

A NOTE ON NUMBER OF PUPS FOR TWO BLACKNOSE SHARKS (*Carcharhinus acronotus*)
FROM THE GULF OF MEXICO

By David A. Stiller*

During the Data Workshop for SEDAR 21 there was discussion in the life History Group regarding the number of pups produced by the blacknose shark (*Carcharhinus acronotus*). Few observations were available and the group favored a low number, 2 -3. I expressed my view that based on my years of fishing for this species that the number was more likely to average 5 or 6. The group felt that such anecdotal information could not properly be considered without actual data.

I happened to have two female blacknose sharks in my home freezer that I took with my gill nets in mid-April off Dolphin Island, Alabama that I was intending to eat. I called home and arrange to have them taken out, defrosted and cut to determine the number of pups they were carrying. The animals were females 86.4 cm and 119.4 cm FL, the smaller had five near term pups, the larger had six, see Figs 2 and 3, which is the usual number I find in these sharks in my area.



Figure 1



Figure 2

*David A. Stiller
PO Box 124
Bon Secour, AL 36511
dkstiller@hotmail.com