

Common Name: Spottail Shark
Scientific Name: *Carcharhinus sorrah*



Life History:

The spottail shark (*Carcharhinus sorrah*) is a spindle-shaped grey and stocky shark that can grow to approximately 1.6 m long, and can live approximately 8 years. Spot-tail sharks have noticeable large black tips on the ventral caudal lobe, second dorsal, and pectoral fins. This is a viviparous species that can have 3 to 6 young per litter, with size at birth ranging between 45 to 60 cm, and have a 10-month gestation period.

Geographical Distribution:

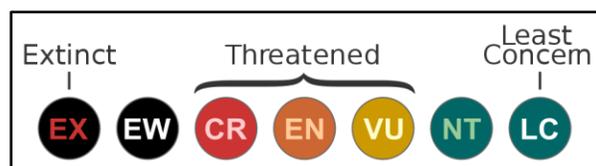
The spottail shark is a common coastal, shallow-water tropical species found around coral reefs within the Indo-West Pacific Ocean at depths from the intertidal to about 73 m. Juvenile spottail sharks are most commonly found in quiet, shallow waters, away from the adults. This species is often caught by small-scale commercial fisheries along Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India, and Thailand where the meat is used for human consumption. Their fins and liver oil are also harvested.

Feeding:

Spottail sharks prefer to feed on bony fishes such as bonito and sea bass, as well as octopi.

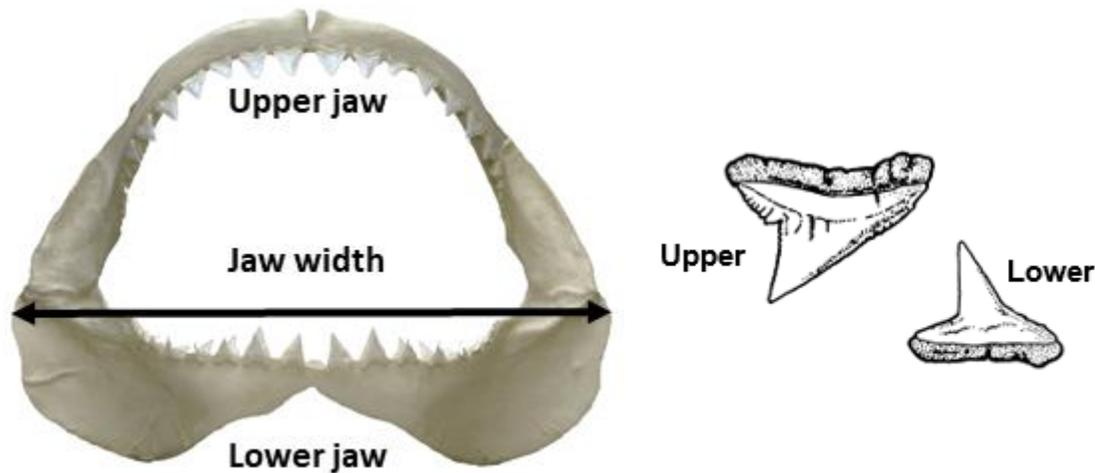
Conservation Status:

IUCN Red List: Near Threatened (NT)



Tooth and Jaw Information:

The upper teeth are broad and strongly serrated, whereas the bottom teeth are narrower and less serrated. It is possible to determine the sex of *C. sorrah* based on their teeth, but it is difficult to do with jaws less than 25.5 cm in width. There are 25 front row teeth in the upper jaw and 23-25 front row teeth in the lower jaw.



Where did these jaws come from?

Jaws were relinquished to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service from companies attempting to import species protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. These jaws were then entrusted to the CSULB Shark Lab to be used for educational purposes.

What does the Shark Lab do?

Dr. Chris Lowe and his students in the Shark Lab study the physiology, behavior and ecology of sharks and rays, often using and developing innovative technologies to enhance conservation and recovery of depleted populations. The Shark Lab also provides science-based education and outreach about sharks and rays.

References:

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Last, P. R., Stevens, J. D., & Compagno, L. J. V. (1995). Sharks and rays of Australia. Reviews in Fish Biology and Fisheries, 5(1), 136-138.

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Picture Credit:

Carcharhinus sorrah. Digital Image. Fishbase.

<https://www.fishbase.de/photos/PicturesSummary.php?StartRow=0&ID=884&what=species&ToRec=3>