

# WHAT'S THE SCOOP?



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# 07

## SEVENGILL COW SHARK



The most prehistoric shark species. Different from other sharks because they have 7 gills compared with 5 gills and a single dorsal fin (other sharks have two). Their black spots are another conspicuous feature. The broadnose sevengill shark is a large (up to 3m) coastal-associated apex predator that is found in temperate waters around the world. In Southern Africa, the known range of these sharks stretches from Namibia to the Transkei region in South Africa. It lives in kelp forests around the Cape and increasingly attracts the interest of scuba divers, particularly off Miller's Point in False Bay. Despite their deceptively docile appearance, these sharks are impressive predators and are known to target a wide range of prey from squid and fish to smaller sharks, marine cetaceans and seals. However, they feed on anything edible, much of which is scavenged. Litter size of up to 80 offspring. They are classified as "Data Deficient" by the IUCN and lack any species-specific management strategies, placing them at risk of overexploitation due to their coastal nature and overlap with intensive inshore fisheries in certain areas.

<b>Scientific Name:</b>	<i>Notorynchus cepedianus</i>
<b>AKA:</b>	Sevengill Cow Shark
<b>Ocean Hang out:</b>	Mainly Atlantic and cooler waters of Indian Ocean; Close to the bottom
<b>Warm/Cool Waters:</b>	Cool
<b>Diet:</b>	Anything edible, including other sharks, is a well-known scavenger
<b>Slow/ Fast:</b>	Slow, close to the seabed, often in kelp forests
<b>S/ M/ L/ XL/ XXL:</b>	L
<b>Shy/ Bold:</b>	Bold
<b>At the beach/ In the sea:</b> (Inhabits coastal or oceanic waters)	Inshore
<b>Local/ International:</b> (Endemic/ Non-native)	International in most temperate, inshore, continental waters
<b>Nomadic/ Homely:</b> (Migratory or resident)	Unknown
<b>Social/ Anti-social:</b> (Normally found in groups or solitary)	Solitary or small groups
<b>Black Tie/ Eccentric:</b> (Easily recognisable as a shark or ray or has a unique appearance)	Black Tie
<b>Teeth:</b>	Large teeth with inclined cusps (lower: 1-2; upper: 4-5 cusps)
<b>Best Feature:</b>	Prehistoric appearance; 7 gill slits (as opposed to 5) and 1 dorsal fin (as opposed to 2)
<b>Red Listing:</b>	Data Deficient (2009)