

## McCain's Skate, *Bathyraja maccaini*

Report Card assessment	Undefined Stock		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Data Deficient	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Global Assessors	Dulvy, N.K., Bineesh, K.K., Cheok, J., Dharmadi, Pacoureau, N., Sherman, C.S. & VanderWright, J.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T., Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan) & Rigby, C.L.		
Report Card Remarks	Poorly-known; information needed on Australian range and levels of interactions with Australian fisheries.		

### Summary

McCain's Skate is a poorly-known medium-sized deepwater ray that occurs in temperate waters of Kerguelen Islands (French Territory) and Antarctica. Its range is not well understood and it may occur more widely and it has been reported from the Australian Territory of the Heard and McDonald Islands. It is an infrequent incidental catch of demersal longline fisheries in the Ross Sea. It is not likely to interact frequently with the fisheries managed under the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), as fishing is not permitted

above 500 m, if it does not occur any deeper than the current known depth range of the species of 500 m. Previous HIMI risk assessments have highlighted the range uncertainty of the species and misidentification issues. Given the uncertainty about its range, it is not possible to ascertain the level of interactions with Australian fisheries or determine the impacts of fishing in Australian waters. Therefore, McCain's Skate is assessed globally as Least Concern (IUCN) and in Australia as Data Deficient (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Undefined Stock (SAFS).



### Distribution

McCain's Skate has a patchy range in temperate waters of the Kerguelen Islands (French Territory) in the southern Indian Ocean and off Antarctica (Last et al. 2016, Dulvy et al. 2020). Its range is not well understood and it may occur more widely, and it has been reported from the Heard and McDonald Islands (Australian Territory) (Kyne et al. 2021, J. Cleland pers. comm. 2023).

### Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species.

### Fisheries

McCain's Skate is not likely to interact frequently with fisheries managed under the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) as fishing is not permitted above

depths of 500 m which is currently the known maximum depth of this species. It is reported infrequently as incidental catch in demersal longline fisheries that target Patagonian Toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*) in the Ross Sea (Dulvy et al. 2020). Previously it has also been reported as incidental catch in demersal trawl fisheries that target icefish (*Chaunichthys* spp.) and Antarctic cod (*Notothenus* spp) (Dulvy et al. 2020). It appears to occur in the Australian Territory of the Heard and McDonald Islands although previous HIMI risk assessments highlight the range uncertainty and taxonomic misidentification of this species and it has not been reported from recent risk assessments (Bulman et al. 2007, Daley et al. 2007, Bulman et al. 2018, Sporcic et al. 2018, Dell et al. 2019). A current focus on skate bycatch identification in the HIMI fisheries may help resolve range and taxonomic issues and clarify if there are incidental catches in Australian fisheries (Kyne et al. 2021).

### Habitat and biology

McCain's Skate is demersal on the continental and insular shelf and upper slope at depths of 91–500 m (Last et al. 2016, Dulvy et al. 2020). Maximum size is at least 120 cm total length (TL) and males mature at approximately 94 cm TL (Last et al. 2016). Little else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 120 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: ~94 cm TL Females: unknown

**CAAB Code:** 37 031751

**Link to IUCN Page:** <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/161529/124500946>

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

#### References

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