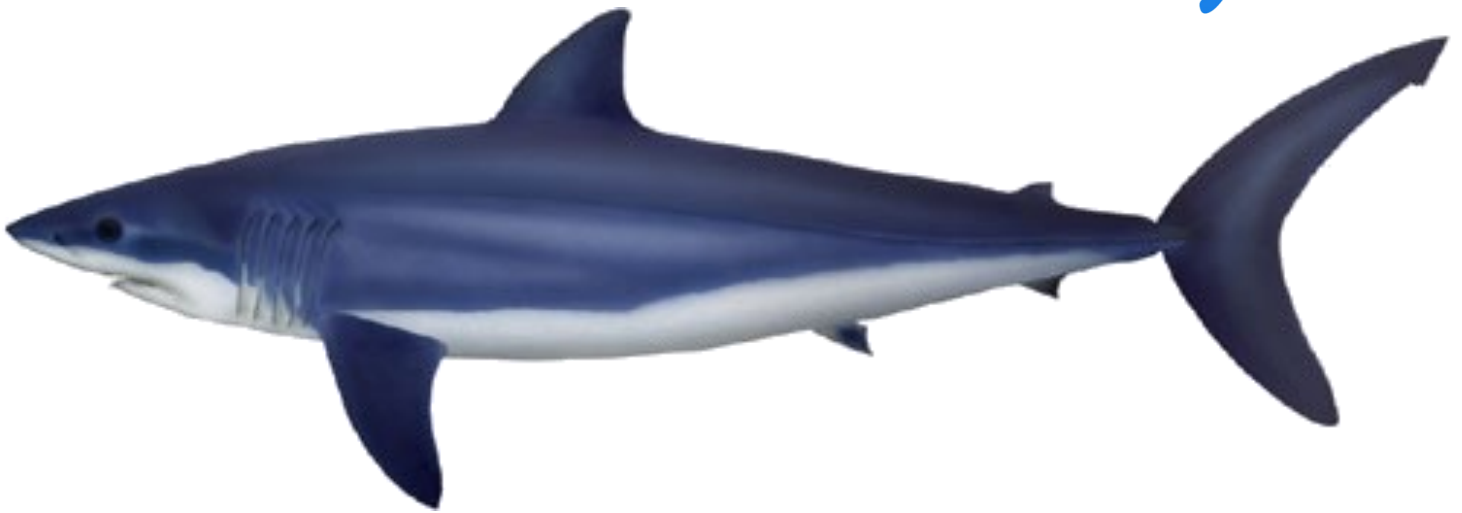


REELING IN Junior Anglers



Shortfin Mako Shark

The shortfin mako is a warm-blooded and highly migratory species found in South Australian shelf and oceanic waters throughout the year. Some juvenile and adult shortfin makos also sometimes visit reefs in southern Spencer Gulf. This species is capable of very high swimming speeds and can jump out of the water either when hooked or whilst feeding. Individuals migrate between South Australia and Western Australian waters, and south of the continent into cool, sub-tropical waters, south of 43-degrees latitude. They range in size up to 4 m, live for up to 30 years. Their diet comprises, fish, other sharks and rays, pelagic squids, and marine mammals. The species is born at 60-70 cm in size and litter sizes are 12-16 pups, with a 18 month gestation and a 3-year reproductive cycle. Size at sexual maturity is ~2.8 m at 18 years of age and they grow slowly. Live shortfin makos must be released unharmed to the water in Commonwealth managed fisheries operating off South Australia (outside 3 nm). Recreational fishers can currently take shortfin makos in South Australian waters.

Shortfin makos are characterised by:

- indigo/dark blue fading to light blue, silver and white underside
 - sharply pointed conical snout
 - long slender body
 - long slender inward curving teeth
- distinct keel-like feature where the body joins the tail.