

Australian Blacktip Shark, *Carcharhinus tilstoni*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Johnson, G.J., Pillans, R.D. & Stevens, J.D.		
Report Card Remarks	Tropical species that is productive and has recovered from historical declines. This species has been assessed in the Status of Australian Fish Stocks http://www.fish.gov.au/		

Summary

The Australian Blacktip Shark is a medium sized whaler that is endemic to tropical Australian waters. It is a productive species, making it more resilient to fishing pressure than many other shark species. It is targeted by fisheries throughout its distribution



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apart from Western Australia. It has recovered from historical declines and current fishing levels are considered sustainable. Therefore, the Australian Blacktip Shark is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN), and assessed in the Status of Australian Fish Stocks Reports as Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Australian Blacktip Shark is endemic to tropical north Australian waters. It is found from Thevenard Island (Western Australia), across the Northern Territory and to Rockhampton (Queensland) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

Australian Blacktip Sharks have recovered from historical declines due to overfishing from Taiwanese gillnet fisheries to 90% of unfished biomass (Grubert et al. 2013). Tag recapture data show that the current population is stable and that harvest levels are sustainable (Bradshaw et al. 2013). Two biological stocks exist, a western stock found in the Northern Territory and Western Australia, and an eastern stock, found throughout the Gulf of Carpentaria, Queensland and New South Wales (Ovendon et al. 2007). Hybridisation with the similar Blacktip Shark (*C. limbatus*) has been detected throughout their sympatric range (Morgan et al. 2011). Recent stock assessments indicate that both stocks are Sustainable (see SAFS website at link below)

Fisheries

The Australian Blacktip Sharks is targeted and taken as bycatch in Northern Territory, Queensland and New South Wales inshore gillnet and line fisheries. After historical declines, stock reduction analysis has shown a 90% recovery of its unfished biomass (Grubert et al. 2013) due to effective management regulations and reduced effort. The effect of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is not known but it is suspected to have declined from high levels in the 2000's (Field et al. 2009, Marshall 2011). The Australian Blacktip Shark is difficult to morphologically distinguish from the similar Blacktip Shark, making it hard to record species specific harvest data. Therefore, these two species are recorded as a species complex (Harry et al. 2012).

Habitat and biology

The Australian Blacktip Shark is found in coastal and continental shelf waters (Last and Stevens 2009). Maximum age for males is 13 years and 15 years for females, with the species growing to at least 200 cm total length (TL)

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: males 13 years, females 15 years Max size: 200 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Both sexes: 3-4 years Males: 110 cm TL Females: 115 cm TL

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

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41739/10551498>

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

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