



ATLANTIC WEASEL SHARK

Paragaleus pectoralis

Also known as the Little Tiger Shark.

This small and slender shark is grey-bronze in colour with striking yellow stripes. Underneath they are white.

They belong to a group of sharks known as the Ground Sharks (Carcharhiniformes). This is the largest and most diverse order of sharks, containing at least 291 species and 8 families.

The Atlantic Weasel Shark belongs to the Weasel Shark family (Hemigaleidae), of which there are 8 species.

Weasel sharks have long snouts, wide mouths, and sharp-edged teeth. They also have large oval shaped eyes and a third eyelid, known as a nictitating membrane. This protects their eyes while feeding.

The Atlantic Weasel Shark is a specialist at hunting squid and octopus. And also prey on small fish such as soles and sardines.

FAST FACTS

SIZE:

Matures at:

♀ 75-90cm | ♂ 80cm

Max: 138cm

DIET:

Squid, octopus & small fish.

RANGE:

Eastern Atlantic.
From Cape Verde & Mauritania to northern Namibia.

HABITAT:

Tropical-warm coastal waters. Found in the shallows up to depths of 100m.

STATUS:

Data Deficient

They can be found close to shore in the surf zone, as well as offshore. These bottom-dwelling sharks range from shallow waters to depths of 100m.

Females gives birth to litters of 1-4 pups between May and June, off the coast of Senegal. These are born ~47 cm.

ATLANTIC WEASEL SHARK THREATS

We know little about Atlantic Weasel Sharks. Yet they seem to reproduce slowly which suggests they're particularly vulnerable to human threats. More information is crucial to the conservation of this species:

- **FISHERIES** – The western coast of Africa is intensively fished. Atlantic Weasel Sharks are taken inshore by small commercial fisheries and offshore by international fisheries. They're caught by longlines, hook and line, gillnets and bottom trawls.

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2. If you see a shark, record your sighting on our Sightings Database.
3. Join us in safeguarding the future of sharks by becoming a Shark Trust member.

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