

## Western Shovelnose Ray, *Aptychotrema vincentiana*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern (Endemic to Australia)	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Global Assessors	Morgan, D.L. & McAuley, R.B.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T., Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan) & Rigby, C.L.		
Report Card Remarks	Common, caught in a range of fisheries and mostly released with suspected high post-release survival and significant refuge areas.		

### Summary

The Western Shovelnose Ray is a medium-sized common ray endemic to subtropical and temperate continental shelf waters of western and southern Australia. It is caught incidentally in trawl, gillnet, longline, and beach seine fisheries and is mostly released with suspected high post-release survival. It is taken in the Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector of Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery and is considered at low risk from the fishery. It is also taken in South

Australian prawn fisheries and is considered at low risk from the Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery and at medium risk from the Spencer Gulf Prawn Fishery, likely due to its susceptibility to capture. It is also an incidental catch of Western Australian fisheries, where it is commonly taken by trawl, though the fisheries effort is low and the species would receive considerable refuge as most of the Western Australian area within the 200 m isobath is protected from trawling. Its vulnerability was assessed as low for fishing and climate change. Therefore, the Southern Fiddler Ray is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).



### Distribution

The Western Shovelnose Ray is endemic to subtropical and temperate waters of western and southern Australia (Last et al. 2016). It occurs in a wide range from Bass Strait to Port Hedland (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009).

### Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species. However, it is common in inshore habitats (Last et al. 2016).

### Fisheries

The Western Shovelnose Ray is incidentally caught in trawl, gillnet, longline, and beach seine fisheries. It is caught in the Great Australian Bight Trawl (GABT) Sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery with an estimated average annual catch of 7 t between 2000–2006 which was nearly all released with post-release survival suspected to be high; it is assessed as at low risk from the GABT (Walker and Gason 2007, Jones et al. 2010, PIRSA 2014, Sporcic et al. 2021). In South Australia, the species is caught in the Spencer Gulf (SG) and Gulf St Vincent Prawn (GVP) Trawl fisheries and is assessed as at medium risk from the SG likely due to its susceptibility to capture, and at negligible risk from the GVP (PIRSA 2014, 2016). In Western Australia, it is commonly caught in inshore trawl fisheries on the west coast, and to a lesser extent in gillnet and longline fisheries on the southwestern and southern coasts and in recent years appears to be released (Jones et al. 2010, Braccini and Murua 2022). The trawl fisheries are relatively low effort and managed with limited entry, seasonal closures, and mandatory bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) (Gaughan and Santoro 2021). Within the 200 m isobath in WA, more than 90% of the area may never have been trawled due to a combination of spatial trawl closures and marine parks, providing significant refuge for the species (Gaughan and Santoro 2021). The species vulnerability was assessed as low for both fishing and climate change (Walker et al. 2021).

### Habitat and biology

The Western Shovelnose Ray is demersal on the continental shelf at depths of 0-125 m and inhabits sandy beaches and seagrass beds (Last et al. 2016). Maximum size is at least 100 cm total length (TL) with males mature at 64 cm TL and females at 80 cm TL (Jones et al. 2010). Litter size is 14–16 pups (Morgan and McAuley 2015).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 100 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 64 cm TL Females: 80 cm TL

**CAAB Code:** 37 027001

**Link to IUCN Page:** <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/44186/68609294>

**Link to page at Shark References:** <https://shark-references.com/species/view/Aptychotrema-vincentiana>

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