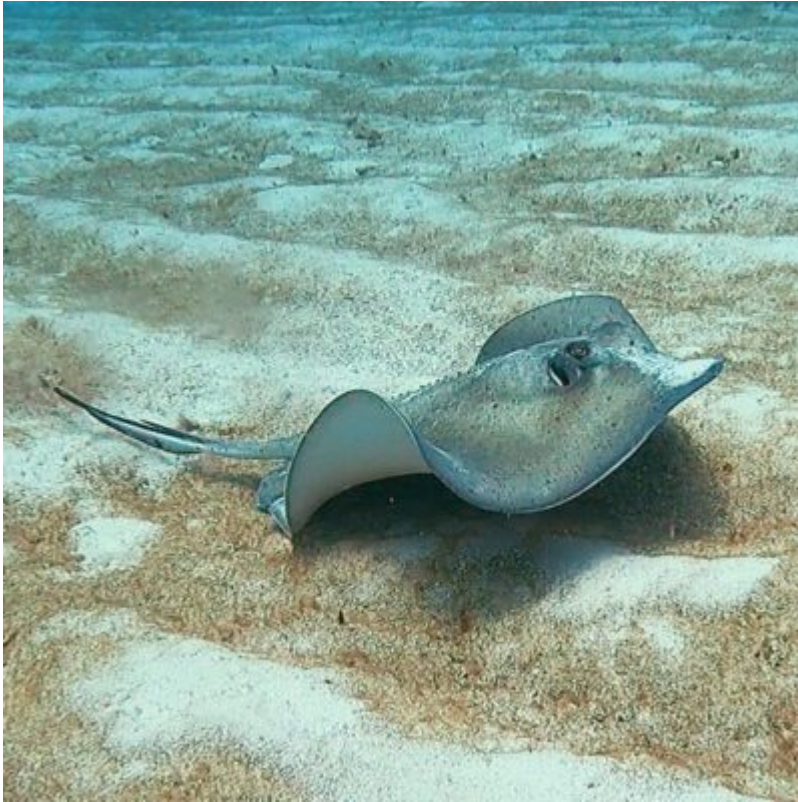


Southern (Dasyatidae)

Stingray



The southern stingray (*Dasyatis americana*) is a species of stingray that is found in the shallow waters of the western Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. It is a medium to large-sized ray, typically reaching a maximum length of about 2 meters (6.5 feet) and a maximum weight of about 70 kg (150 pounds).

The southern stingray has a diamond-shaped body with a long, whip-like tail that is equipped with a venomous spine. Its body is typically brown or gray in color, with numerous small, white spots or markings. It has a flat, round pectoral fin on each side of its body that it uses for propulsion, and it has five gills located on the underside of its body.

Southern stingrays are bottom-dwelling fish that feed on a variety of small invertebrates and plants. They are generally non-aggressive and are not considered a threat to humans.

unless they are stepped on or handled. They are popular among divers due to their graceful swimming style and their distinctive appearance.