

PALM BEACH DOLPHIN PROJECT FACT SHEET



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ATLANTIC DEVILRAY

Mobula hypostoma

CLASS: Elasmobranchii
ORDER: Myliobatiformes
FAMILY: Myliobatidae
GENUS: Mobula
SPECIES: hypostoma



IDENTIFICATION: Dark black above, white below. Pectoral fins (“wings”) long and pointed. Two large cephalic fins (rostra) protruding from front of head. Mouth small, sub-terminal. Tail whip-like, as long as the length of body and with no spine.

SIZE AND AGE: Relatively small species, they have a total length, including tail, of about 8 feet (2.4 m), and a wingspan of 4 feet (1.2 m) or more.

HABITAT: Found along the coasts of the western Atlantic from North Carolina to northern Argentina. Occurs in shallow coastal waters and some bays, as well as open ocean waters.

FEEDING: Feeds mainly on planktonic crustaceans but may consume small schooling fishes.

REPRODUCTION: Aplacental viviparity (fertilized stingray eggs remain in the mother’s uterus, ingesting their yolk sacs. Once the embryos have fully consumed their yolk sacs, the embryos are nourished by ‘uterine milk’, secreted by the mother. Gestation is estimated to last approximately one year. No details on hoew many pus per litter.

HUMAN FACTORS: Protected in Florida state waters. Found singly, in small groups, and in schools. Swimming at high speed and often leap high above the surface. Of little danger to humans.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: The information contained in this document was gathered from various sources, including Florida Ray Identification Guide.

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THE TARAS OCEANOGRAPHIC FOUNDATION - PALM BEACH DOLPHIN PROJECT

*There is no seam between the doings of wild animals and human affairs.
We can't go on losing them and not loose part of ourselves.*

Kenneth S. Norris