

## Chilean Devilray, *Mobula tarapacana*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Near Threatened	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Endangered
Global Assessors	Marshall, A., Barreto, R., Bigman, J.S., Carlson, J., Fernando, D., Fordham, S., Francis, M.P., Herman, K., Jabado, R.W., Liu, K.M., Pardo, S.A., Rigby, C.L., Romanov, E. & Walls, R.H.L.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T., Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan) & Rigby, C.L.		
Report Card Remarks	Significant declines in population globally, regionally connected and minimal threats in Australia. Listed on CITES Appendix II, CMS Appendices I & II.		

### Summary

The Chilean Devilray is a large ray that is highly-mobile and globally distributed in tropical to temperate pelagic waters. Due to its very low biological productivity, it is highly susceptible to exploitation. In Australia, it only known from limited records and has not been reported from any fisheries, though it does occur in areas where there is fisheries activity. Globally, significant population declines have occurred in much of its distribution due its very low biological productivity, current and ongoing high levels of industrial and artisanal fishing pressure,

and demand for its meat and high-value gill plates. These declines include rapid localised depletions in Australian regional waters, that is, Indonesia and Philippines. As the species is migratory and individuals in Australia are connected at least regionally to the global population, the Australian status is influenced by the global status. However, fisheries interactions in Australia are likely very minimal. Therefore, the Chilean Devilray is assessed as Endangered globally (IUCN) and in Australia as Near Threatened (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS). The species is listed on CITES Appendix II and CMS Appendices I & II.



### Distribution

The Chilean Devilray is circumglobal in tropical to temperate waters (Lawson et al. 2017). In Australia, it has a relatively restricted known range, occurring in the south of New South Wales and on the southeast coast of Tasmania, although this is based on limited records and it may occur more widely (Kyne et al. 2021).

### Stock structure and status

The Chilean Devilray is highly-mobile and can migrate significant distances (Marshall et al. 2019). The global population has declined significantly due to current and ongoing high levels of exploitation and demand for its meat and high-value gill plates throughout much of its distribution, including regionally within Southeast Asia where rapid localised depletions have occurred (Marshall et al. 2019). This significant decline is also likely to have impacted the population both occurring and visiting Australian waters, however, in Australia the threats are minimal (Kyne et al. 2021).

### Fisheries

The Chilean Devilray is targeted and caught incidentally in industrial and artisanal coastal and pelagic fisheries, including purse seines and gillnets, and is retained for its highly valued gill plates and for its meat (except in Australia) (Marshall et al. 2019). In Australia, a single incidental catch has been reported in the Commonwealth Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery (Bayly 2017). It has not been reported from any other Australian fisheries within its known range. It likely does not frequently interact with fisheries due to its pelagic habitat and behaviour that limits its catchability in Australian fisheries (Kyne et al. 2021). The species would receive refuge in the network of South-east marine parks (Parks Australia 2023).

### Habitat and biology

The Chilean Devilray is pelagic from the surface to a depth of 1,896 m, mainly in oceanic waters (Weigmann 2016, Marshall et al. 2019). It reaches a maximum size of 370 cm disc width (DW) and males mature at 198–252 cm DW and females at 270–280 cm DW (Last et al. 2016, Marshall et al. 2019). Litter size of one large pup (120–130 cm DW) born possibly every 1–3 years (Stevens et al. 2018, Marshall et al. 2019).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 370 cm DW
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 198–252 cm DW Females: 270–280 cm DW

**CAAB Code:** 37 041006

**Link to IUCN Page:** <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/60199/124451161>

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

### References

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