

Thornback Ray



Description: Thornback rays are a round shaped fish with a flattened body. They are typically brown in color and can grow to be over 3 feet in length. These rays can be distinguished by three rows of “thorns” found on their back and tail. They are usually found burrowed on sandy or muddy bottoms in shallow, quiet waters.

Defense: Thornback rays have sharp, protective spines on their backs and tails and they also have the ability to flip sand over their backs to camouflage.

Range: There are three species of thornbacks but only one is found in California where it is a native fish. It is often referred to as the California or Pacific thornback .

Feeding: These fish feed on sand dwelling invertebrates such as worms, crabs, shrimps and clams.

WOW!!! Unlike most rays, thornbacks do not have stingers!

