

Yellow Shovelnose Stingaree, *Trygonoptera galba*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern (Endemic to Australia)	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Global Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Last, P.R. & Marshall, L.J.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T., Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan) & Rigby, C.L.		
Report Card Remarks	Low fishing pressure across its range and considerable spatial refuge.		

Summary

The Yellow Shovelnose Stingaree is a small continental shelf ray endemic to subtropical and temperate waters of Western Australia and occurs in a relatively restricted range. It is possibly caught incidentally in the Commonwealth Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery although that fishery operates at the limit of the species known depth range and interactions are likely minimal. Further, trawl effort is limited in this fishery. If it is caught it would likely be released as it is of little

commercial value though post-release mortality for trawl caught stingarees is generally high and stingarees typically abort their embryos when captured. Chondrichthyans have been assessed as at low risk in this fishery. The species occurs too deep to be captured in the inshore prawn and fish trawl fisheries. The Yellow Shovelnose Stingaree would receive considerable refuge in state waters where most of the area within the 200 m isobath is protected from trawling. Overall, the species likely has minimal interactions with low effort fisheries and considerable spatial refuge. Therefore, the Yellow Shovelnose Stingaree is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).



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Distribution

The Yellow Shovelnose Stingaree is endemic to subtropical and temperate waters of Western Australia where it occurs in a relatively restricted range from off Shark Bay to Perth (Last and Stevens 2009, Last et al. 2016).

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species.

Fisheries

The Yellow Shovelnose Stingaree likely has limited interactions with fisheries. Its depth range overlaps marginally with the Commonwealth Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery which operates at 200 m and deeper (Patterson et al. 2022). The fishery has limited effort with only 1–3 active vessels and as the Yellow Shovelnose Stingaree is of little commercial value, it is likely released if caught. However, post-release mortality for trawl caught stingarees is generally high and urolophids typically abort their embryos when caught which can reduce population viability (Rigby et al. 2016, Adams et al. 2018, Campbell et al. 2018). Despite these concerns, chondrichthyans have been assessed as at low risk in this fishery (Zhou et al. 2009). It occurs too deep to be caught in the state-managed prawn fisheries that operate in shallow inshore waters (Gaughan and Santoro 2021). The species would receive refuge in the Commonwealth North-west and South-west Marine Parks Networks that came into effect in 2018 which include zoning and gear restrictions (Parks Australia 2023). Within the 200 m isobath, more than 90% of the area may never have been trawled due to a combination of spatial trawl closures and marine parks, providing significant refuge for the species (Gaughan and Santoro 2021).

Habitat and biology

The Yellow Shovelnose Stingaree is demersal on the continental shelf at depths of 100–210 m (Last et al. 2016). Maximum size is at least 39 cm total length (TL) and males mature at 33–36 cm TL (Last et al. 2016). Little else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 39 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 33–36 cm TL Females: unknown

CAAB Code: 37 038013

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/60080/68647900>

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

References

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