

Sharks, Skates, and Rays of the Gulf of Mexico: A Field Guide

By Glenn R. Parsons

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The goblin shark is arguably one of the ugliest fish in the sea. The cookie cutter shark lives in the deep Gulf and glows in the dark. It feeds by attaching itself to a sperm whale and gnawing hunks of flesh. Often misidentified as a shark, the smalltooth sawfish is really more closely related to the stingrays and skates and may be in danger of disappearing in Gulf environs. The twenty to thirty teeth on each side of its snout work well for rooting up food from the sandy bottom or slashing through schools of prey. But the teeth tangle easily in commercial fishing nets.

In *Sharks, Skates, and Rays of the Gulf of Mexico: A Field Guide*, fascinating rarities such as these and all the commonly sighted species await the naturalist, commercial or recreational fisher, outdoor enthusiast, or beach-goer. This guidebook covers almost all the species of sharks and rays that cruise Gulf waters from the abundant, shallow-dwelling finetooth shark and the frightening electric ray to the deep-dwelling goblin fish.

Color photography, line drawings, and easily understood keys developed exclusively for this book help the reader quickly identify species. In addition to general information on reproduction, sensory systems, feeding, and other aspects of marine biology, there is practical information on how to reduce the risk of shark attack, how to prevent and treat stingray wounds, and how to safely catch, handle, and release a shark.

Personal and anecdotal information gathered from twenty-five years of shark research as well as significant facts and figures make Parson's book the ideal companion for anyone scouting the Gulf for its most exciting denizens.

Glenn R. Parsons is a professor of biology at the University of Mississippi. He has contributed to such books as *Shark Nursery Grounds* and *The Reproduction and Development of Sharks, Skates, and Rays*. His work has appeared in such periodicals as *Mid-South Hunting and Fishing News*, *Marine Biology*, and *Journal of Experimental Zoology*.

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Editorial Review

From the Publisher
This guidebook for spotting and identifying 42 sharks and 25 skates and rays includes:

*92 color photographs or illustrations of sharks, skates, and rays

*92 line illustrations to assist in spotting species

*Easily understood keys to identification

*Tips to help reduce the risk of shark attack

*First aid for treating stingray wounds

*Fascinating biology on feeding habits, sensory and reproductive systems, and more

*Safety advice on how to catch, handle, and release sharks

*Shark, skate, and ray encounters from twenty-five years of marine research

From the Author
I have tried to write this book for as broad an audience as possible without sacrificing information content. I believe it will be useful for scientists, educators, naturalists, fishers, outdoorsmen, beachgoers, and anyone interested in learning about the sharks, skates and rays of the Gulf of Mexico. The book covers all of the common species of sharks, skates and rays, and most of the uncommon ones. The book has excellent color photographs and art work of all species. I have tried to make the identification section as user friendly as possible and used line drawings at practically every couplet. I have included personal anecdotes and information that I gathered over 25 years of shark research. In addition, there is much practical information about shark fishing, handling live sharks, shark attack, etc. The small format of the book makes it perfect for the tackle box, beach bag or for your back pocket.

From the Inside Flap
The ideal guidebook for spotting and identifying 42 sharks and 25 skates and rays of the Gulf of Mexico

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Will Guertin:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open as well as read a book allowed Sharks, Skates, and Rays of the Gulf of Mexico: A Field Guide? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have other opinion?

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Henrietta Belcher:

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