

# SPECIES SPOTTING AT SHARKS

On entry to Southport Sharks are two large aquariums with an array of incredible sharks and exotic fish species.

Here are some facts about three different species of marine life that call the tanks home. Try spotting them the next time you visit the club!

## BAMBOO SHARK

Unlike more well-known sharks, like the great white, the bamboo shark is a small, slow-moving bottom dweller. They have extremely long tails which are longer than the length of the rest of their body. In the wild, bamboo sharks mostly feed at night. For eating harder shelled prey, their teeth can literally pivot backwards! This helps to protect the tips of the teeth and provides a continuous hard and flat surface to crunch on crab or clam shells.

## HIGHFIN BUTTERFLYFISH

The butterflyfish family is a very large group of fish that have a similar body shape and are typically yellow, white and black in colour. Many of them eat live corals and anemones. They have very small, pointed mouths, which they use to pick at the coral polyps.

## REEF SHARK

The reef shark, no matter if blacktip, whitetip (our friends in the tank), silvertip, gray or caribbean, play an extremely important role in the Earth's ecosystem. Although they only grow to about 1.6 to 3 metres in length, these sharks are the apex predators along the very delicate coral reefs.

## INTERESTING SHARK FACTS

1. Not all sharks have to keep swimming to breathe; they can pump water over their gills, e.g. the Wobbegong and Epaulette sharks.
2. A shark's skeleton is made completely of cartilage.
3. Sharks have up to 7 rows of teeth in their jaw at any one time. They continually replace the foremost teeth throughout their lives.
4. Of the 370 plus species of sharks, only 5 are considered dangerous to humans; they are the great white, tiger shark, bull shark, mako shark and hammerhead.
5. The majority of sharks eat fish, or crustaceans and shellfish.
6. Shark skin feels exactly like sandpaper because it is made up of tiny teeth-like structures called "placoid scales". These scales point towards the tail and help reduce friction from surrounding water when the shark swims.

## BAMBOO SHARK



## HIGHFIN BUTTERFLYFISH



## REEF SHARK



Please note: significant maintenance and considerable care goes into ensuring the well-being of the marine life within our tanks. Southport Sharks employs the services of SeaWorld to safeguard their health.

