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Tropical Sawshark, *Pristiophorus delicatus*

Report Card assessment	**Sustainable**		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Rigby, C.L. & Heupel, M.R.		
Report Card Remarks	Minimal fishing pressure with refuge at depth.		

Summary

The Tropical Sawshark is a deepwater endemic species known only from northeast Australia. It has been captured as bycatch in the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery, although the deepwater trawl sector has low fishing effort in the area of occurrence and generally operates only to the upper depth limit of the species. Although a poorly known species, its distribution is currently subject to minimal fishing effort, and it is likely to receive refuge at depth. Therefore, it is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and Sustainable (SAFS)

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Distribution

The Tropical Sawshark is restricted to a confined region in northeast Australia between Gladstone and Cairns off the coast of Queensland (Last and Stevens 2009, Rigby et al. 2016). The only specimens were collected from an exploratory fishing survey of North Queensland in the mid-1980s (Yearsley et al. 2008, Last and Stevens 2009) and from within this range at the Swain Reefs in 2011 (Rigby et al. 2016). The distribution or abundance outside the survey area is unknown (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

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

Fisheries

A specimen was collected as discarded bycatch in the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery (deepwater component of the eastern king prawn sector) (Rigby et al. 2016). This sector has a relatively low fishing effort and the trawlers do not generally operate beyond 200 m depth which the upper limit of the species' depth range. Some recreational fishers and a small number of charter operators target deepwater (>200 m) finfish may also interact with the species (Sumpton et al. 2013). The distribution of the species overlaps with the Coral Sea Fishery, although effort in that fishery is low, with no trawling since the 2006-2007 fishing season (Noriega et al. 2014). Catch rates should be monitored if fishing intensity within its known geographic and depth range increases.

Habitat and biology

The Tropical Sawshark has been found on the continental slope in depths ranging from 176 to 405 m (Yearsley et al. 2008, Last and Stevens 2009, Rigby et al. 2016). The species grows to at least 95 cm total length (TL)(Rigby et al. 2016), with males late adolescent at 63 cm (Last and Stevens 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 95 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Unknown

Link to IUCN Page: http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/42720/0

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

References

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