

Goldeneye Shovelnose Ray, *Rhinobatos sainsburyi*

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| Report Card assessment | Sustainable | | |
| IUCN Red List Australian Assessment | Least Concern | IUCN Red List Global Assessment | Least Concern |
| Global Assessors | McAuley, R.B. & Kyne, P.M. | | |
| Australian Assessors | Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T., Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan) & Rigby, C.L. | | |
| Report Card Remarks | Fishing pressure low and significant spatial refuge across its range. Listed on CITES Appendix II. | | |

Summary

The Goldeneye Shovelnose Ray is a small and common continental shelf species in tropical waters of southern New Guinea and northwest Australia. It is caught incidentally in mostly trawl fisheries and may be retained in Indonesia for its fins and meat. In Australia, it is caught in the Northern Prawn Fishery, Northern Territory Demersal and Timor Reef Fisheries, and the Pilbara Fish Trawl Fishery. It is released, as elasmobranchs are prohibited from retention in most fisheries across its range, although post-release mortality is unknown. Bycatch reduction devices are mandatory in most of the fisheries in which it is caught, though their effectiveness at excluding small rays such as this species is limited. However, the trawl fisheries effort across its range is limited and the species has significant refuge through a combination of extensive trawl closures and marine parks. Therefore, the Goldeneye Shovelnose Ray is assessed as globally and in Australia as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and in Australia, Sustainable (SAFS). The species is listed on CITES Appendix II.



Distribution

The Goldeneye Shovelnose Ray occurs in tropical waters of northwest Australia and southern New Guinea, Indonesia (Last et al. 2016). In Australia, it has a wide range from Maningrida (Northern Territory) to the Monte Bello Islands (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure or trend for the species. However, it is reportedly common throughout its range (Last and Stevens 2009, McAuley and Kyne 2015).

Fisheries

The Goldeneye Shovelnose Ray is caught incidentally by trawl, and to a lesser extent by line, fisheries and may be retained in Indonesia for its fins and meat (White et al. 2006). In Australia, it may be taken in the Commonwealth Northern Prawn Fishery (NPF), the Northern Territory Demersal Fishery (DF) and Timor Reef Fishery, and the Western Australian (WA) Pilbara Fish Trawl Fishery (DoF 2010, Kyne et al. 2021). It likely occurs too deep to be caught in the WA small prawn trawl fisheries (Gaughan and Santoro 2021). Bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) have been mandated in most of these fisheries since the early-mid 2000s and reduce the catch of the large rays by >94%, though they may not be as effective at excluding smaller individuals and species such as the Goldeneye Shovelnose Ray (Brewer et al. 2006, NTG 2019, Gaughan and Santoro 2021). If it is caught, it would be released as elasmobranch retention is now prohibited, although post-release mortality is unknown. The species would receive considerable refuge in state and territory waters; more than 90% of the area within the 200 m isobath of Western Australian northern waters may never have been trawled due to a combination of spatial trawl closures and marine parks, considerable areas of Northern Territory are closed to trawling and across its range there is low fishing effort (Gaughan and Santoro 2021, Kyne et al. 2021).

Habitat and biology

The Goldeneye Shovelnose Ray is demersal on the continental shelf at depths of 70–200 m (Last et al. 2016). Maximum size is at least 60 cm total length (TL) and males mature at 40–45 cm TL (Last et al. 2016). Little else is known of its biology.

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| Longevity and maximum size | Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 60 cm TL |
| Age and/or size at maturity (50%) | Males: 40–45 cm TL Females: unknown |

CAAB Code: 37 027003

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/42721/68641936>

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

References

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