

Galapagos Shark (Indo-West Pacific subpopulation), *Carcharhinus galapagensis*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Near Threatened
Assessors	Espinoza, M.		
Report Card Remarks	Offshore reef and open ocean species subjected to limited fishing pressure in Australian due to relatively low fishing effort and protection by marine reserves		

Summary

The Galapagos Shark is a large bodied shark found globally in offshore reef and pelagic waters around remote tropical and warm-temperate oceanic islands. Its life history characteristics make it susceptible to fishing pressure and in many regions it is heavily targeted. The Oceania subpopulation, however, has limited interactions with fishing operations. Marine reserves at Lord Howe Island, Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs (Australia) and Kermadec Islands (New Zealand)



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provide protection. Therefore, the Oceania subpopulation is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and the stocks as Sustainable (SAFS). In contrast, the global population is assessed as Near Threatened (IUCN).

Distribution

The Galapagos Shark occurs globally in all tropical and subtropical waters. In Australian waters it is distributed across northern Australian waters from Perth (Western Australia), to the Northern Territory and Queensland, and has been recorded as far south as Sydney (New South Wales). It is also found at isolated island and reef sites in Australian (Lord Howe Island, Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

Pazmino et al. (2018) reported two separate stocks in the Indo-Pacific – one in the eastern Pacific and the other in the Indo-West Pacific. There is currently limited information on the status of stocks of the Indo-West Pacific subpopulation of Galapagos Shark.

Fisheries

Galapagos Shark are only occasionally taken in Australian fisheries, and most catch appears to occur near Lord Howe Island but is normally released alive. limited. Remote areas where Galapagos Sharks are present in Australia and New Zealand are mostly protected by marine reserves. Nevertheless, it should be noted that there is a lack of information on the number of interactions between Galapagos Sharks and commercial fisheries in Australian as it is often mistaken for the Dusky Shark.

Habitat and biology

The Galapagos Shark occurs at isolated, oceanic islands and reefs in tropical and warm-temperate areas. It occurs from surface waters to depths of 680 m (Meyer et al. 2010). Maximum age is not known. The species is thought to have moderate resilience to fishing pressure (Smith et al. 1998).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: unknown
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 6-8 years, 228 cm TL Females: 6.5-9 years, 235 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/41736/0>

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

References

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