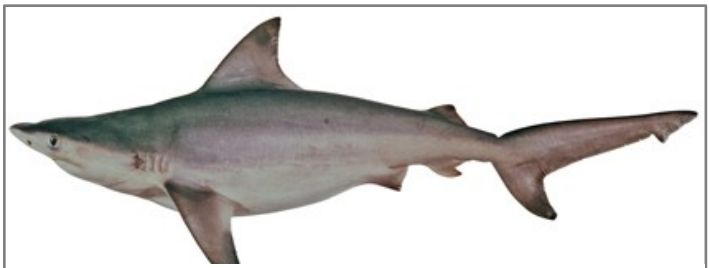
Published Date: 1 March 2019

Pigeye Shark, *Carcharhinus amboinensis*

Report Card assessment	**Sustainable**		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Data deficient
Assessors	Simpfendorfer, C.		
Report Card Remarks	Populations are declining globally but fisheries are well managed in Australia		

Summary

The Pigeye Shark is a large bodied, coastal shark that is sporadically distributed throughout the tropical Indo-west Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. There is little data available on Pigeye Shark due to an inability to distinguish it from other members of the genus *Carcharhinus*, especially the Bull Shark (*C. leucas*). It is sensitive to fishing pressure due to a patchy distribution, low abundance, late age at maturity and limited fecundity. Its occurrence in regions where intense fishing pressure is common suggests it is likely to have undergone population declines. Within Australia, Pigeye Shark is not targeted and fisheries are effectively managed. Therefore, Pigeye Shark is assessed as globally Vulnerable (IUCN) and in Australia as Least Concern (IUCN) and Sustainable (SAFS).



Source: CSIRO National Fish Collection. License: CC By Attribution

Distribution

The Pigeye Shark is sporadically distributed throughout tropical and subtropical waters of the Indo-west Pacific and Atlantic Oceans (Last and Stevens 2009). It is found throughout Northern Australia from Carnarvon (Western Australia) to Moreton Bay (Queensland) (Last and Stevens 2009). Globally, it is found in regions including Nigeria, South Africa, Gulf of Aden, India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for Pigeye Shark. There is evidence within Australia that sub-populations may be present (Tillett et al. 2011). Globally, there is little information as it is often confused with the Bull Shark (*C. leucas*).

Fisheries

The Pigeye Shark is caught in small numbers in numerous gillnet and longline fisheries across northern Australia for its meat and fins (Stevens and McLoughlin 1991, Last and Stevens 1994, McLoughlin et al. 1994). These fisheries are currently well managed and levels of Pigeye Shark catch in Northern Territory and Queensland gillnet and longline fisheries have remained minimal (0.5-3.5%) and stable over time, suggesting the level of harvest is sustainable (Bentley 1996, Harry et al. 2011). Globally, it

is sporadically encountered in fisheries where it constitutes <3% of harvest in South Africa (Dudley and Simpfendorfer 2006), Madagascar (Robinson and Sauer 2013), the Red Sea (Moore et al. 2012) and Indonesia (White 2007).

Habitat and biology

The Pigeye Shark is found in coastal and brackish waters, often remaining close to the bottom (Stevens and McLoughlin 1991). Tagging studies revealed it remained localised (~60 km), apart from two larger sharks which moved up to 1,080 km (Last and Stevens 2009). The maximum recorded size is 280 cm total length (TL) and maximum age was estimated at >30 years based on Von Bertalanffy growth parameters (Fourmanoir 1961, Tillett et al. 2011).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: estimated >30 years Max size: 280 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Male: 210 cm TL Female: 215 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/39366/0

Link to page at Shark References: http://shark-references.com/species/view/Carcharhinus-amboinensis

References

Bentley, N. 1996. Australian overview. The World Trade in Sharks: a Compendium of TRAFFIC's regional studies. Volume II, pp. 661–749. TRAFFIC Network, Cambridge, UK.

Dudley, S. and Simpfendorfer, C. 2006. Population status of 14 shark species caught in the protective gillnets off KwaZulu-Natal beaches, South Africa, 1978-2003. *Marine and Freshwater Research* 57: 225-240.

Fourmanoir, P. 1961. Requins de la Côte Ouest de Madagascar. Memoires de L'Institut Scientifique de Madagascar. Série F. Oceanographie. ORSTOM. Tome IV.

Harry, A.V., Tobin, A.J., Simpfendorfer, C.A., Welch, D.J., Mapleston, A., White, J., Williams, A.J., and Stapley, J. 2011. Evaluating catch and mitigating risk in a multispecies, tropical, inshore shark fishery within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. *Marine and Freshwater Research* 62: 710-721.

Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 1994. Sharks and Rays of Australia. First Edition. CSIRO Division of Fisheries, Hobart.

Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. Sharks and Rays of Australia. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Australia.

McLoughlin, K., Slack-Smith, R. and Stevens, J. 1994. Northern shark. In: In K. McLoughlin, D. Staples and M. Maliel (eds), Fishery Status Reports 1993 – Resource Assessments of Australian Commonwealth Fisheries, pp. 31–36. Bureau of Resource Sciences, Canberra, Australia.

Moore, A.B.M., McCarthy, I.D., Carvalho, G.R., Peirce, R. 2012. Species, sex, size and male maturity composition of previously unreported elasmobranch landings in Kuwait, Qatar and Abu Dhabi Emirate. *Journal of Fish Biology* 80: 1619-1642.

Robinson, L. and Sauer, W.H.H. 2013. A first description of the artisanal shark fishery in northern Madagascar: implications for management. *African Journal of Marine Science* 35: 9-15.

Stevens, J. D. and McLoughlin, K.J. 1991. Distribution, size and sex composition, reproductive biology and diet of sharks from northern Australia. *Australian Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research* 42: 151–199.

Tillett, B.J., Meekan, M.G., Field, I.C., Hua, Q., Bradshaw, C.J.A. 2011. Similar life history traits in bull (*Carcharhinus leucas*) and pig-eye (*C. amboinensis*) sharks. *Marine and Freshwater Research* 62: 850-860.

White, W.T. 2007. Catch composition and reproductive biology of whaler sharks (Carcharhiniformes: Carcharhinidae) caught by fisheries in Indonesia. *Journal of Fish Biology* 71(5): 1510-1540.