



Grey Nurse Shark

Carcharius taurus

DID YOU KNOW?

Baby grey nurse sharks eat each other while they are still inside their mum!

At AQWA

Surround yourself with sharks in Australia's largest walk-through aquarium; AQWA's Shipwreck Coast.

Sharp toothed bull

Pointy teeth and a stocky bull-like body give grey nurse sharks their scientific name *Carcharius taurus*. 'Cacharo' refers to their teeth and means sharp pointed or jagged in greek while 'taurus' means bull in latin.

When feeding, grey nurse sharks concentrate their food in one area by 'nursing' or rounding up small fish into tight schools. This behaviour gives them their nickname.

Overhanging teeth

The grey nurse shark has a large body, which is grey to grey-brown on top and pale underneath. They are born at 100cm and can grow to 3.6m. Grey nurse sharks have a pointed snout with many rows of teeth that you can see even when their mouth is closed.

One big mouthful

Grey nurse sharks have long, thin teeth that are designed for grabbing slippery prey. Their jaw can be extended from their mouth to catch prey, such as fish, which they swallow whole.

So slow, they hover!

The small dorsal fins of a grey nurse shark are a sign that it is a slow moving shark. By swallowing air at the surface and holding it in the stomach grey nurses are also able to do something unusual - hover in one place!

Rocky Home

Grey nurse sharks are found in tropical and temperate oceans throughout the world. They are found all around the coast of Australia, except near Tasmania. They tend to live in shallow coastal waters, close to rocky reefs or islands.

