

Species description

Leopard sharks (*Stegostoma fasciatum*) are a medium-sized shark found in the warmer coastal waters of the Indian and Pacific Oceans. They have a unique appearance: 5 ridges run down their back and their single-lobed tail is almost as long as their body! They are the largest egg-laying sharks. The babies hatch out with bold black and white stripes, which is why this species is also called a zebra shark.



Eggs.



Find us on: **facebook** SPOT THE LEOPARD SHARK - THAILAND



[HTTPS://SITES.GOOGLE.COM/SITE/SPOTTHELEOPARDSHARK/THAILAND](https://sites.google.com/site/spotthelopardshark/thailand)

Want to contribute? Its easy. Just send in your photos of leopard sharks, or upload them to facebook. If you identify a new shark, you get to name it!



Leopard sharks are a threatened species. The marine reserves of Thailand are an important habitat!



Contributors



Australia-Thailand Institute
สถาบันออสเตรเลีย-ไทย

Share your photos of leopard sharks to help scientists understand and protect this important shark!



© August 2013. Produced by Chris Dudgeon, Diana Kleine
Photos: Chris Roelfsema, Andrew Hewett, Chris Dudgeon

Find us on: **facebook**

Spot the Leopard Shark is a community-based monitoring program. Photographs of leopard sharks taken by divers allow scientists to monitor individual sharks and estimate the size of the population. Each leopard shark has a unique pattern that is used to identify it. We match your photos with the patterns in our database.

Why contribute

Contributing photos will help scientists understand more about leopard sharks:

- how many individuals are there in this area?
- how far do they travel?
- how long do they live?
- do marine reserves support greater numbers?

By helping scientists, your photos can help with the conservation of this amazing shark!

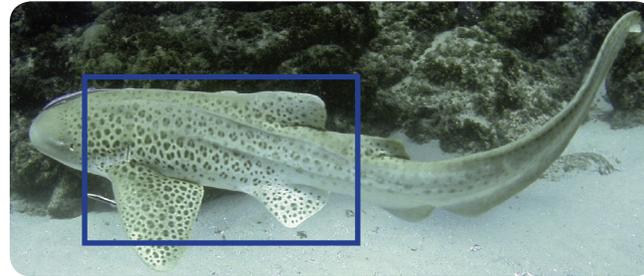
How to contribute

- Follow the Diving with Leopard Sharks - Code of Conduct.
- Take photo of entire left side and then right side of shark.
- Note the sex of shark - males have external claspers (modified pelvic fins).
- Note the date, time, location and depth.
- Upload the photograph and information to our [facebook](#) page - *Spot The Leopard Shark: Thailand*, or email to c.dudgeon@uq.edu.au.



Did you know that each leopard shark has an unique spot pattern that we use to tell them apart?

How to take your photographs



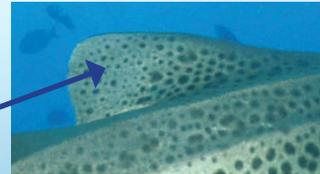
Most useful area for identification.

Most useful areas for photo-ID

Body patterns on the side of the shark below the dorsal fin.



Patterns on the dorsal fin.



Presence / absence of male claspers.



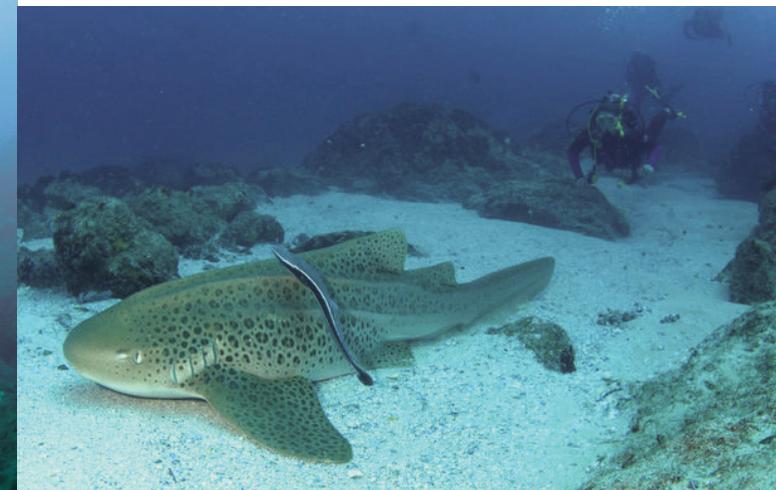
Diving with Leopard Sharks Code of Conduct

DO:

- Approach calmly and maintain good buoyancy control.
- Approach from the tail end.
- Rest on knees in sand if necessary and be aware of surrounding reef.
- Stay at least 3m away from the shark.
- Always move around the tail end of the shark.
- Be courteous to other divers and restrict your interaction time to 5 minutes when other groups are present.
- Avoid using excess flash.
- Limit yourself to 5 shots.

DON'T:

- Approach shark from the head end.
- Block the shark's escape route at the head end.
- Brace against or stand on reef habitats to view or photograph shark.
- Touch the shark or chase them while swimming.



Always approach a shark from the tail end.



SPOT THE
LEOPARD SHARK
Thailand



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 SPOT THE LEOPARD SHARK - THAILAND



photo: Andrew Hewett



Australia-Thailand Institute
ศูนย์วิจัยและพัฒนาความร่วมมือไทย-ออสเตรเลีย





Spot the Leopard Shark: Thailand

Presentation with Dr. Chris Dudgeon

WHERE: Pier 42
Chalong Bay
Phuket



WHEN: Tues 2nd Dec
7:30pm



Please come along to learn more about these amazing animals and what we have discovered in Thailand over the last year!!

Photo credit: Magnus Larsson

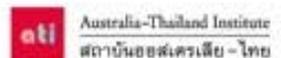


SPOT THE LEOPARD SHARK - THAILAND

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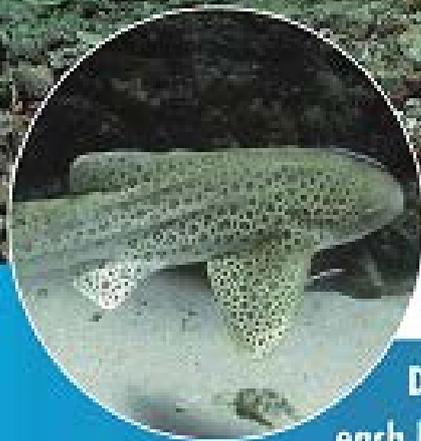
Sponsors



Spot the Leopard shark
Thailand invites the diving
community to contribute
photographs of leopard
sharks from Thai waters to
help scientists understand
and protect this
important
shark.



If you identify
a new shark,
you get to
name it!



Want to contribute? It's easy.
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Did you know that
each leopard shark has
a unique spot pattern?



The marine waters
of Thailand are important
habitat for this threatened shark!



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