

# REELING IN Junior Anglers



## Port Jackson Shark

Port Jackson Sharks are bottom feeding sharks that are found throughout South Australian gulf and shelf waters out to depths of 275 m. The species grows to ~1.65 m, yet most specimens are less than 1 m in length. Port Jackson sharks have relatively small home ranges compared to many other shark species, but are capable of movements in the scale of 100s of km. Individuals are slow growing and live for up to 18 years. Females mature at 75 cm and between 12 and 17 years of age and adults have lifespans of up to 35 years. They position their spiral shaped eggs under ledges and in caves, and cracks during Spring. Embryos have incubation of 10–11 months, and four months into this period, the egg capsule opens subsequent to hatching of the pup.

The species produced an average of 16 eggs per breeding cycle, and pups are born at sizes from 18-32 cm.

Port Jackson Sharks are characterised by:

- large blunt heads
- two thick spines on the front edge of their first and second dorsal fins
  - a combination of small triangular teeth and crushing plates.
- spiral shaped brown egg cases that they lay on the bottom during Winter-Spring
  - brown backs with dark brown stripes