

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?



@sharkattackcampaign

www.sharkattackcampaign.co.za

13

BLUE STINGRAY



Found only in southern Africa from central Angola south-east to Cape Agulhas and north-east to St Lucia and possibly as far north as Maputo. Blue stingrays live inshore and are often caught in the surf zone along sandy beaches, coastal lagoons, sand and mud flats and estuary mouths in spring and summer. In winter, they move offshore and have been found at depths to 110m. They are viviparous (give birth to live young), with a gestation period of nine months, giving birth to 1 - 7 pups. Pupping takes place inshore in sheltered environments such as bays and estuary mouths along the Eastern Cape and Western Cape coasts. The juveniles then move offshore for their first one or two years.

Like other rays, blue stingrays use electro-receptors and highly developed senses of smell and touch to find molluscs, crustaceans, worms and small fish, which they crush with flattened teeth. They grow to 75cm and can weigh up to 25kg, with the largest recorded female ageing 14 years and male at 9 years.

Scientific Name:	<i>Dasyatis chrysonota</i>
AKA:	Blue Stingray
Ocean Hang out:	Indian and Atlantic, on the seabed
Warm/Cool Waters:	Warm and cool
Diet:	Crustaceans, worms and small fish
Slow/ Fast:	Slow, generally resting on sandy bottom
S/ M/ L/ XL/ XXL:	S
Shy/ Bold:	Shy
At the beach/ In the sea: (Inhabits coastal or oceanic waters)	At the beach - Inshore, confined to continental shelf
Local/ International: (Endemic/ Non-native)	International (Angola to South Africa)
Nomadic/ Homely: (Migratory or resident)	Homely
Social/ Anti-social: (Normally found in groups or solitary)	Anti-social (solitary and in small groups)
Black Tie/ Eccentric: (Easily recognisable as a shark or ray or has a unique appearance)	Black Tie
Teeth:	Flattened teeth to form a pavement (look like pavers)
Best Feature:	They are often brightly coloured to warn enemies that they are venomous
Red Listing:	Least Concern (IUCN 2009)