

REELING IN Junior Anglers

Image @wa.gov.au



Smooth Stingray

They reach at least 2.5 m from wing tip to tip. They are found in gulfs, saline rivers, mangrove habitats and continental shelf waters of South Australia from shallow intertidal areas and out to at least 150 m depths. Like Southern Eagle Rays, this species inhabits mud-flats and patchy seas-grass and sand habitats, over deep and shallow reefs. They also feed on crabs, fish and squids and molluscs and they regularly bury themselves in the sand. There is limited biological and ecological data for this species in South Australia. Whilst not considered to be aggressive, if handling is necessary, extreme caution should be maintained due to their ability to strike animals located in front of themselves in self-defense.

Smooth Stingrays are characterised by:

- Black to brown in colour on top with small white spots tending to white underside with some animals having a blotchy 'cow-hide' pattern.
 - Pointed wings
 - Blue to grey spots
- A long thin tail with 1 to 2 large serrated poisonous barbs located just behind the small dorsal fin.
 - Slimy skin
- Large spiracles (holes that take in water to the gills whilst the animal is stationary).