

Shark Fact #6 – Egg Cases

Sharks can be born in 2 different ways depending on the species: live birth (Viviparous), hatched from an egg (Oviparous), and a combination of both where the shark is grown inside and egg and then hatches inside the mother (Ovoviviparous). Below are 2 examples of Oviparous species, the horn shark and swell shark. The horn shark will lay a spiraled egg case which helps it keep wedged in between rocks so they won't float away. The swell shark's egg case, often called a MERMAIDS PURSE, has wiry tendrils on the corners that catches onto rocks or seaweed to anchor the egg cases from drifting away.



SHARK FACTS



Cabrillo
Marine
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