CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Blacktip Reef Shark

Carcharhinus melanopterus

The blacktip reef shark is the shark most people have actually seen: a small, slender 1.6 m animal that patrols reef flats so shallow that its dorsal fin cuts clear of the water. It is startlingly pa…

Quick facts

Classification: Fish
Family: Carcharhinidae
Habitat: Coral reefs and shallow coastal waters
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Near Threatened
Lifespan: 12-15 years
Weight: 20-24 kg
Scientific name: Carcharhinus melanopterus

Did you know?

- Despite their intimidating appearance, there are no confirmed fatal attacks on humans by Blacktip Reef Sharks.
- Long-term photo-ID work in Moorea found blacktips form stable, non-random social associations — the same individuals repeatedly choose to be together…

What I learned

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