



PORT JACKSON

Heterodontus portusjacksoni

Grey to light brown, with distinct black stripes and a band across their eyes. This unusual shark has a short blunt snout and strong ridges above the eyes.

Port Jacksons belong to the Bullhead Shark (Heterodontidae) family. Also known as the Horn Sharks. Descending from an ancient order of sharks, this group has fossil records dating all the way back to the Mesozoic Era.

Their scientific name, *Heterodontus*, means 'different-teeth', which is very befitting. At the front, they have lots of small pointy teeth for holding prey. While at the back they have large blunt teeth, which are used for crunching through the hard shells of sea urchins and molluscs.

Port Jacksons are named after Port Jackson Australia, where they're commonly seen. And are mostly nocturnal. By day, they can often be seen resting in groups near caves and gullies.

They reproduce by laying spiral-shaped eggcases on shallow rocky reefs. These are the perfect shape for wedging securely between rock crevices. Pups hatch

FAST FACTS

SIZE:

Matures at:

♀ 65-99cm | ♂ 55-82cm

Max: 165cm

DIET:

Sea urchins, starfish, worms, molluscs, shrimps, & small fish.

RANGE:

Southern Australia

HABITAT:

Temperate waters over sand by rocky reefs & caves. Depths up to 275m.

STATUS:

Least Concern

after ~12 months and are born 18-32cm.

Port Jacksons segregate by sex and size. Hatchlings move to nearby nursery areas. While adolescents gather well offshore. After a few years they join either the adult males or females.

Males and females gather together from July-November to mate. When females will also lay their eggs.

Males reach sexual maturity around 8-10 years. Females around 11-14. They live for around 28 years.

PORT JACKSON SHARK THREATS

Port Jacksons are abundant and face minimal threats.

- **FISHERIES** – They're sometimes caught in high numbers as bycatch. But are often released, alive, as their meat and fins are considered poor quality.
- **RECREATIONAL ANGLING** – Port Jacksons are occasionally caught by anglers but aren't targeted.

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3. Join us in safeguarding the future of sharks by becoming a Shark Trust member.

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