

## Pink Whipray, *Pateobatis fai*

<b>Report Card assessment</b>	<b>Sustainable</b>		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Vulnerable
Global Assessors	Manjaji Matsumoto, B.M., White, W.T., Fahmi & Gutteridge, A.N.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T., Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan) & Rigby, C.L.		
Report Card Remarks	Australian fishing pressure low, common, BRDs significantly reducing catch, marine parks provide refuge.		

### Summary

The Pink Whipray is a medium-sized continental shelf ray distributed across tropical and subtropical waters of northern Australia and across the Indo-Pacific. It is caught incidentally and retained for its meat in at least Southeast Asia where significant population declines have occurred due to mostly unregulated fishing pressure. In Australia, it is caught incidentally in mostly trawl fisheries and likely released as most of these prohibit elasmobranch retention; post-release mortality is unknown. Additionally, many of the trawl fisheries mandate the use of bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs) which have been shown to reduce the catch of whiprays by >95%. Many parts of the species' range across northern Australia have low fishing effort that is managed and it receives significant refuge in the extensive network of marine parks. The Pink Whipray is assessed as globally Vulnerable (IUCN) and in Australia, as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).



### Distribution

The Pink Whipray occurs in tropical and subtropical waters of northern Australia and across the Indo-Pacific from Central Pacific islands to South Africa, including to Japan (Last et al. 2016). In Australia, it has a wide range from Stradbroke Island (Queensland) to Shark Bay (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009, Last et al. 2016).

### Stock structure and status

The population is inferred to have declined significantly across Southeast Asia due to high levels of mostly unregulated exploitation, whereas in Australia, it is considered common, fishing pressure is limited and managed, and the population is suspected to be stable (Manjaji Matsumoto et al. 2016, Kyne et al. 2021).

## Fisheries

The Pink Whipray is taken incidentally across the Indo-Pacific in a variety of fishing gears and is retained for its meat and highly-valued skin (except in Australia) (Manjaji Matsumoto et al. 2016). In Australia, it is caught in the Commonwealth Northern Prawn Fishery (NPF) and in the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery (ECTF), and possibly the Gulf of Carpentaria (GoC) Developmental Fishery and Inshore Fishery (Jacobsen et al. 2019a, b). It is also possibly caught in the Northern Territory Demersal Fishery (DF) and Western Australian prawn fisheries and Pilbara Fish Trawl Fishery. Bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) have been mandated in most of these fisheries since the early-mid 2000s and reduce the catch of the whiprays by >95%, though they may not be as effective at excluding juveniles (Griffiths et al. 2006, Gaughan and Santoro 2021). If it is caught, it would be released as elasmobranch retention is now prohibited, except in the Queensland GoC Inshore Fishery fisheries, although post-release mortality is unknown. The Pink Whipray was considered at low risk of overfishing in the NPF due to estimated fishing mortality being below levels leading to population reduction (Zhou and Griffiths 2008). Catches in Western Australia fisheries are likely minimal as effort is limited and negligible bycatch has been reported in recent years (Gaughan and Santoro 2021). The species interactions with trawl fisheries may be relatively less than those of other whiprays, due to its preference for coral reef habitats (Kyne et al. 2021). Across northern Australia, many parts of the species' range have low fishing effort and the species would receive refuge in the extensive network of marine parks (Parks Australia 2023).

## Habitat and biology

The Pink Whipray is demersal on the continental shelf at depths of 0–200 m but mostly at depths less than 70 m and often in coral reef and intertidal habitats (Last and Stevens 2009, Manjaji Matsumoto et al. 2016, Weigmann 2016). Maximum size is 146 cm disc width (DW), exceeding 308 cm total length (TL) and males mature at 108–122 cm DW (Last et al. 2016, Manjaji Matsumoto et al. 2016). Little else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 146 cm DW
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 108–122 cm DW Females: unknown

**CAAB Code:** 37 035024

**Link to IUCN Page:** <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/161615/104219816>

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

## References

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