

Horn Shark

by
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Classification: The horn shark is a fish. The scientific name *Heterodontus* means “different teeth.”

Habitat: The horn shark lives along kelp beds on the ocean bottom. They are mainly found in Queensland and New South Wales. They hide in the dark during the day and come out at night. Also, they are found in Central California to Baja California – Pacific Ocean.

Size: The horn shark is up to 4 feet in length. They are small.

Food: Horn sharks eat fish, sea urchins, crabs, mollusks, and worms.

Young: The horn shark is oviparous which means it lays eggs. The egg cases are curiously shaped with a spiral like screw, about $4 \frac{3}{4}$ inches long. Each case contains one pup (baby shark) and takes between six and nine months to hatch. They can lay as many as 18 eggs. The baby horn shark measures 6 to 7 inches long.

Facts:

1. Horn sharks hide out in the shadows of the sea floor.
2. They have brown spots or bands on their bodies which act like camouflage.
3. The baby's spines are sharp at birth so they can not be eaten by the angel sharks or sea bass.
4. Horn sharks are caught by divers for sport and for their spines, which are made into jewelry.
5. They live up to 25 years old. Adults live in the same underwater neighborhood for their whole life.



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