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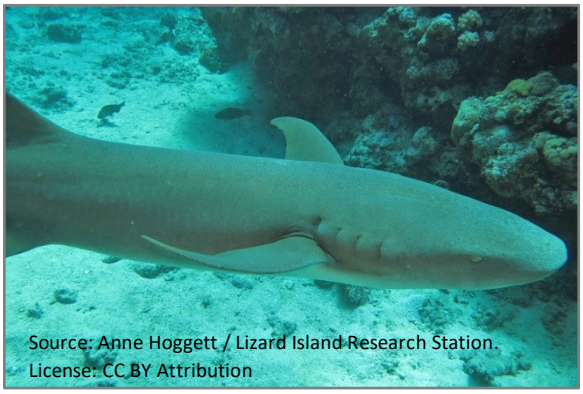
Tawny Shark, *Nebrius ferrugineus*

Report Card assessment	**Sustainable**		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Vulnerable
Assessors	Pillans, R.D. & Baje, L.		
Report Card Remarks	In Australia it is taken in only small numbers		

Summary

The Tawny Shark is a widely distributed continental shelf species of the Indian, west and central Pacific Oceans. It is restricted to shallow water habitat that is heavily fished throughout all its range except in Australia. Taken in inshore fisheries (demersal trawls, floating and fixed bottom gillnets and baited hooks) in Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Pakistan and India. Although there are limited data on population declines in these areas, reports of local extinctions in India and Thailand, combined with its narrow habitat range, apparently limited dispersion and low fecundity, indicate that the species is highly susceptible to local inshore fisheries. As a result, it is assessed globally as Vulnerable (IUCN). Within Australia, it is widely distributed and abundant, and captured only in very small numbers in gillnets and beach meshing. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and in Australia, Sustainable (SAFS).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Distribution

The Tawny Shark is widespread from southeast Africa and the Red Sea through India, Japan, Philippines, and Indonesia and into the central Pacific. In Australia, it is found in tropical waters from Rockhampton (Queensland) to Ningaloo (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

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

Fisheries

The Tawny Shark is rarely taken within Australian fisheries. It is known from the Queensland Shark Control Program and the Queensland coral Reef Finfish Fishery (Heupel et al. 2009). Elsewhere it is taken in inshore fisheries throughout much of the rest of its range and used for meat, liver oil, fins and hide (Last and Stevens 2009).

Habitat and biology

The Tawny Shark occurs in inshore waters of the continental shelves down to a depth of 70 m but more commonly between 5 and 30 m. Males mature at approximately 225 cm total length (TL)and females at 230 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009). The species has uterine cannibalism in the form of oophagy where the embryos feed on eggs produced by the mother (Teshima et al. 1995). Litter sizes may be only one pup (Compagno 2001).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 320 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: ~225 cm TL Females: 230 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/41835/0

Link to page at Shark References: http://www.shark-references.com/species/view/Nebrius-ferrugineus

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