

Common Blacktip Shark (Australia-New Guinea subpopulation), *Carcharhinus limbatus*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Near Threatened
Assessors	Burgess, G.H., Branstetter, S. & Chin, A.		
Report Card Remarks	In Australia, catch levels strictly managed and deemed sustainable. This species has been assessed in the Status of Australian Fish Stocks Reports http://www.fish.gov.au/		

Summary

The Common Blacktip Shark (Australia-New Guinea subpopulation) is a medium-sized shark common in warm temperate and tropical waters throughout northern Australia and Papua New Guinea. It frequents inshore waters as adults and has coastal nursery habitats, making it subject to fishing pressure and habitat degradation. In Australian waters it is regularly encountered in recreational and commercial fisheries. Within Papua New



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Guinea, it has likely been subject to substantial fishing pressure. In Australia, fisheries and harvest levels are carefully managed and are deemed sustainable. Therefore, the Common Blacktip Shark (Australia-New Guinea subpopulation) is assessed as Near Threatened (IUCN) and in Australia as Least Concern (IUCN), while Australian stocks are classified as Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Common Blacktip Shark occurs globally in tropical and subtropical waters. Within Australia, it is found from Cape Naturaliste (Western Australia), through the Northern Territory and Queensland to southern New South Wales (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

In Australian waters, the Common Blacktip Shark is comprised of three genetically discrete stocks: Western Australia/Northern Territory stock, Gulf of Carpentaria Stock and a Gulf of Carpentaria/Queensland/New South Wales stock (Grubert et al. 2013). All Australian stocks of Common Blacktip Shark are currently considered stable, although the northern Australian stock was historically overexploited (Bradshaw et al. 2013, Grubert et al. 2013). More details on the status of this species can be found in the State of Australian Fish Stocks documentation (link below).

Fisheries

Common Blacktip Sharks are taken in a range of net- and line-based commercial and recreational fisheries in states across northern Australia due to its affinity with nearshore, coastal habitats (Lynch et al. 2010, Harry et al. 2012, Grubert et al. 2013, Broadhurst et al. 2014). It may also be susceptible to habitat degradation because it uses nearshore environments as nursery grounds.

Habitat and biology

Common Blacktip Sharks are found in nearshore waters off beaches, river mouths and bays throughout its Australian distribution. Adults and pups occupy different habitat niches, which likely lowers competition and rates of predatory mortality. Maximum recorded size is 265 cm total length (TL) (Harry et al. 2012), while maximum age is not known.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 265 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Both sexes: 5-7 years, 180 cm TL

Link to State of Australian Fish Stocks Page: <http://www.fish.gov.au>

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/3851/0>

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

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