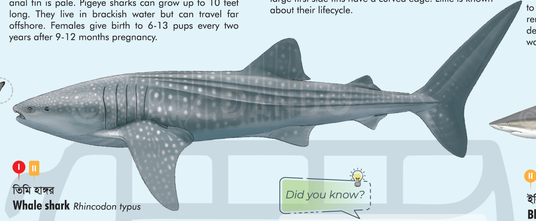
Grey sharpnose sharks are slender and grow to 3 feet long. They look like spadenose sharks but have 3-8 small holes behind each eye. Grey sharpnose sharks live in shallow coastal waters up to 120 feet deep. Mature females are at least 1 foot long and give birth to 3-8 pups every year.

II NL

সাদা লতাবলি/বলি হাঙর/মুইট্যা হাঙর

Graceful shark *Carcharhinus amblyrhynchoides*

Graceful sharks look like bull and pigeye sharks. But graceful sharks have dark tips on all fins, including tail fins, but none on the anal fin. Females give birth to 1-9 pups after a 9-10 month pregnancy. They live mostly along the bottom of coastal waters as deep as 160 feet.



I II

তিমি হাঙর

Whale shark *Rhincodon typus*

Whale sharks are the biggest fish on earth, growing up to 40 feet long. The pattern of white spots and stripes on their greyish-blue skin is unique to each shark. Females start giving birth at the age of 30 years. These gentle ocean giants live to about 100 years old.

Did you know?

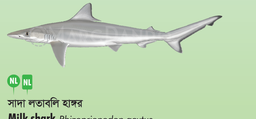
Many sharks and most rays have a good chance of survival if handled properly and safely released.

II NL

ইলিশা বলি/কালা লতাবলি হাঙর

Blacktip shark *Carcharhinus limbatus*

Young blacktip sharks have black tips on all fins, but the black disappears from the anal fins in adults. These sharks grow to 9 feet long and often live in large schools along the coast offshore river mouths, and in shallow muddy estuaries and mangroves. Females mature at 7 years and give birth to as many as 11 pups per year.



NL NL

সাদা লতাবলি হাঙর

Milk shark *Rhizoprionodon acutus*

Milk sharks are frequently caught and landed in Bangladesh. They look like spadenose sharks but have more than 8 small holes behind each eye and very long wrinkles at the end of their mouth. Milk sharks live in our coastal waters up to 660 feet deep. They grow to around 6 feet long. Females mature at about 3 feet and give birth to 1-8 pups every year.

NL NL

ছুরি টুইটোপ/গুলে হাঙর

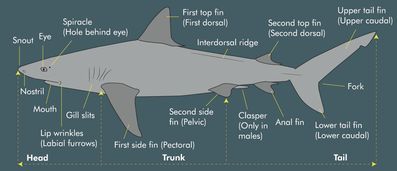
Hound sharks *Iago* spp.

Hound sharks are small sharks with horizontally oval eyes and long wrinkles at the ends of the mouth. Some species have indistinct color patterns, but most are plain. These sharks grow to 2 feet long and inhabit deep waters of the continental shelf from 360 feet or less to at least 3,280 feet. Little is known about their reproduction.

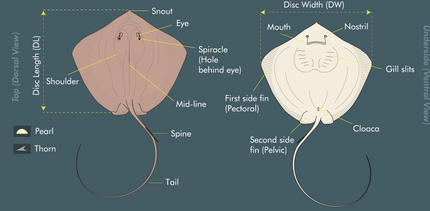
I II Protected by law NL No restriction I No Export II Export permit required NL No export permit required

Species Illustrations © Marc Dando

SHARKS



RAYS



Threatened sharks and rays are protected in Bangladesh.

The Government of Bangladesh is committed to protecting threatened sharks, rays, and other marine wildlife to ensure healthy aquatic ecosystems and sustain productive fisheries.

The Bangladesh Wildlife (Conservation & Security) Act 2012 aims to safeguard wildlife.

I **Schedule I** II **Schedule II**

Killing, possession, trade, or consumption of animals protected in Schedule I and II is a punishable offence.

NL **Not Listed** : No restrictions apply.

Bangladesh is a signatory to CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, that regulates international trade of wildlife, including sharks and rays.

I **Appendix I** : No international trade permitted.

II **Appendix II**: CITES trade permit required for export and import.

NL **Not Listed** : No restrictions apply.

RAYS

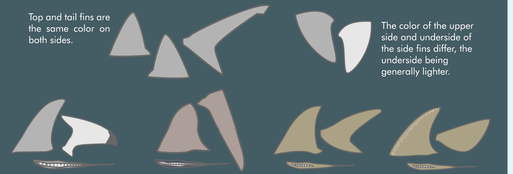
Sharks and rays are in trouble.

A third of all known shark and ray species in the world are threatened with extinction. Most sharks and rays reproduce late in life, have few pups, and grow slowly. This makes them vulnerable to overfishing driven by international and local demand for their parts.

Buying, selling or eating any parts of protected sharks and rays is prohibited.

Top and tail fins are the same color on both sides.

The color of the upper side and underside of the side fins differ, the underside being generally lighter.



Hammerhead sharks Very tall and slender top fin

Thresher sharks Very long and slender side fins

Wedgefishes Smooth and glossy fins

Guitarfishes Very rough fins

Mobulid gill plate — **Skin** — **Meat**

Protected sharks and rays must be safely released.

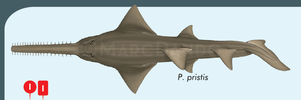
Release sharks and rays in the water whenever possible.

Do not pull animals by the head, horns, tail or gill slits.

Do not cut or gaff the animal.

Wildlife Crime Control Unit Hotline 01999-000095, 01713-076683, 01916-095643; WCS Hotline 01612-228800
Divisional Forest Office Numbers: Patuakhali 01999-001541; Khulna 01999-005844, 01999-005891; Noakhali 01999-006444;
Cox's Bazar 01999-003666, 01999-004000; Chattogram 01999-002838, 01999-008300; Bagerhat 01999-005076; Bhola 01711-481253

Wildlife Conservation Society



P. pristis

I I

করাত মাছ/খান্দা মাগর/খটক/আইশা
Sawfish Pristidae

Sawfishes are rays with wide side fins. They have a long flat snout lined with tooth-like structures sticking out on both sides. Sawfish can grow up to 16 feet long. They live for about 30 years and give birth after reaching an age of 10-20 years. Three species of sawfish have been recorded from Bangladesh. They are found in mangroves, estuaries, and shallow coastal waters.

M. birostris

I II

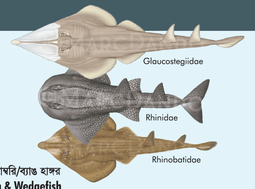
শিংচোয়াইন/দেউমাছ/পুইমনি
Manta & Devil rays Mobulidae

All manta and devil rays (mobulids) have diamond-shaped bodies with winglike side fins and two hornlike structures at the front of their head. They are born and grow up in coastal waters before moving offshore. These graceful ocean giants strain tiny animals from the water with special gill plates that are highly valued in China.

Giant manta rays *M. birostris* are the largest of all rays. They can grow up to 30 feet across, weigh more than 2 tonnes, and may live up to 50 years. But females give birth to less than 10 pups in their entire lifetime.

M. mobular

Devil rays are smaller than manta rays. They grow to more than 11 feet wide and mature at 5-10 years. Females give birth to only a single pup every few years.



Glaucostegiidae

Rhinidae

Rhinobatidae

I II

নাঙলা/পিতাঘরি/ব্যাঙ হাঙ্গর
Guitarfish & Wedgefish
Glaucostegiidae, Rhinidae, Rhinobatidae

Guitarfish and wedgefish are bottom-dwelling rays also called rhino rays or skates. Their flattened triangular body and thick tail resembles the shape of a guitar. The upper and lower tail fins are fused into one in guitarfish but separate in wedgefish. Ten rhino ray species are known to occur in our nearshore waters and upstream in estuaries. Pregnancy in guitarfish and wedgefish lasts 9 months, like in humans. Females give birth to about 10 pups every 2-3 years.

I NL

মিঠা পানির শাপলাপাতা/পাইন্যা/বাইল্যা
Giant freshwater whipray *Urogymnus polylepis*

Giant freshwater whiprays are among the world's largest freshwater fish. They measure up to 6.5 feet wide and weigh up to 600 kilograms. The upper surface is uniform greyish or brownish and the undersurface is white with dark brown or greyish. These huge rays live along the muddy bottom of large rivers and estuaries.

I NL

রাম্মি/চুনি শাপলাপাতা
Bleeker's whipray *Pateobatis bleekeri*

Bleeker's whiprays have rounded fin tips, a pointy snout, a flask-shaped band of rough skin on their back, and one large pearl mid-shoulder with a few smaller ones around it. They can grow up to 4 feet wide, but most are much smaller at landing. Females only start giving birth after reaching 20 inches across to 1 or 2 pups at a time. They live in muddy-bottom mangrove, estuarine, and coastal waters as deep as 130 feet.

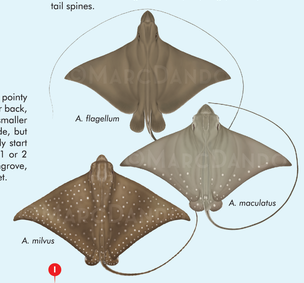
I NL

ফুল শাপলাপাতা/জাতি শাপলাপাতা
Whitespotted whipray *Maculabatis gerrardi*

Whitespotted whiprays have a diamond-shaped body up to 4 feet wide with a swollen tip on the wide triangular snout. Adults have a band of rough skin along their back, a large yellow pearl with small white spots on their shoulder, and many white spots on their lower back. They live along the muddy bottom of mangroves and inshore marine waters as deep as 19 feet. Females start giving birth when they are about 2 feet across to 2-4 pups that are 5 inches wide.

NL টুইটা ঘাপরি/ফুল ঠোঁট্যা ঘাপরি
Eagle rays Myliobatidae, Aetobatidae

Eagle rays have diamond-shaped bodies with triangular wings almost 10 feet across. Their narrow head with eyes on each side and a beak-like snout sticks up and out from their body. They live in coastal, estuarine, and open marine waters. Females give birth every two years to 4-7 pups after an almost 12 months pregnancy. Eagle ray species can be identified by the presence and arrangement of spots, rings, bands, and tail spines.



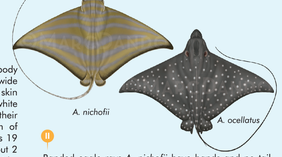
A. flagellum

A. maculatus

A. milvus

I

Longhead eagle rays *A. flagellum* have no spots and 1-2 tail spines. Mottled *A.maculatus* and ocellate *A. milvus* eagle rays have spots on their back but no spines on their very long tail.

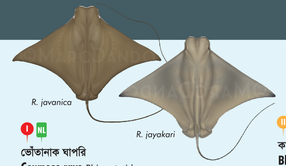


A. nichofii

A. ocellatus

II

Banded eagle rays *A. nichofii* have bands and no tail spine. Spotted eagle rays *A. ocellatus* have spots starting after the spiracles and up to 5 spines on their tail.



R. javanica

R. jayakari

I NL

ভোঁতানাক ঘাপরি
Cownose rays Rhinopteridae

Cownose rays have an indented forehead like a cow's nose. The eyes are on the sides of their narrow head. The smooth body is much wider than long with one or more short, saw-like spines near the base on the tail. Cownose rays often live in large schools in muddy and shallow estuaries, mangrove channels, and coastal waters. Females give birth to a single pup per pregnancy.

I NL

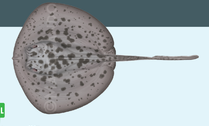
থ্যাবড়া নাক থাইন/হাঙরাইল
Roughnose cowtail ray *Pastinachus solocirostris*

Cowtail rays have an unusual tail with a wide skinfold. Their small, diamond-shaped bodies have different pearl and thorn patterns on the shoulders. Cowtail rays generally live in soft bottom coastal waters near estuaries or coral habitats to depths of 200 feet. Of the three cowtail rays known to live in Bangladesh, the Roughnose cowtail ray is the only one legally protected. It has two large pearls mid-shoulder and a long triangular pointed snout.

II NL

জাকিনের ঘন্টি/ছুড়ি শাপলাপাতা
Jenkins' whipray *Pateobatis jenkinsii*

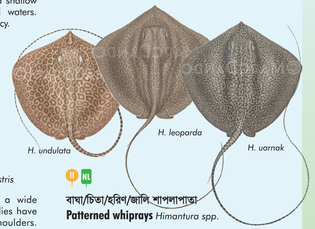
Jenkins' whiprays have a long diamond-shaped body up to 5 feet wide with a very wide snout and dull tip. There is a band of rough skin from between the shoulders along the mid-line of the top all the way to the tail spine. Their underside is white. Jenkins' whiprays live mostly in soft bottom, shallow inshore waters.



II NL

কালি/কালাফোঁটা শাপলাপাতা
Blotched stingray *Taeniurops meyeni*

Blotched stingrays can grow up to 6 feet wide. Adults have small thorn patches and black and white blotches on their round body. Their short tail has a deep fold all the way to the tip. They live mainly in inshore waters but are reported in depths of more than 1,000 feet.



H. undulata

H. leoparda

H. varnak

II NL

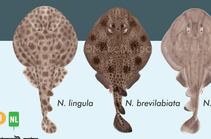
বাঘা/চিতা/হরিণ/জালি শাপলাপাতা
Patterned whiprays *Himantura spp.*

Leopard, honeycomb, and coach whiprays have distinct spots or rings with round or heart-shaped pearls or thorns mid-shoulder on top of their up to 5-foot-long bodies. They live in shallow mangrove, estuarine, coastal, coral, and even freshwater areas.

II NL

সাদাদাগী বাদা শাপলাপাতা
Mangrove whipray *Urogymnus granulatus*

Mangrove whiprays have an oval body up to 5 feet wide. The entire top is rough with small white spots and dark slime. Their underside is white with many black blotches in adults. The tail is also white after the 1-2 spines. As the name suggests, they live in mangrove, estuarine, coral, and shallow coastal areas, although adults may move up to 300 feet deep.



N. lingula

N. brevilabiata

N. timlei

II NL

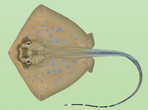
কারেন্ট মাছ
Patterned numbfishes Narcinidae

Numbfish are small rays up to one foot in length with a flat body, very small eyes, a wide snout, and two small rounded top fins on a strong tail that is as long or longer than their body. They have a kidney-shaped organ that can be seen under their skin on either side of the head that delivers a powerful electric shock when touched. The slow swimming bottom-dwellers likely pup in brackish waters, but adults live in open marine water. Protected numbfish have color patterns on their thick, smooth body and tail.

NL NL

বামন লেজি শাপলাপাতা
Shorttail whipray *Maculabatis bineeshi*

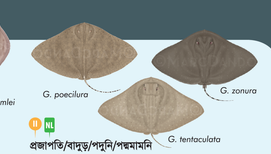
Shorttail whiprays have a short head with a long triangular snout and narrow rounded first side fins. There are only 1-3 mid-shoulder pearls of which the middle one is large. Shorttail whiprays are little known rays living in our coastal waters and landed in large numbers.



NL NL

নাকপুরা/নপরা/নীলফোঁটা শাপলাপাতা
Maskrays *Neotrygon spp.*

Maskrays have kite-shaped bodies with bright blue spots on the upper side, mask-like markings around the eyes, and black and white rings on their tail. These small rays live in shallow to 330 feet deep coastal waters, including around corals. Females give birth to only two pups per litter.



G. poecilura

G. zonura

G. tentaculata

II NL

প্রজাপতি/বাদুড়/পদুনি/পদ্মমামন
Butterfly rays Gymnuridae

These relatively small rays have a butterfly-shaped body that is much wider than long. Their short slender tail usually has dark bands which help distinguish species. They have smooth skin, a small dorsal fin at the tail base, and some have spines. Butterfly rays live in shallow coastal areas and at river mouths. Females give birth to between 1-7 pups at a time in estuaries.

NL NL

বাঁজহীন চোখামুখ ফাইস্যি/হাউস
Bengal whipray *Brevitrygon imbricata*

The very small Bengal whipray is the most landed ray species in Bangladesh. It grows to only about 10 inches wide, has a pointy snout and pale edges on the upper side, no thorns on the body, but six large thorns on the tail near the base followed by 2 spines. Bengal whiprays live in coastal waters up to 180 feet deep and females start reproducing when their body is about 6 inches wide.

NL NL

ঘুড়ি/ঘন্টি শাপলাপাতা
Bennett's stingray *Hemitrygon bennetti*

The Bennett's stingray is a medium-sized ray with yellowish edges on the white underside. There is a row of small thorns along the mid-line of their top. The thorns get larger towards the tail and end before the tail spine. Bennet's stingrays start reproducing when their bodies are 8 inches wide. They live in estuarine, nearshore coastal waters up to 165 feet deep, often around corals.

Species Illustrations © Marc Dando

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