

Colclough's Shark, *Brachaelurus colcloughi*

Report Card assessment	Depleted		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Vulnerable
Assessors	Kyne, P., Compagno, L., Last, P. & Stevens, J.		
Report Card Remarks	Overfished as it is taken as bycatch and has a population suspected to be declining		

Summary

Colclough's Shark is a rare species with a restricted distribution off southern Queensland and northern New South Wales. It is exposed to trawling and other fishing pressure throughout its range, and it is taken as bycatch in trawl, gillnet, and tunnel net fisheries. Habitat degradation and loss due to urban development in its central distribution has likely negatively affected its inshore habitat. It is suspected the Colclough's Shark population is declining as it likely has a small population (less than 10,000 mature individuals) and is subject to a number of threatening processes. Therefore, the Colclough's Shark is considered Vulnerable (IUCN) and likely Overfished (SAFS).



Distribution

Colclough's Shark is endemic to the east coast of Australia and is found in several areas from Bryon Bay (New South Wales; NSW) to the Hardline Reefs (Queensland). Over half the known records are from Moreton Bay (southern Queensland) (Kyne et al. 2011). Reports of this species from the tip of Cape York Peninsula and south of Princess Charlotte Bay (north Queensland) (Last and Stevens 2009) are unsupported (Kyne et al. 2011).

Stock structure and status

The Colclough's Shark is a rare species. Given its restricted distribution, it is assumed that all individuals belong to one continuous population. This population is likely very small with less than 10,000 mature individuals, making it Vulnerable (IUCN) and Overfished (SAFS).

Fisheries

The primary threats to the Colclough's Shark are fishing pressure and habitat loss. The Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery (ECOTF) operates over much of its Queensland range (Kyne et al. 2011). It has recently been reported from Swain Reefs in the deepwater eastern king prawn sector of the ECOTF (Rigby et al. 2016). This species is also caught in the Queensland East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery as bycatch by gillnet and tunnel net fisheries (Kyne et al. 2011). Moreton Bay and other parts of the southern Queensland and northern NSW coast are popular recreational fishing areas, however its catch by recreational fisheries is unknown. Large-scale developments in Moreton Bay may have affected the Colclough's Shark's inshore shallow water habitats. Given its small population and restricted range, the Colclough's Shark is likely to be sensitive to both fishing and habitat loss. Fully protected marine reserves, such as Moreton Bay Marine Park (15% of Moreton Bay), are likely to be critical for the conservation of this species, though they have yet to be proven effective for the species.

Habitat and biology

The Colclough's Shark occurs from shallow inshore water less than 4 m depth to a maximum of 217 m. It is mostly known from less than 100 m. It is a nocturnal species which shelters on rocky reefs during the day, and forages around reefs and surrounding substrates (including seagrass beds) at night (Compagno 2001, Kyne et al. 2011). The species reaches a maximum size of at least 88 cm total length (TL) (Rigby et al. 2016) with males mature from 61 cm TL and females from 54.5 cm TL (Kyne et al. 2011).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 88 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: >61 cm TL Females: >55 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/39335/0>

Link to page at Shark References: <http://shark-references.com/species/view/Brachaelurus-colcloughi>

References

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