

Husbandry and Transportation of the Bowmouth Guitarfish (*Rhina ancylostoma*)

○Jeffrey de Pauw¹
1. De Jong Marinelife

The Bowmouth Guitarfish (*Rhina ancylostoma*) is a fascinating animal that pops up in very few public aquaria. This gentle giant easily reaches lengths of 2.5 meters and with its striking morphology, is easily recognized. However transporting and husbandry of the Bowmouth Guitarfish can become a difficult task when it arrives from another institution or from the wild. Wild caught specimens often have helminths and/or protozoan and in some cases bacterial infections present. The husbandry of the Bowmouth Guitarfish will also be discussed including their adaptation to the type of prey they are able to process. This will be supported with a CT-scan performed on a juvenile Bowmouth Guitarfish. This presentation will provide (new) information that we came by and should be shared with others. This to ensure we offer the best to our animals that are kept on display so visitors can learn about the wonders there are swimming in the ocean.