



SHARK **FACTS**

# BOWMOUTH GUITARFISH

Bowmouth guitarfish have unusual **SPIKED RIDGES** over their eyes, nape, and pectoral fins. The ridges prevent larger predators from biting vital parts of the head and body



## BOWMOUTH GUITARFISH (Rhina ancylostoma)

- ▶ The Bowmouth guitarfish changes color with age. Young guitarfish have brown bodies, and black bars between the eyes. The bars fade to dark gray as they age. Adults have charcoal or pale gray bodies with small white spots. Some adults have a bluish coloration
- ▶ This species is often the bycatch of shrimp fishermen, however, the high value of the fins creates a significant incentive to retain any accidentally caught ray
- ▶ Because they are marketed commercially for consumption in the western Pacific, they are classified as "Critically Endangered" on the IUCN Red List

### WHERE DO THEY LIVE?

Found in tropical water of the Indo-West Pacific (from East Africa to Papua New Guinea, north to Japan and south to Australia) along sandy bottoms or near reefs



Image: Andy Murch

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