

Key to the Sharks, Skates, and Ratfish of Alaska

- 1** One gill slit on each side of head, covered by an opercle **page 18 Spotted ratfish** (*Hydrolagus colliei*)
Gill slits 5-7, on sides or underside of head ↓ **2**
- 2(1)** Body not flattened, nearly round in cross section; pectoral fins not enlarged or fused with head; gill openings on side of head ↓ **Sharks 3**
Body distinctly flattened; pectoral fins large and fused with head, giving the body a disc shape; gill openings on underside of head ↓ **Skates 11**
- 3(2)** Anal fin absent ↓ **4**
Anal fin present ↓ **5**
- 4(3)** Single spine at front of each dorsal fin; pectoral fins large and pointed; caudal fin with two distinct lobes **page 20 Spiny dogfish** (*Squalus acanthias*)
No spine at front of dorsal fins; pectoral fins small and rounded; caudal fin without distinct lobes **page 22 Pacific sleeper shark** (*Somniosus pacificus*)
- 5(3)** Gill slits 6; single dorsal fin. **page 24 Bluntnose sixgill shark** (*Hexanchus griseus*)
Gill slits 5; two dorsal fins ↓ **6**
- 6(5)** Gill slits highly elongate, extending from dorsal surface of head nearly to ventral midline of body; teeth very small, with flattened, posteriorly directed cusp. **page 26 Basking shark** (*Cetorhinus maximus*)
Gill slits restricted to side of head; teeth relatively large, sharp, with one or more cusps ↓ **7**