



FACTSHEET

Eagle Ray



Eagle Ray

Common Name: Eagle Ray

Scientific Name: *Myliobatis australis*

Conservation Status: Listed as Least Concern under ICUN (2014). The waters around Rottnest Island are a designated Marine Reserve. Some parts of Rottnest's sandy floors, seagrass meadows and reefs are included in the Marine Sanctuary Zones shown in the Rottnest Island Marine Management Strategy (2007).

Habitat: Sandy floors, Seagrass meadows, Coral reefs

Body length: 2.4 m

Description:

The Eagle Ray is a large ray with brownish, greyish and/or greenish upper surfaces. Its upper surface also has a pattern of grey-blue spot or line markings. It has a pale coloured underside. Its pectoral fins are large and smooth and look like wings.

The Eagle Ray's wings have pointed tips. It has a blunt snout and long, whip-like tail with a poisonous spine. It also has noticeable spiracles (a pair of openings

behind the eyes which draw in oxygenated water from above).

Diet:

Molluscs, crustaceans, worms.

In the Wild:

The Eagle Ray will bury itself in the sand by flapping its winglike fins. This movement lifts sand into the water around them which then settles and covers them.

It hunts by swimming low over the sand to sense the tiny vibrations and electrical impulses given off by its prey. It has a very sensitive underside which allows them to do this. It will often expose its prey by pumping water through its mouth and gills to shoot jets of water out of spiracles to move the sand.

Threats:

- Pollution
- Boat traffic

DID YOU KNOW?

A group of stingrays is known as a fever of stingrays.