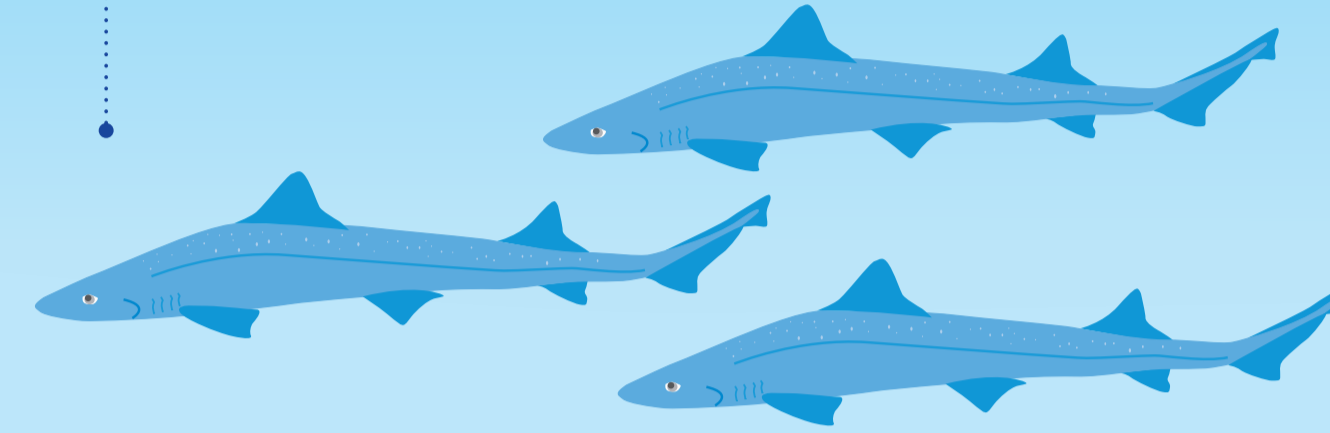


RIG LIFE CYCLE

Rig (*Mustelus lenticulatus*), also known by the names pioke and kapeta, spotted dogfish, and sometimes sold as 'lemonfish', are a native species of shark found in coastal waters around Aotearoa-New Zealand.

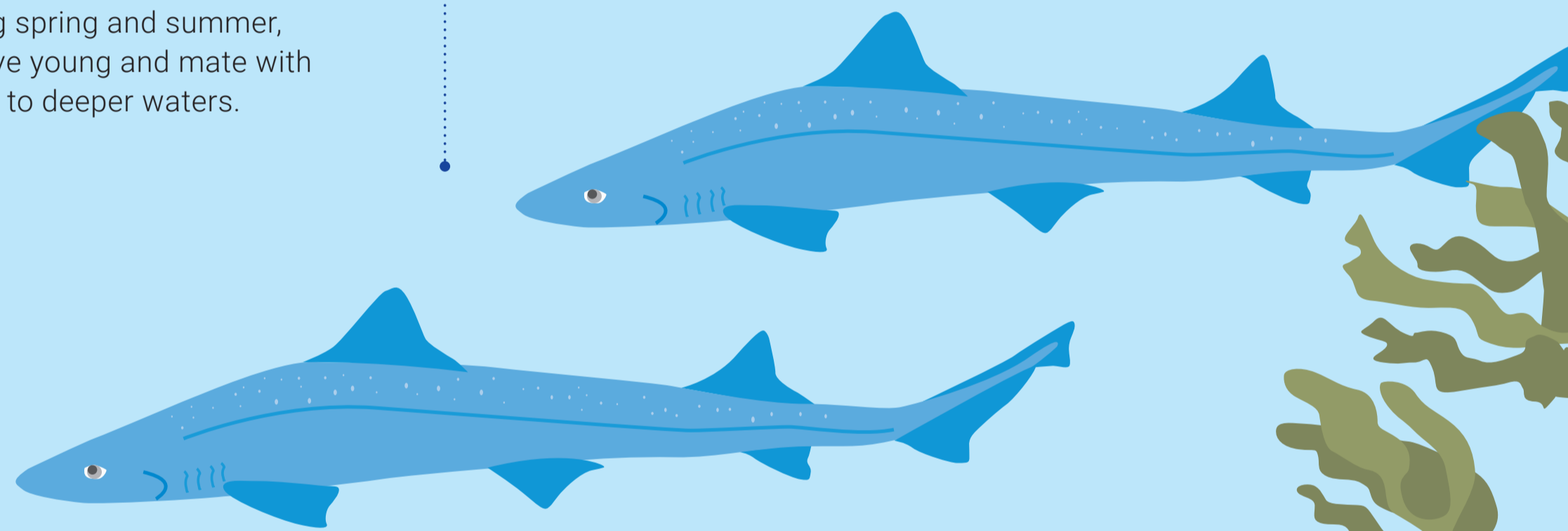
1 JUVENILE

Juvenile rig live in sheltered harbours and estuaries with shallow and muddy waters. These areas provide good habitat to support quick growth and protection from predators. Juvenile rig will remain in these areas until autumn-winter when they are about 50 cm in length and 6–8 months old and then depart for the open sea.



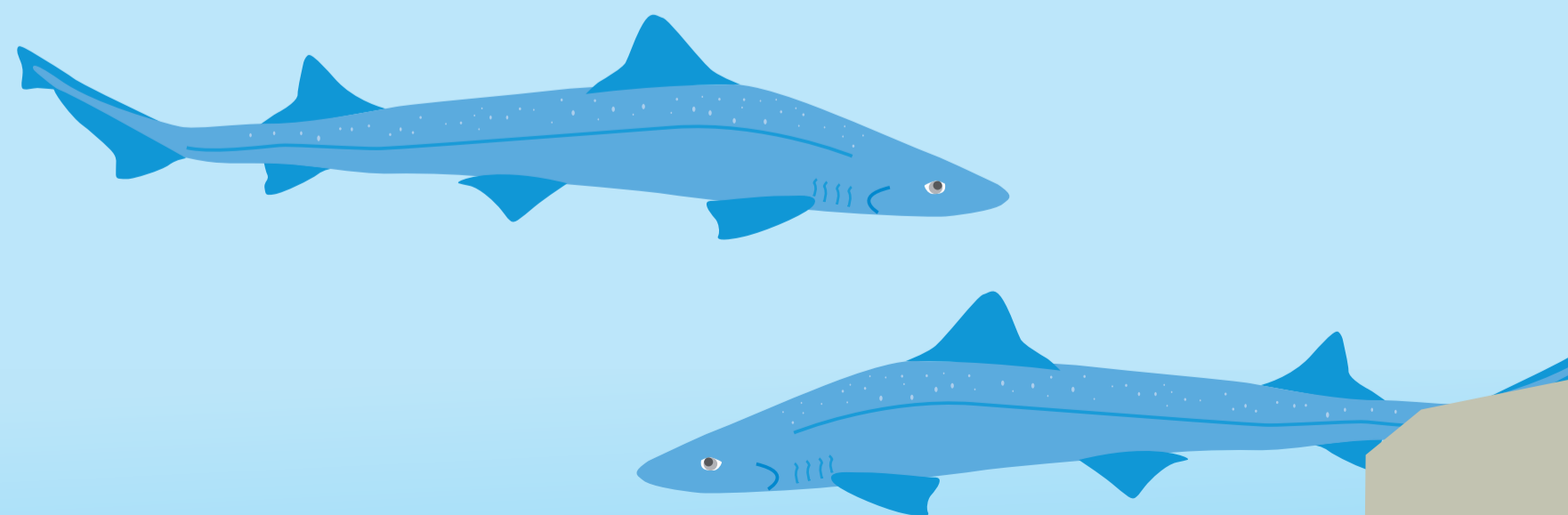
3 REPRODUCTION

Female rig grow bigger than males and mature at 7–8 years old and 100 cm length. Males mature at 5–6 years old and 85 cm length. After spending time at sea, adult rig migrate to shallow coastal waters to breed. During spring and summer, females give birth to live young and mate with males before returning to deeper waters.



2 ADULT

Adult rig are widespread in coastal areas from close inshore to 400 m depth. It is suspected that rig move to deeper waters during winter. Rig can make extensive migrations, with one tagged female moving at least 1160 km.



Rig are sometimes confused with spiny dogfish.



Rig

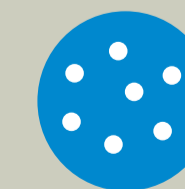


Spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*)

How can you tell the difference?



Rig do not have dorsal fin spines



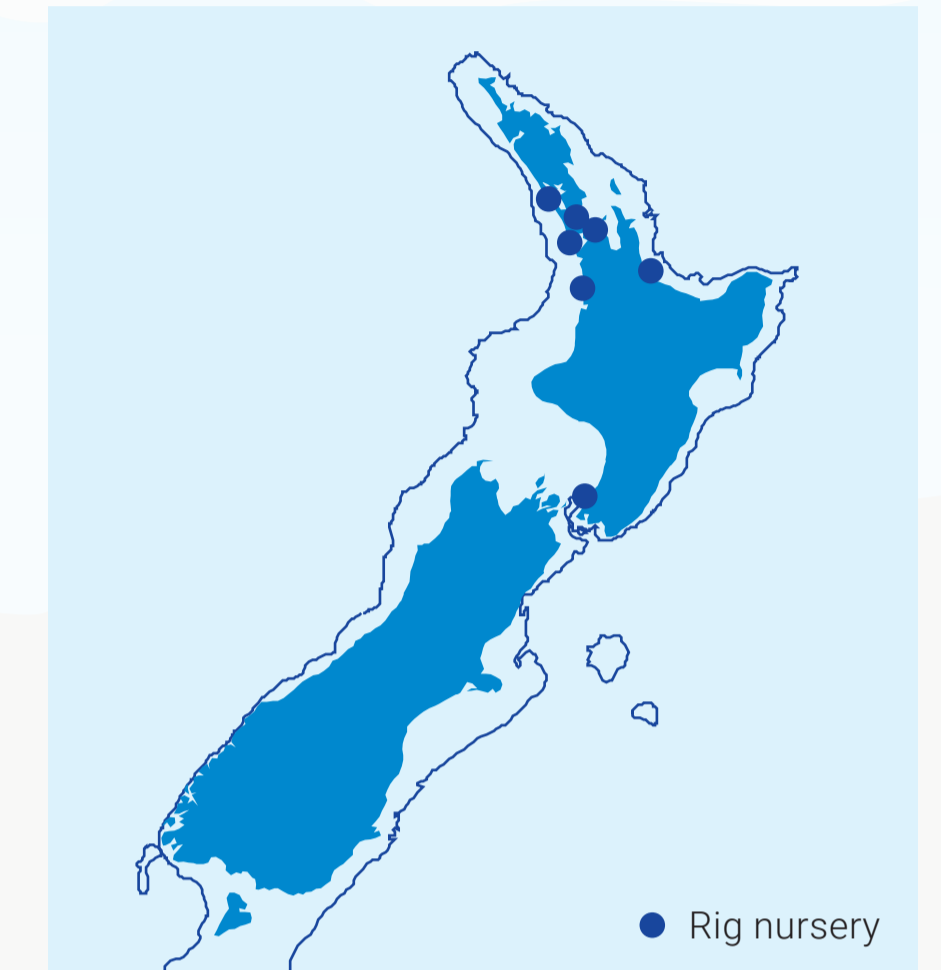
Rig have lots of small white dots along their upper body. Spiny dogfish have fewer, larger spots



Rig have flat teeth for crushing and grinding their prey

WHERE CAN YOU FIND RIG?

Rig are endemic to Aotearoa-New Zealand, meaning they are found nowhere else in the world. Rig live close to the sea floor and are found in estuaries and coastal waters from the shore to 400 m.



Areas that have been identified as important rig nurseries (newborns and juveniles) include the harbours of Kaipara, Raglan, Waitemata, Tamaki, Manukau, Tauranga, and Porirua. It is thought that adult rig return to the same area they were born.



For more information visit niwa.co.nz/te-kuwaha/rig

