# GEORGIA AQUARIUM ANIMAL FACT SHEET

## **Black Blotched Fantail Ray**

Taeniura meyeni

## Range/Habitat

- The black blotched fantail ray is found in the Indo-West Pacific from the Red Sea and East Africa to southern Japan, Micronesia and tropical Australia.
- It usually is associated with reefs and occurs in a wide variety of habitats from shallow lagoons to outer reef slopes.
- This ray can be encountered from near the surface to depths of about 1,640 feet (500 m). It is most common between about 66 and 197 feet (20-60 m).

### **Physical Characteristics**

- This is a large stingray with a circular disc, no thorns and a black and white mottled upper surface.
- It has a deep and prominent ventral skin fold that extends to the tail tip.
- Its length from snout to tail can reach almost 11 feet (330 cm). Disc widths of about 10 feet (3 m) and weights of 330 lbs. (150 kg) have been reported.

### Diet/Feeding

- This ray feeds on bottom fishes, bivalves, crabs and shrimp.
- In order to find prey, it often excavates large holes into the sand by blowing water from its mouth

#### **Conservation Status**

The black-blotched fantail ray is categorized as "vulnerable" on the IUCN Red List.

### Additional Information

- The black blotched fantail ray can be found swimming alone or in schools and usually is accompanied by jacks or cobia swimming near them.
- This ray is ovoviviparous. Young are released at about 13 inches (33 cm) in disc width.
- It is fished commercially in some parts of its range where it is harvested for its meat and cartilage. It may also be sought by recreational fishermen.
- This species is also called the "marbled ray".

#### Sources

www.fishbase.org www.marinebio.com

Sharks & Rays Guide of the World, Hennemann, R., pg. 259