

# Longnose Saw Shark

Like all saw sharks, the longnose saw shark has a long, flat, narrow snout, or rostrum, with teeth pointing out from each side. The rostrum contains many electric sensors to help the shark find small fish and shrimp along the ocean floor. A pair of long, flexible barbels midway along the rostrum help the shark feel into the sand and mud.

## Did you know?

People sometimes mix up saw sharks with sawfishes, which are a kind of ray. Here are two ways to tell the difference: sawfishes do not have barbels, and their gills are on the undersides of their bodies.



## Where to find it

The longnose saw shark is also known as the common saw shark. It lives near the coast of southern Australia, and is usually found in waters between 130 and 980 feet (40 and 300 meters) deep.



This is where longnose saw sharks have been found around the world

Once the shark has found its prey, it can use its rostrum to push or flick the animal out of its hiding spot and then stun or slash it. The longnose saw shark may also use its rostrum to defend itself against attackers.

The longnose saw shark is the largest of the saw sharks. But it is still a fairly small shark, only growing up to about 4 feet (1.25 meters) long.

Its yellowish colouring, patterned with darker blotches, helps this shark blend in with the sandy ocean floor.

The rostrum makes up about a third of the shark's total body length. It is lined with about 20 pairs of sharp teeth.



Length: 4 feet (1.25 meters)  
Mass: 19 pounds (8.6 kilograms)

