

## Lemon Shark, *Negaprion acutidens*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Vulnerable
Assessors	Gutteridge, A.N. & Pillans, R.D.		
Report Card Remarks	In Australia it is taken as minor bycatch in managed fisheries		

### Summary

The Lemon Shark is a large bodied species distributed throughout tropical and subtropical Indo-West and central Pacific waters. In South East Asia it is taken as bycatch in largely unmanaged intensive net and trawl fisheries throughout much of its distribution. Declines in Lemon



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Shark abundance in numerous countries have been observed. It is sensitive to localised depletion due to its potentially small habitat range, occupancy of shallow inshore areas and tendency to occur within estuaries and mangrove habitats that are subject to habitat degradation. Globally, declines of greater than 30% over three generations are suspected. Therefore, it is assessed as globally Vulnerable (IUCN). Within Australian waters, it is occasionally taken in inshore gillnet fisheries. These fisheries are generally well managed and there is no evidence for declines in the population. Therefore, Lemon Sharks are assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and in Australia, Sustainable (SAFS).

### Distribution

The Lemon Shark is distributed from South Africa to Australia and the western and central Pacific Ocean (Compagno 1998). Within Australia, the species is known from the Abrolhos Islands (Western Australia) across the Northern Territory and to Moreton Bay (Queensland) (Last and Stevens 2009).

### Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for Lemon Sharks. Given its limited capture in generally well managed fisheries it has been assessed as Least Concern and Sustainable in Australian waters.

### Fisheries

In Australia, it was taken as a byproduct of northern gillnet fisheries, however some of these fisheries are now inactive and it currently only constitutes a minor component of bycatch in commercial fisheries which are managed (McAuley 2006, Harry et al. 2011, Fletcher and Santoro 2013). There are also likely large areas of unfished habitat, such as within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Throughout much of the remainder of its range outside of Australian waters it is targeted and taken as bycatch in fisheries. High fishing pressure has led to significant declines in Lemon Shark abundance

throughout Southeast Asia (Blaber et al. 2009, Dulvy et al. 2014). It is highly susceptible to localised depletion due to its shallow water distribution (Stevens 1984, Speed et al. 2011, Gutteridge 2012). Considering its inshore distribution, it is also likely threatened by habitat degradation of mangroves, estuaries and coral reefs.

### Habitat and ecology

The Lemon Shark occurs in inshore and offshore waters to depths of 90 m. The species associates with coral reefs and lagoons as well as mangrove flats and embayments (Compagno 1998, Gutteridge 2012, Filmalter et al. 2013, Brunnschweiler et al. 2014). Juveniles reside in shallow, inshore reef habitats (Speed et al. 2011). Maximum size is at least 300 cm total length (TL) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 300 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Both sexes: ~220 cm TL

**Link to IUCN Page:** <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/41836/0>

**Link to page at Shark References:** <http://shark-references.com/species/view/Negaprion-acutidens>

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