Creek Whaler, *Carcharhinus fitzroyensis*

Report Card assessment	**Sustainable**		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
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Report Card Remarks	Small, relatively productive shark with minimal fishing pressure		

Summary

The Creek Whaler is a coastal shark species endemic to the tropical waters of northern Australia. It is a small and relatively productive species. The inshore gillnet fisheries of northern Australia currently take small numbers of Creek Whaler and they are retained for their meat and fins. The species is small and relatively productive with the fishing pressure minimal and considered sustainable. Therefore, the Creek Whaler is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and Sustainable (SAFS).


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Distribution

The Creek Whaler is endemic to tropical waters of Northern Australia. It is found from Gladstone (Queensland) across the Northern Territory to Cape Cuvier (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for Creek Whalers. It is thought to be common throughout northern Australia.

Fisheries

Creek Whalers are not targeted and only constitute a small proportion of total shark catch (Salini et al. 2007, Bensley et al. 2010). It is taken as bycatch in gillnet fisheries in Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia. It is also occasionally taken by recreational fishers (de Faria 2012).

Habitat and biology

The Creek Whaler occurs in shallow coastal and intertidal waters to depths of at least 40 m (Last and Stevens 2009). The maximum recorded size is 135 cm total length (TL) (Lyle 1987). Maximum recorded age for females is 13 years and 9 years for males (Smart et al. 2013).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: males 9 years, females 13 years Max size: 135 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 80 cm TL Females: 90 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/41735/0

Link to page at Shark References: http://shark-references.com/species/view/Carcharhinus-fitzroyensis

References

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