

MAUGEAN SKATE

A LIVING DINOSAUR!



MAUGEAN SKATE DISTRIBUTION

MAUGEAN SKATE FACTS

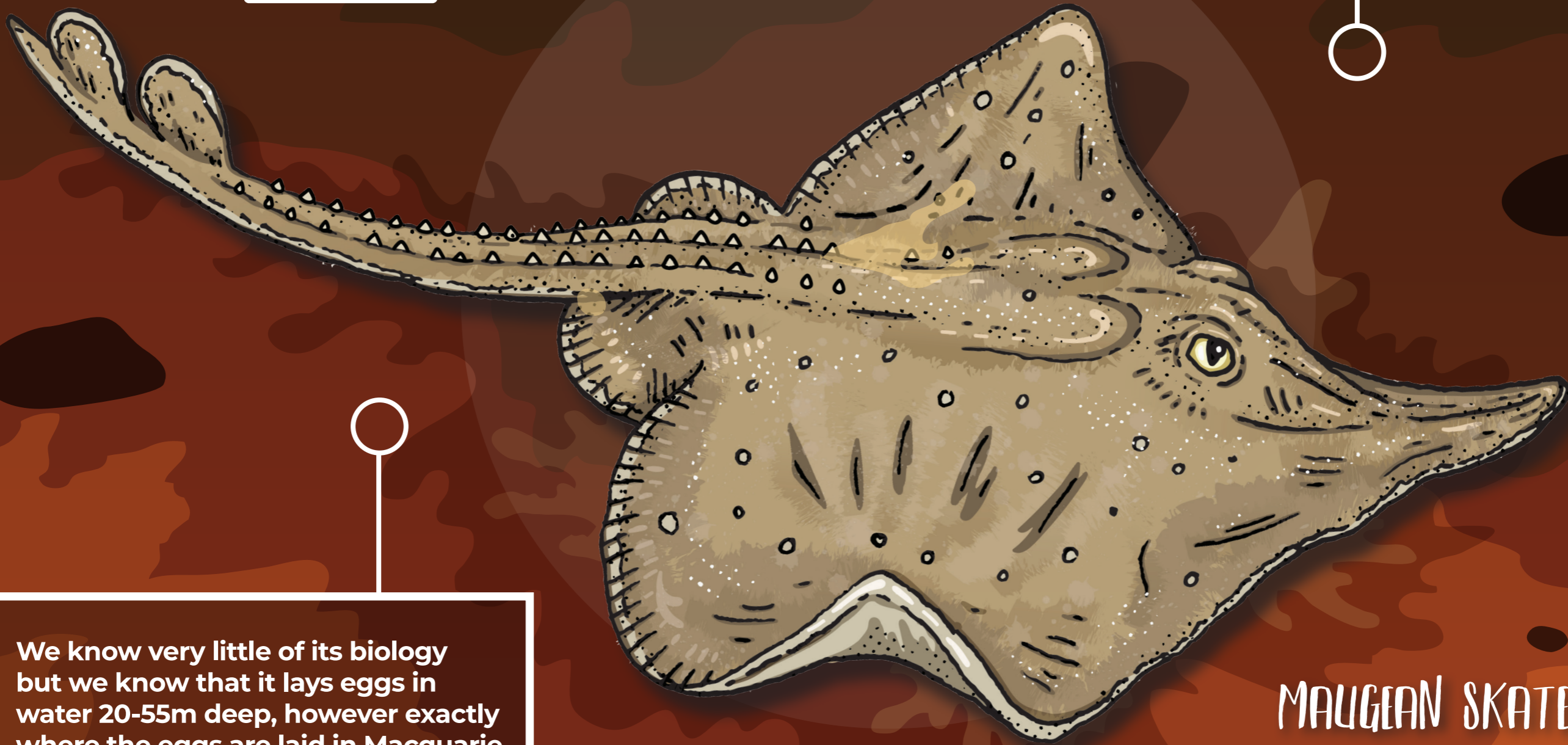
It is thought that the Maugean skate has been in Tassie waters since the Cretaceous period, a time when T-Rex roamed the earth.

Max size of 85cm



A true Tasmanian that is now most likely found in only one small pocket of water on Earth, Macquarie Harbour. Tragically, it hasn't been seen for 20 years in Bathurst Harbour and may be locally extinct.

The Maugean skate loves eating crabs, especially the common grapsid shore crab.



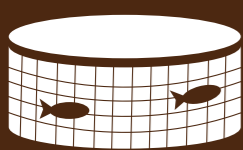
We know very little of its biology but we know that it lays eggs in water 20-55m deep, however exactly where the eggs are laid in Macquarie Harbour is uncertain.

MAUGEAN SKATE

Zearaja maugeana
Endangered



THREATS & SOLUTIONS



AQUACULTURE: Fish waste from intensive salmon farming in Macquarie Harbour further reduces the already low levels of oxygen in the water, making it harder for the skate to breathe.

SOLUTION: Significantly reduce the amount of salmon (incl. other fish) farmed in Macquarie Harbour.



WATER POLLUTION: Mining causes chemicals, heavy-metals and other pollutants to enter into river water that feeds into Macquarie Harbour.

SOLUTION: Improve water quality by ensuring waste water from nearby mines is not fed into rivers or groundwater, and efforts are made to actively restore river ecosystems.

References:
1. IUCN Red List: Eastern Angel Shark www.iucnredlist.org/species/161360/68644464

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