

# WHAT'S THE SCOOP?



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## LEOPARD CATSHARK



A catshark with a prominent upturned knob on the snout, a broad head and spots on the body. These catsharks can be distinguished from other species by the absence of the groove which joins the mouth to the nostrils. They also have a single, long barbel which projects downwards from each nostril. Leopard catsharks are sluggish and spend most of their time on the sandy bottom, often close to reefs. They live at depths at 250m in the waters of the Eastern Cape, however they prefer the shallow inshore waters of the southern and western Cape region. They are found along the southern African coast and as far east as Madagascar. It feeds mainly on crustaceans and small fish.

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| <b>Scientific Name:</b>   | <i>Poroderma pantherinum</i>   |
| <b>AKA:</b>   | Leopard Catshark   |
| <b>Ocean Hang out:</b>  | Indian and Atlantic Oceans; Rocky reefs  |
| <b>Warm/Cool Waters:</b>  | Warm & Cool  |
| <b>Diet:</b>  | Small fish and crustaceans   |
| <b>Slow/ Fast:</b>  | Slow, confined to the seabed   |
| <b>S/ M/ L/ XL/ XXL:</b>  | S  |
| <b>Shy/ Bold:</b>   | Shy  |
| <b>At the beach/ In the sea:</b><br>(Inhabits coastal or oceanic waters)                        | At the beach - prefers rocky reefs from the intertidal zone to depths of 256m. |
| <b>Local/ International:</b> (Endemic/ Non-native)  | Local (endemic)  |
| <b>Nomadic/ Homely:</b> (Migratory or resident)   | Homely   |
| <b>Social/ Anti-social:</b> (Normally found in groups or solitary)                              | Anti-social (often on their own - solitary)                                    |
| <b>Black Tie/ Eccentric:</b> (Easily recognisable as a shark or ray or has a unique appearance) | Eccentric  |
| <b>Teeth:</b>   | Small tricuspid teeth  |
| <b>Best Feature:</b>  | Long barbel which projects downwards from each nostril                         |
| <b>Red Listing:</b>   | Data Deficient (Ebert et al, 2013, Sharks of the World)                        |