



SHARK FACTS

SOUTHERN STINGRAY

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The southern stingray's pectoral fins, which propel them along the seafloor, **CAN GROW UP TO A TOTAL WIDTH OF 79 INCHES**

SOUTHERN STINGRAY (*Hypanus americanus*)

- ▶ The southern stingray is a coastal stingray found in the Northwest and Western Central Atlantic Oceans
- ▶ This bottom-dwelling species hunts for crustaceans and small fish by disturbing the sandy ocean floor to reveal prey. They also bury themselves in the substrate to hide from predators
- ▶ Their tail, which can be up to twice as long as their bodies, possesses a serrated, venomous spine used for self-defense

CONSERVATION STATUS

Southern stingrays are classified as **“NEAR THREATENED”** on the IUCN Red List. They are often caught as bycatch in gillnets and commercial longline and trawl fisheries. Tourist interactions in some parts of the Caribbean may negatively impact their behavior and ecology.

