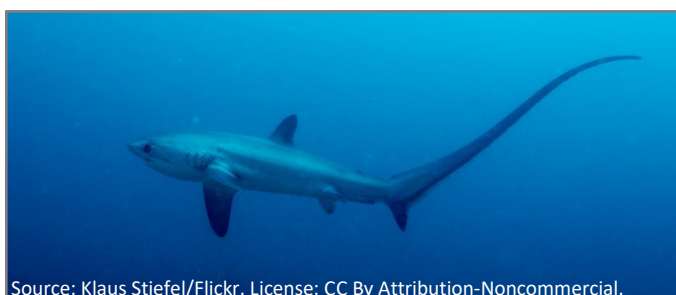


Pelagic Thresher, *Alopias pelagicus*

Report Card assessment	Depleted		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endangered	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Endangered
Global Assessors	Rigby, C.L., Barreto, R., Carlson, J., Fernando, D., Fordham, S., Francis, M.P., Herman, K., Jabado, R.W., Liu, K.M., Marshall, A., Pacoureau, N., Romanov, E., Sherley, R.B. & Winker, H.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Limited Australian catch, but regional populations are depleted. Listed on CITES Appendix II, CMS Appendix II.		

Summary

The Pelagic Thresher is a large bodied, pelagic shark species distributed throughout the Indo-Pacific Ocean. The species is highly susceptible to fishing pressure due to its life history characteristics. Fishing pressure from longline and gillnet fisheries is high because it occurs in pelagic waters.



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Globally, fishing pressure has caused depletion of Pelagic Thresher. In Australia, the species is caught in limited numbers as fishing pressure is low and strictly managed. Most individuals encountered are returned to the sea alive. However, wide movements by this species means that Australia is only part of a wider regional stock. This regional stock has been depleted by high levels of pelagic longline fishing throughout its range. Therefore, the Pelagic Thresher is assessed as globally Endangered (IUCN) and in Australia as Endangered (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Depleted (SAFS). The levels of connectivity within the region could affect the species stability in Australia; once connectivity is better understood the population status needs to be reassessed. The species is listed on CITES Appendix II and CMS Appendix II (Australian reservation).

Distribution

The Pelagic Thresher is distributed throughout the Indian and Pacific oceans. Globally, it is found from South Africa to the Red Sea, across the Indian Ocean to Australia and throughout the Pacific to Central America (Compagno 2001). It is found in open ocean waters throughout northern Australia, from North West Cape in Western Australia, throughout Northern Territory and Queensland to northern New South Wales (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

There is little population data for the Pelagic Thresher. There are two subpopulations known within the Pacific Ocean, an east Pacific and a west Pacific population (Cardenosa et al. 2014). Little other data is available on stock structure. Catch rate data from the Pacific (Rice et al. 2015) and Indian Ocean

(Romanov et al. 2006) were analysed by Rigby et al. (2019) and showed declines of >70% over a 55 year period (3 generation lengths). Declines in abundance have also been recorded in the Western Central Pacific Ocean (37%) (Lawson 2011), and in Taiwanese waters where overfishing is occurring (Liu et al. 2006).

Fisheries

In Australian waters, the Pelagic Thresher is caught mainly by the Eastern and Western Tuna and Billfish Fisheries using pelagic longlines. However, shark interactions are carefully managed and most are returned alive when they are caught. Outside of Australian waters is caught by extensive pelagic longline fishing in both the Indian and Pacific oceans. It is highly susceptible to fishing pressure because of its life history characteristics. Globally fishing pressure is high throughout much of its range due to widespread pelagic longline fisheries. Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing also takes large numbers of Pelagic Threshers outside of Australian waters, which was estimated to constitute 16.7% of shark bycatch in tuna longline fisheries off India (Varghese et al. 2014).

Habitat and biology

The Pelagic Thresher is a highly migratory epipelagic shark species that occurs to depths of at least 150 m (Compagno 2001). Maximum size is estimated at 390 cm total length (TL). Maximum age is not known.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: ~390 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 250 cm TL Females: 265 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 012003

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/161597/68607857>

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

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