



SPOTTED EAGLE RAY

(Aetobatus narinari)

1. SPOTTED EAGLE RAYS ARE COASTAL AND SEMI-PELAGIC OVER THE CONTINENTAL SHELF, FOUND GLOBALLY IN TROPICAL REGIONS.
2. THEY ARE EASILY IDENTIFIED BY THEIR DARK DORSAL SURFACE (BACK), WHICH IS COVERED IN WHITE SPOTS. THEY ARE ALSO COMMONLY OBSERVED LEAPING OUT OF THE WATER AND SWIMMING IN LARGE SCHOOLS.
3. AFTER A GESTATION PERIOD (PREGNANT) OF 12 MONTHS FEMALES GIVE BIRTH TO 1-4 LIVE YOUNG. THE BABIES HAVE A WINGSPAN OF 17-36 CM (6.7-13.8 INCHES).
4. EACH JAW HAS A SINGLE ROW OF FLATTENED, BONY PLATES DESIGNED FOR CRUSHING PREY. THEY USE THEIR FLATTENED SNOOTS TO PROBE THE SAND AND DIG UP HARD-SHELLED MOLLUSKS INCLUDING OYSTERS, CLAMS, AND SNAILS, BUT ALSO EAT SHRIMP, CRABS, OCTOPUS AND SMALL FISH.
5. THEY ARE LISTED AS NEAR THREATENED ON THE IUCN RED LIST AND ARE OFTEN CAUGHT AS BYCATCH IN BEACH SEINES, GILLNETS, PURSE SEINES, BENTHIC LONGLINES AND TRAWLS.



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