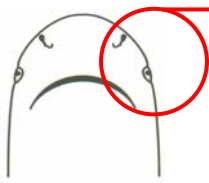


# Freshwater and estuarine shark identification guide



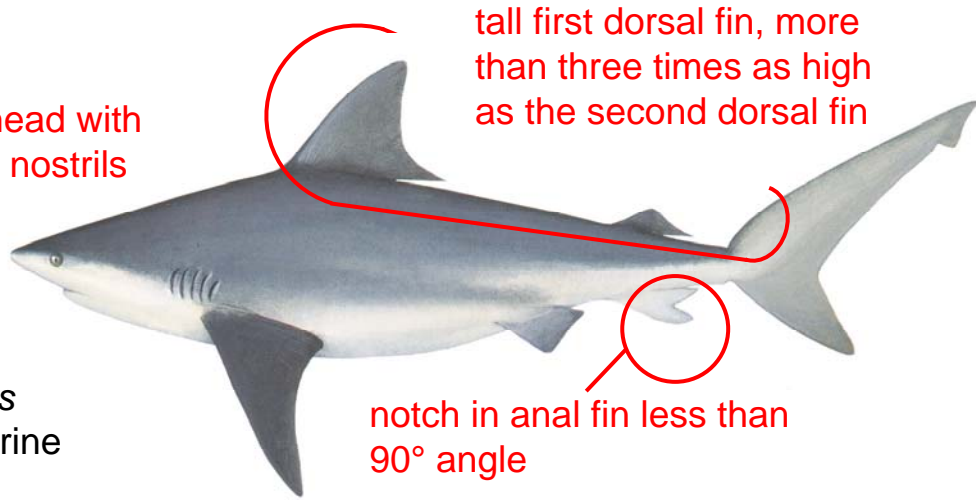
broad head with hooked nostrils

## Pigeye shark

*Carcharhinus ambionensis*

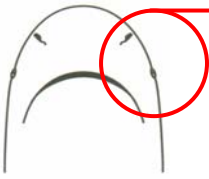
Habitat: marine and estuarine

Length: to 2.8 m



tall first dorsal fin, more than three times as high as the second dorsal fin

notch in anal fin less than 90° angle



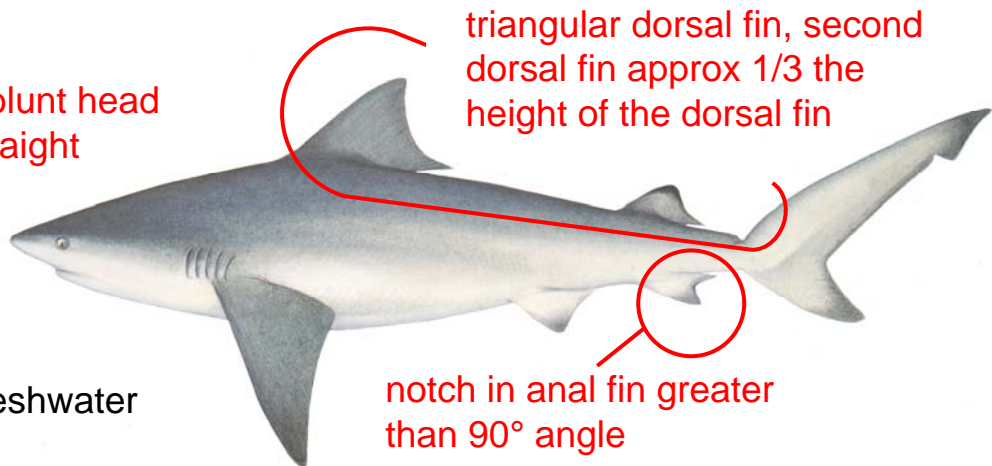
broad blunt head with straight nostrils

## Bull shark

*Carcharhinus leucas*

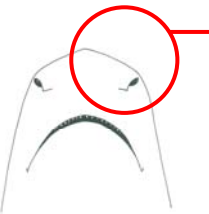
Habitat: estuarine and freshwater

Length: to 3.3 m



triangular dorsal fin, second dorsal fin approx 1/3 the height of the dorsal fin

notch in anal fin greater than 90° angle



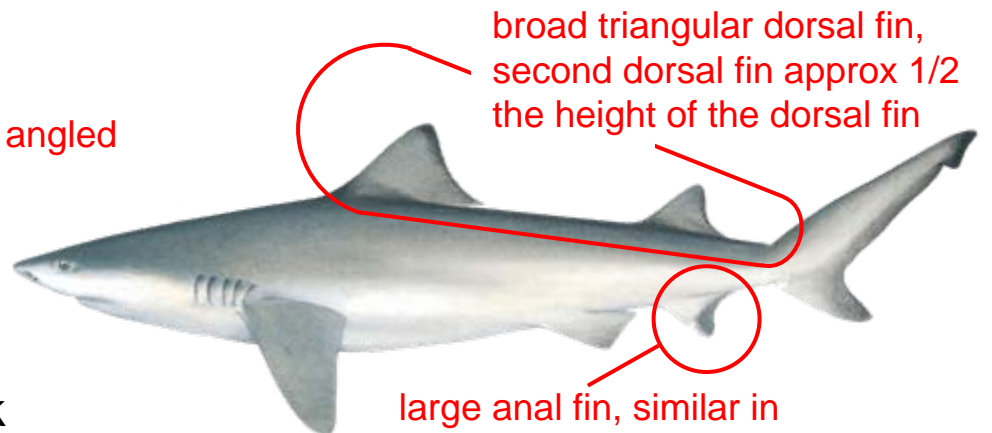
broad angled snout

## Speartooth or northern river shark

*Glyphis spp.* (for more detail see overleaf)

Habitat: freshwater and estuarine

Length: to 3 m



broad triangular dorsal fin, second dorsal fin approx 1/2 the height of the dorsal fin

large anal fin, similar in height to second dorsal fin, with no notch

# Freshwater Sharks (*Glyphis* spp.)

The speartooth and northern river shark have been found in rivers and open water along the NT coastline and are similar in appearance. Small specimens approximately 60-80cm are found in brackish waters in the upper reaches of tidal rivers and up to 3m in estuaries and coastal regions. Little is known about these sharks. They were originally named because of the shape of their teeth in the bottom jaw (see image below)



Speartooth shark (*Glyphis* sp. A)

Photo courtesy of CSIRO, Cleveland



The best way to distinguish the two species from each is that on Species A (above), the dark dorsal marking runs through the bottom of the eye. In species C (below) it runs well below the eye. These differences are circled on the images.



Northern river shark (*Glyphis* sp. C)

Photo courtesy of CSIRO, Cleveland

Please contact NT Fisheries Research Department to report sightings / captures or for further information on 08 8999 2144 or email to [fisheries.dpifm@nt.gov.au](mailto:fisheries.dpifm@nt.gov.au). Please record details in logbooks if you use them