



SHARK  FACTS

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# SPINY DOGFISH

Spiny dogfish are small, slender, schooling sharks characterized by **SPINES ON THEIR DORSAL FIN**

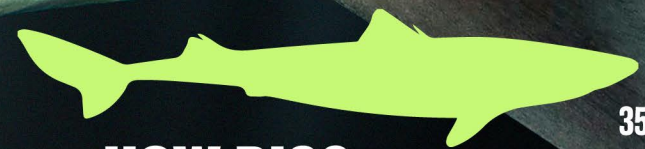


Spiny dogfish have a row of **SMALL WHITE SPOTS** that run along each side of the body. These spots fade with growth and even disappear entirely on some individuals.



## SPINY DOGFISH/SPUR DOG (*Squalus acanthias*)

- ▶ Spiny dogfish are found around the world in coastal, relatively cool waters
- ▶ They got their common name because fishermen commonly noted that they hunt shoals of smaller fish in large dog-like "packs"
- ▶ Spiny dogfish pregnancies are among the longest in the Animal Kingdom. Females carry about six pups for nearly two years (about as long as African elephants)!



35-48 in (90-120 cm)

## HOW BIG?

Females give birth to live young, with each newborn pup ranging in size from 8-13 inches (20-33 cm) in length. The average size of adult spiny dogfish is 35-48 inches (90-120 cm)

Image: Rudolf Svensen

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