

Bronze Whaler, *Carcharhinus brachyurus*

Report Card assessment	Undefined Stock		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Vulnerable
Global Assessors	Huveneers, C., Rigby, C.L., Dicken, M., Pacoureaux, N. & Derrick, D.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan) and Rogers, P., Braccini, M., Peddemors, V., Roelofs, A. & Woodhams, J. (SAFS)		
Report Card Remarks	Stable catches and size structure in Australia.		

Summary

The Bronze Whaler is a large coastal species that is patchily distributed throughout temperate and tropical waters of the globe. Although it is a cosmopolitan species, regional populations appear to be discrete. It is exploited throughout its range by fisheries; however, landings are often grouped with other *Carcharhinus* species. The Bronze Whaler utilises coastal nursery habitats and is sensitive to coastal development and habitat degradation. Stable catches and size structure have been



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recorded in South Africa, New Zealand and Australia which all contain discrete populations. Therefore, the Bronze Whaler is assessed as globally Vulnerable (IUCN) and in Australia as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Undefined (Rogers et al. 2021). From November 2023, the species will be listed on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

Distribution

The Bronze Whaler has a patchy, cosmopolitan distribution throughout warm temperate areas globally. Within Australia, it is found throughout southern Australia, from Geraldton (Western Australia), through South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania (Bass Strait) to Coffs Harbour (New South Wales) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

There is genetic evidence that populations in different parts of the globe are distinct stocks, but that the Australian and New Zealand individuals form a single stock (Benavides et al. 2011). More recent

research using whole genome single-nucleotide polymorphisms suggests that Western Australia may have a separate stock from eastern Australian and New Zealand, but confirmation requires further work (Junge et al. 2019). Tagging and telemetry results indicate regular movements between Western Australia and eastern Australia (Rogers et al. 2021), suggesting a single Australian stock. Rogers et al. (2021) provided a summary of the information available to inform on the status of Bronze Whaler in Australian waters. The Australia population is not heavily targeted by commercial fisheries.. With little data to inform on the status of the stock in southern Australia, it is assessed as Undefined using SAFS criteria. New Zealand and South African populations are considered sustainable. Little is known on the population status of Bronze Whalers in its remaining distribution. In the Southwest Atlantic, there are indications of decline.

Fisheries

In southern Australia, Bronze Whalers are taken by commercial demersal gillnet and longline fisheries with annual catches relatively stable (McAuley and Simpfendorfer 2003, Walker and Gason 2007). This includes the Western Australian Temperate Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery, South Australian Marine Scalefish Fishery, Commonwealth Gillnet and Longline sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery, and small amounts in other fisheries. It is caught in recreational and charter fishing in small numbers. Coastal development has the potential to degrade coastal nursery habitats however, the severity of this is unknown. Globally, it is fished throughout its distribution including the Mediterranean (Fergusson and Compagno 1995), South Africa (Compagno et al. 1989), Brazil (Amorim et al. 1998), Uruguay (Marín et al. 1998), Argentina (Chiaromonte 1998a, b), Mexico (Appelgate et al. 1993), New Zealand (Francis 1998), and China (Parry-Jones 1996).

Habitat and biology

The Bronze Whaler is found in inshore and continental shelf habitats, in warm temperate and some tropical areas. The species occurs to depths of 100 m (Cliff and Dudley 1992, Chiaromonte 1998a, Last and Stevens 2009). It is often found in shallow waters and juveniles are known to inhabit shallow, coastal waters (Cappo 1992, Rogers et al. 2013). Maximum size recorded is 350 cm total length (TL) (Last and Stevens 2009). The oldest observed individual is 31 years, and growth rates appear to be moderate for a large-sized species (Drew et al. 2017). Litter size is 14–16 (Drew et al. 2017).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: oldest observed 31 years Max size: 350 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 16–17 years, 235 cm TL Females: 16–20 years, 245 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 018902

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41741/2954522>

Status of Australian Fish Stocks Page: <https://fish.gov.au/report/303-Bronze-Whaler-2020>

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

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