

Spotted Stingaree, *Urolophus gigas*

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	Minor catch and refuge across most of its range in inshore waters with limited fishing effort.		

Summary

The Spotted Stingaree is a medium-sized ray endemic to temperate continental shelf waters of southern Australia where it occurs in a wide range. It is a minor incidental catch of trawl fisheries and was caught in the Commonwealth Southern and Eastern Scalefish Fishery Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector (GABT), though trawling in the GABT now mainly occurs at 120–200 m and this species may no longer be encountered as it was not included in a recent survey and risk



assessment of the GABT. It is caught in the South Australian Spencer Gulf Prawn Fishery and is assessed at low risk. The species is released when caught although post-release mortality for trawl caught stingarees is generally high and stingarees typically abort their embryos when captured. It has considerable refuge from fisheries due to the lack of trawling in Bass Strait, limited effort in inshore waters across the Great Australian Bight, and its occurrence in rocky habitats. The Spotted Stingaree's vulnerability was assessed as low for both fishing and climate change. Therefore, the Spotted Stingaree is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Spotted Stingaree is endemic to temperate southern Australia waters (Last et al. 2016). It occurs in a wide range from Lakes Entrance (Victoria) to Albany (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

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

Fisheries

The Spotted Stingaree is an incidental catch of trawl fisheries. It was caught in the Commonwealth Southern and Eastern Scalefish Fishery (SESSF) in the GABT with an estimated annual catch of 2.6 t

between 2000–2006 (Walker and Gason 2007). Most effort in the GABT is now at depths of 120–200 m and a recent survey and risk assessment of the GABT did not include this species which infers it was not encountered (Knuckey et al. 2021, Patterson et al. 2022, Sporcic et al. 2021). It is caught in the South Australian Spencer Gulf Prawn Fishery and is assessed as low risk (PIRSA 2014). It may also be caught in the small-scale scallop (*Ylistrum baloti*) and prawn South Coast Trawl fishery of Western Australia. This fishery is low effort with minimal bycatch and mandatory bycatch reduction devices (Kangas et al. 2019, Gaughan and Santoro 2021). The species is released when caught, though, 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). There is no trawling within Bass Strait and fishing effort is limited in inshore waters across the Great Australian Bight which together with the Spotted Stingaree’ presence on rocky reefs provides some refuge for the species (Kyne et al. 2021). Commercial net fishing will cease in Port Phillip Bay by 2022 which will reduce the fishing pressure on the species (Kyne et al. 2019). The species vulnerability to fishing and climate change was assessed as low (Walker et al. 2021).

Habitat and biology

The Spotted Stingaree is demersal on the continental shelf at depths of 0–50 m and occurs in rocky and sandy substrates and seagrass beds (Last et al. 2016). Maximum size is approximately 80 cm total length (TL) and males mature at 42 cm TL and females at 46 cm TL (Trinnie et al. 2014). Litter size is 11–13 pups and it has a biennial reproductive cycle (Trinnie et al. 2014)

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: ~80 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 42 cm TL Females: 46 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 038003

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/60094/68649513>

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

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