Common Thresher, *Alopias vulpinus*

Report Card assessment	**Sustainable**		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Near Threatened	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Vulnerable
Global Assessors	Rigby, C.L., Barreto, R., Fernando, D., Carlson, J., 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	Australian fishing pressure is low; needs improved understanding of regional connectivity. Listed on CITES Appendix II, CMS Appendix II.		

Summary

The Common Thresher is a large bodied species that is globally distributed throughout tropical and temperate pelagic waters. It has a notable tolerance for cold waters in contrast to other Thresher Shark species. Life history characteristics make it highly susceptible to fishing pressure. Due to its pelagic distribution, fishing pressure is high throughout much of its range. Globally, significant declines have been recorded throughout much of its distribution. In Australia, the species is occasionally taken in tuna longline fisheries and usually returned to the sea alive. Its more coastal habitats compared to other Thresher Shark species mean that the Australian stock is less likely to be effected by fishing outside of the Australian EEZ. Therefore, the Common Thresher is assessed as globally Vulnerable (IUCN) and in Australia as Near Threatened (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (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).

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Distribution

The Common Thresher is circumglobal throughout tropical and temperate pelagic waters (Compagno 2001). It is more common in temperate waters. It occurs in pelagic waters surrounding Australia and is common in southern waters from Brisbane (Queensland) to North West Shelf in Western Australia (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

The Common Thresher is not as migratory as other Thresher species. Numerous isolated subpopulations likely exist globally with different growth and maturity parameters recorded between regions (Gubanov 1972, Moreno et al. 1989, Bedford 1992). The Atlantic and Pacific Oceans contain

genetically discrete populations of Common Thresher (Trejo 2004). Globally the Common Thresher is undergoing declines due to high levels of fishing pressure throughout much of its distribution (Rigby et al. 2019). However, given its coastal habitats and limited movements compared to other Thresher species in Australian waters the population is likely to have been minimally affected (Kyne et al. 2021).

Fisheries

In Australian waters, the Common 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. It is also occasionally taken in gillnet fisheries in southern Australia. 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.

Habitat and biology

The Common Thresher is circumglobal with a preference for temperate pelagic waters (Compagno 1984). It occurs from the surface to depths of at least a depth of 366 m (Compagno 1984). Maximum size ranges vary with sex and location from 415–570 cm total length (TL) (Gubanov 1972, Cailliet et al. 1983, Compagno 1984, Moreno et al. 1989). Maximum recorded age is 24 years and it is estimated to reach up to 50 years (Cailliet et al. 1983).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: observed 24 years, estimated 50 years Max size: 415–570 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 340 cm TL Females: 350 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 012001
Link to IUCN Page: https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/39339/212641186
Link to page at Shark References: http://shark-references.com/species/view/Alopias-vulpinus

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