

Giant Stingaree, *Plesiobatis daviesi*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Global Assessors	White, W.T., Kyne, P.M. & Holtzhausen, H		
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 and significant refuge across its range.		

Summary

The Giant Stingaree is a large deepwater demersal ray that occurs in tropical and subtropical waters of Australia and patchily across the Indo-Pacific. It is occasionally incidentally caught in deepwater trawl and line fisheries and retained for its meat in at least Indonesia. In Australia, it may be caught in Commonwealth fisheries off Queensland (Line Sector of the Coral Sea Fishery) and Western Australia (Northwest Slope Trawl Fishery and the Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery), however these all have limited effort with only 1–6 active vessels. It would be released as it has no commercial value in Australia and the Coral Sea Fishery has handling practices to maximise post-release survival. The species would also receive significant refuge in the Commonwealth marine parks across its range. Therefore, the Giant Stingaree is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) globally and in Australia (Kyne et al. 2021), and Sustainable (SAFS) in Australia.



Distribution

The Giant Stingaree occurs in tropical and subtropical waters off Australia and patchily in the Indo-Pacific from Hawaii to South Africa (Last et al. 2016). In Australia, it has a disjunct east and west coast range: on the east coast, it occurs from Townsville (Queensland) to Woolli (New South Wales) and on the west coast from Rowley Shoals to Shark Bay (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species. Once considered possibly rare, it is now known to be quite common across the Indo-Pacific (Ebert et al. 2013, Ebert et al. 2021).

Fisheries

The Giant Stingaree is occasionally caught incidentally by deepwater trawl and line fisheries and known to be retained for its meat in at least Indonesia (White et al. 2006, White et al. 2015). In Australia, it may be caught in the Line Sector of the Commonwealth managed Coral Sea Fishery (CSF), though the sector has limited effort with only 1–2 vessels active in recent years. Trawling is no longer permitted in the CSF and trawl effort was historically low (Patterson et al. 2022). The species is likely released if caught as it has no commercial value and the CSF has implemented chondrichthyan handling practices to maximise post-release survival (AFMA 2010). The Giant Stingaree may interact with Queensland managed fisheries although effort within its depth range is limited (DEEDI 2010, DAF 2019). It may be incidentally caught in the Northwest Slope Trawl Fishery and the Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery that operate at 200–700 m depth. However, both fisheries have limited effort with only 1–6 active vessels and chondrichthyans have been assessed as at low risk in these fisheries (Zhou et al. 2009). The Giant Stingaree would also receive significant refuge in the Commonwealth Coral Sea Marine Park and North-west Marine Parks Network which include zoning and gear restrictions (Parks Australia 2023).

Habitat and biology

The Giant Stingaree is demersal on soft substrates of the upper continental and insular slope mainly at depths of 275–680 m (Last et al. 2016). There is a single Mozambique record from 44 m and a single record of 901 m from Japan (Weigmann 2016). Maximum size is 270 cm total length (TL). Males mature at approximately 130–172 cm TL and females at approximately 189–200 cm TL and (Last et al. 2016).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 270 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: ~130–172 cm TL Females: ~189–200 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 038023

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/60111/68640813>

Link to page at Shark References: <https://shark-references.com/species/view/Plesiobatis-daviesi>

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