

Bignose Shark, *Carcharhinus altimus*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Data Deficient
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Report Card Remarks	Not commercially harvested in Australia		

Summary

The Bignose Shark is a large bodied shark with a likely circumglobal distribution. It inhabits continental shelf edges throughout tropical and temperate marine waters. It is not targeted by fisheries, however it is taken as bycatch in longline, trawl and gillnet fisheries in much of its distribution. It is mistaken for the Sandbar Shark (*C. plumbeus*) and therefore, little information on population trends have been recorded. Declines in abundance have been reported in the Northwest Atlantic, Maldives and Southeast Asia, causing concern for the status of this species in these regions. In Australia, the Bignose Shark is not commercially targeted and rarely caught. Therefore, globally the Bignose Shark is Data Deficient (IUCN) and within Australia is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and Sustainable (SAFS).



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Distribution

The Bignose Shark is circumglobally distributed throughout tropical and temperate waters however, records are discontinuous (Compagno 1984, Anderson and Stevens 1996, Last and Stevens, 2009). It has been recorded throughout the Central Atlantic Ocean (United States, Cuba, Brazil), Mediterranean Sea, the Indian Ocean (South Africa, India, Red Sea, Sri Lanka) and Northwest Pacific Ocean (China, Thailand, Mexico, California, Peru) (Compagno 1984, Anderson and Stevens 1996, Last and Stevens, 2009). Within Australia it is found in from Cape Leeuwin (Western Australia) north and east to northern New South Wales (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species. Globally, declines have been reported in numerous regions (Southeast Asia, Northwest Atlantic, West Indian Ocean), but not in Australia.

Fisheries

The Bignose Shark is taken as bycatch in commercial fisheries. Within Australia the threat from fishing is likely to be minimal because it is not commercially harvested and rarely encountered. Globally, it is encountered in longline, gillnet and trawl fisheries. It has been encountered in Eastern United States bottom (1994-2003) and pelagic (1992-2000) longline fisheries. It is rarely encountered by commercial fisheries in Brazil (Arfelli and Amorim 1994). In the Western Indian Ocean, it is taken by longline and gillnet fisheries where catch rates have significantly declined (C. Anderson. Pers. Comm. 2007). In the Mediterranean Sea, Bignose Shark is taken as bycatch by pelagic longline fisheries operating from Algerian ports (Fowler et al. 2005).

Habitat and biology

The Bignose Shark is found on continental shelf edges occurring at depths of 12-430 m (Anderson and Stevens 1996). It is thought to display diurnal vertical migrations (Anderson and Stevens 1996). The maximum recorded size is 282 cm total length (TL) and maximum age of ~21 years (Compagno 1984, Kohler et al. 1995).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: ~21 years Max size: 282 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 190 cm Females: 225 cm

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/161564/0>

Link to page at Shark References: [http://shark-references.com/species/view/Carcharhinus-
altimus](http://shark-references.com/species/view/Carcharhinus-altimus)

References

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