

Rhinobatos

Classification :

Kingdom : Animalia
Phylum : Chordata
Class : Chondrichthyes
Order : Rhinopristiformes
Family ; Rhinobatidae
Genus : Rhinobatos



For further details, [Link](#)

Characteristics :

- Rhinobatos fish, or guitarfish, are cartilaginous fish with a flattened body, a wide pectoral disc, and an elongated tail.
- Rhinobatos species are bottom-dwelling cartilaginous fish that have a shark-like body with a flattened disc like a ray, large pectoral fins fused to the body, and two dorsal fins on their tail.
- They are distinguished by their narrow, pointed snout, widely separated rostral cartilage ridges, and the presence of small thorns on their disc and tail.
- **Physical Appearance:** They have a body plan that is a blend of a shark and a ray, featuring a flat, ray-like pectoral disc at the head and a more elongated, tubular body with a tail.
- **Coloration:** Their coloration, typically chocolate brown on top and white underneath, provides camouflage against their bottom-dwelling environment.
- **Eye Movement:** Rhinobatos can move their eyes independently, allowing them to look around their environment while mostly remaining still on the seabed.
- **Teeth:** Their teeth are adapted for both crushing and grasping, and they are set in an alternating pattern.
- **Size:** Rhinobatos rhinobatos (common guitarfish) can grow to be over 1.6 meters long.
- **Reproduction:** They are ovoviviparous, meaning they give birth to live young after the embryos develop inside the mother and receive nourishment. Some

species, such as *Rhinobatos albomaculatus* and *Rhinobatos lionotus*, are ovoviviparous, meaning the embryos develop inside the mother and are nourished by uterine fluids containing mucus, fat, or protein, in addition to the yolk sac.

Habit

- **Behavior:** Rhinobatos species are slow-swimming, bottom-dwelling fish that spend much of their time partially buried in the sand or mud.
- **Diet:** They are benthic predators that feed on crustaceans, mollusks, and small fish, often ambushing their prey by pinning them down with their snouts and then sucking them in.
- **Social Structure:** Outside of mating, they are solitary and not known to be territorial.

Habitat

- **Location:** Rhinobatos are found in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, with the common guitarfish being native to the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.
- **Depth:** They inhabit the continental shelf, from the intertidal zone down to depths of about 180 meters.
- **Substrate:** They prefer sandy and muddy bottoms but may also be found near rocky reefs.
- **Fisheries Impact:** Rhinobatos are susceptible to bottom trawling and other fishing methods, which has led to declining populations in some areas.
- **Vocalization:** The name Rhinobatos comes from the Greek words "rhinos" for nose and "batus" for steps, referring to their long, pointed snout.