

# WHAT'S THE SCOOP?



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18

## GREYSPOT GUITARFISH

The Greyspot Guitarfish is a benthic shark-like ray found inshore to a depth of 100m. It occurs in the Western Indian Ocean off the coasts of Madagascar and East Africa from the Eastern Cape, South Africa to Tanzania and Zanzibar. This species reaches a maximum size of 120cm total length and reaches maturity at 56 cm. This species is viviparous (gives birth to live young) and young are born at 25 cm total length. Age and growth data are not available for this species, but generation length is likely similar to that of the closely related and similarly sized Lesser Guitarfish (*Acroteriobatus annulatus*) at five years. There are no population size estimates for the species, however it is subjected to heavy and increasing fishing pressure through the majority of its range, with intense inshore artisanal fishing in Mozambique, Madagascar and Tanzania including Zanzibar. In addition, shallow-water shrimp trawling occurs in Mozambique, Madagascar, and to a lesser extent South Africa. Although this species may have some degree of refuge from fishing pressure in South Africa, it is suspected that it has undergone a population reduction of at least 50% over the past 15 years due to the levels of exploitation across most of its range. It is listed as endangered in the IUCN Red List.



<b>Scientific Name:</b>	<i>Acroteriobatus leucospilus</i>
<b>AKA:</b>	Greyspot Guitarfish
<b>Ocean Hang out:</b>	Indian Ocean, rests on the seabed
<b>Warm/Cool Waters:</b>	Warm
<b>Diet:</b>	Small fish and shellfish
<b>Slow/ Fast:</b>	Slow, rests on the sand
<b>S/ M/ L/ XL/ XXL:</b>	Small
<b>Shy/ Bold:</b>	Shy
<b>At the beach/ In the sea:</b> (Inhabits coastal or oceanic waters)	At the beach - on the seabed inshore and confined to the continental shelf
<b>Local/ International:</b> (Endemic/ Non-native)	International, in SW Indian Ocean
<b>Nomadic/ Homely:</b> (Migratory or resident)	Homely
<b>Social/ Anti-social:</b> (Normally found in groups or solitary)	Anti-social
<b>Black Tie/ Eccentric:</b> (Easily recognisable as a shark or ray or has a unique appearance)	Eccentric
<b>Teeth:</b>	Small and flattened to form a crushing pavement
<b>Best Feature:</b>	Large blue-grey spots on back
<b>Red Listing:</b>	Endangered (2019-3 Red List update)