

SHORT FINNED EEL

Anguilla australis

501



Shortfin eels are our most tolerant native fish species. They survive environmental hazards like high water temperatures, low oxygen levels, endure long periods without food, and bury themselves in mud or sand and enter an energy-saving mode when the water temperature drops below 10°C.

Generally shortfin eels are not found as far inland as longfin eels.



Tubular nostrils stick out in front of their noses to help in hunting. They also have sensors on their sides and taste buds on their heads! Body slime helps breathing and protects skin out of water.

Description

Shortfin eels usually have a silvery belly and their dorsal fin is shorter compared to long finned eels. The dorsal and anal fins are the same length so the ends are almost adjacent when the fish is viewed side-on.

Food

Short-finned eels have the same eating habits as the long-finned eel however they do not eat the larger prey such as small birds.

Breeding

Eels swim out to sea to their ancestral breeding ground. The migration begins around April. Males leave first, followed soon after by the females.

IMG 505

