

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?



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SPOTTED GULLY SHARK



The spotted gully shark, AKA sharptooth houndshark, sweet William and affectionately known as “Spotty” to anglers, is a species of houndshark endemic to southern African coasts. It is an inshore bottom dwelling species preferring sandy areas near rocks, reefs and gullies in depths of around 10 metres, but has been found in depths of up to 50 metres. Their favourite food is crab, spiny lobsters, bony fish and cephalopods. This cute little shark has even been known to chase its prey almost onto the shore. The spotted gully shark usually hunts nocturnally, however, during squid spawning the shark comes out to hunt during the day.

Spotted gully sharks are very slow to sexually mature and they are only able to reproduce once they reach 14 years old. This species is ovoviviparous, meaning the embryos hatch from eggs inside the female’s uterus where they feed on their own yolk sac until they are born. The female can carry between six to twelve pups for up to 2 years and usually give birth between May and August.

Scientific Name:	<i>Triakis megalopterus</i>
AKA:	Spotted Gully Shark
Ocean Hang out:	Mainly Atlantic and cooler waters of Indian Ocean, on reefs and sand flats
Warm/Cool Waters:	Cool
Diet:	Small fish and sharks, crabs and lobsters
Slow/ Fast:	Slow, close to the bottom
S/ M/ L/ XL/ XXL:	M
Shy/ Bold:	Shy
At the beach/ In the sea: (Inhabits coastal or oceanic waters)	Very close inshore (shallower than 50 m)
Local/ International: (Endemic/ Non-native)	Local, southern Angola to Cape south coast
Nomadic/ Homely: (Migratory or resident)	Homely
Social/ Anti-social: (Normally found in groups or solitary)	Occurs in packs
Black Tie/ Eccentric: (Easily recognisable as a shark or ray or has a unique appearance)	Black Tie
Teeth:	Very small, pointed teeth
Best Feature:	Its first and second dorsal fins are almost the same size, making it easily identifiable when compared to similarly coloured catsharks
Red Listing:	Near Threatened (Ebert et al, 2013, Sharks of the World)