



Shark species rethink

PERTH

THE discovery of a species of shark never seen in Australian waters could rewrite science, researchers say.

Shark biologist Ryan Kempster, of the University of Western Australia's Oceans Institute, said two sharks were identified as mandarín dogfish after a two-year investigation including DNA sequencing.

The rare sharks, a male and a pregnant female, were caught off Rottnest Island by

local recreational fisherman Steve Downs.

Mr Kempster said the species had previously been found between Indonesia and Japan and off New Zealand.

It's not known why the sharks were found so far from their normal habitat.

"The female shark found off Rottnest had 22 unborn pups and is only the second ever-recorded specimen of a pregnant female of this species," Mr Kempster said yesterday. **AAP**