

COMMON STINGRAY

Key Information

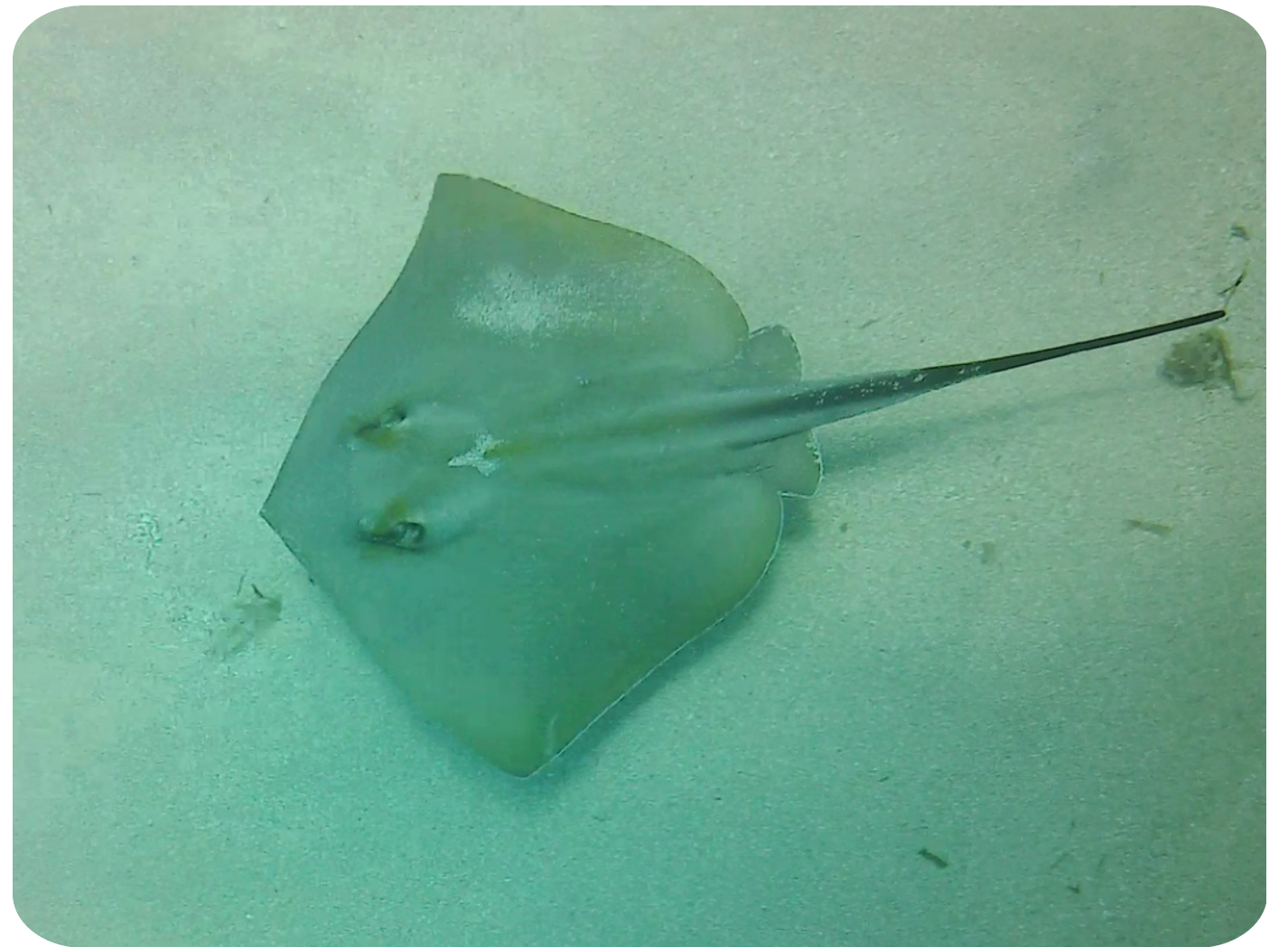
The Common Stingray is a flat, diamond-shaped sea creature with wide, wing-like fins and a long tail. It can grow up to 1.4 meters (about the length of a dining table) from wingtip to wingtip. These stingrays are usually grey or brown on top to blend in with the ocean floor, and pale underneath.

Habitat

The Common Stingray lives in warm, shallow coastal waters, usually not deeper than 200 meters. It prefers sandy or muddy sea bottoms near beaches, bays, estuaries, and rocky reefs. These soft sea floors are perfect for hiding – the stingray often buries itself under a thin layer of sand to stay camouflaged. You can find it in the eastern Atlantic Ocean, from southern Ireland to western Africa, and throughout the Mediterranean Sea. These stingrays like calm waters and are rarely seen in rough or deep seas.

Curoisities

Did you know? Stingrays are related to sharks! Just like sharks, their skeletons are made of cartilage instead of bones – the same soft stuff that's in your ears and nose! And even though they look a bit scary, stingrays are actually shy and gentle creatures.



Common Stingray
Photo by Meet the Sea

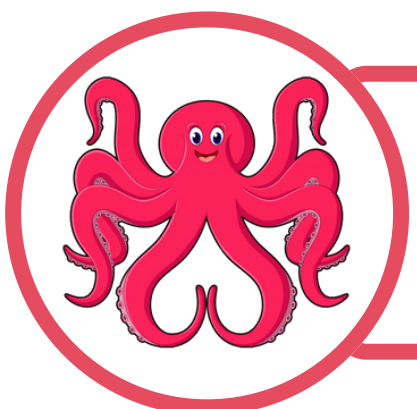
Scientific Name:
Dasyatis pastinaca

Food

Stingrays feed mostly at night. They eat small fish, worms, crustaceans, and mollusks that live on or under the sea floor. Their mouths are on the underside of their body, which helps them suck up tasty food from the sand. They use their strong jaws to crush hard shells!

Behavior

Common Stingrays are peaceful creatures that spend most of their time resting on the sandy or muddy sea bottom. They often cover themselves lightly with sand to hide from predators and surprise prey. Even though they have a stinger on their tail, they only use it when they feel threatened.



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