

## Grey Sharpnose Shark, *Rhizoprionodon oligolinx*

Report Card assessment	Negligible		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Data Deficient	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Near Threatened
Assessors	Rigby, C.L., Bin Ali, A., Derrick, D., Fahmi, Fernando, D., Haque, A.B. & Maung, A.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	In Australia, rarely recorded and likely minimal catch.		

### Summary

The Grey Sharpnose Shark is a small, abundant, inshore shark found from southern Papua New Guinea to the Arabian Gulf. In Australian waters, it is recorded from the Gulf of



Carpentaria, but its status in this area is unclear and it may be a vagrant. Outside of Australian waters it is a very common species taken in inshore gillnet and trawl fisheries. Its capture in Australian fisheries is likely to be extremely rare, although it is easily confused with the Australian Sharpnose Shark (*Rhizoprionodon taylori*). The Grey Sharpnose Shark is one of the most productive sharks in the world. This makes the Grey Sharpnose Shark highly resilient to fishing pressure. Given the uncertainty about its occurrence in Australian waters, and likely minimal catch in fisheries, the species is assessed as Data Deficient (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Negligible (SAFS). 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 Grey Sharpnose Shark is found from southern Papua New Guinea to the Arabian Gulf and is very common across south Asia. In Australia, it has been recorded very rarely from the Gulf of Carpentaria (Ebert et al. 2021).

### Stock structure and status

There are no data available on population size due to its rare occurrence in Australian waters.

### Fisheries

The Grey Sharpnose Shark is taken in gillnet and trawl fisheries throughout its range. Its occurrence in Australian fisheries is uncertain, given its rarity. If it does occur in the Gulf of Carpentaria, then it may

be taken in the Northern Prawn Fishery and the Queensland Gulf of Carpentaria Inshore Finfish Fishery.

### Habitat and biology

The Grey Sharpnose Shark is found in shallow inshore waters to depths of at least 36 m. It most often uses soft-bottom habitats (sand or mud substrate). Maximum size is recorded as 88 cm total length (TL). The species likely has a maximum age of approximately 8 years (Ebert et al. 2021).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: 8 years Max size: 88 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 29–38 cm TL Females: 32–41 cm TL

**CAAB Code:** 37 018037

**Link to IUCN Page:** <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41851/173435874>

**Link to page at Shark References:** <http://shark-references.com/species/view/Rhizoprionodon-taylori>

### References

Ebert, D.A., Dando, M., and Fowler, S. 2021. *Sharks of the World. A Complete Guide*. Princeton University Press, Princeton.  
Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. and Simpfendorfer, C.A. 2021. *The Action Plan for Australian Sharks and Rays 2021*. National Environmental Science Program, Marine Biodiversity Hub, Hobart.