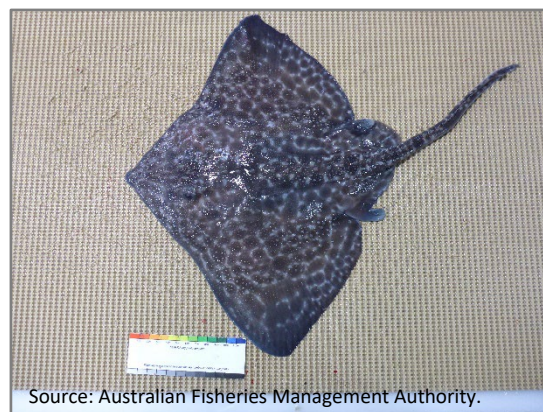


Antarctic Starry Skate, *Amblyraja georgiana*

Report Card assessment	Undefined Stock		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Data Deficient	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Data Deficient
Global Assessors	Pollom, R., Acuña, E., Bustamante, C., Chiaramonte, G.E., Cuevas, J.M., Herman, K., Pompert, J. & Velez-Zuazo, X.		
Australian Assessors	Rigby, C.L. and Simpfendorfer, C.A.		
Report Card Remarks	Poorly-known; information needed on levels of interactions with Australian fisheries.		

Summary

The Antarctic Starry Skate is a poorly-known medium-sized deepwater ray that occurs in temperate waters off South America to Antarctica, off the Crozet Islands, and on the Kerguelen Plateau in the Heard and McDonald Islands (HIMI) (Australian Territory). It is caught incidentally in longline and trawl fisheries that target Patagonian Toothfish. However, the levels of fishery interactions both within the HIMI and its wider range are unknown. Where possible skates taken in the HIMI must be released alive and in the longline fisheries, 95% of the Antarctic Starry Skate would be released, though post-release mortality is unknown. The species is subject to strict management in HIMI waters and it would receive refuge in shallow depths and in territorial waters around HIMI that are both not permitted to be fished, and in the HIMI Marine Reserve. As the level of interactions with fisheries are unknown it is not possible to determine the impacts of fishing. Therefore, the Antarctic Starry Skate is assessed as globally and in Australia as Data Deficient (IUCN), and Undefined Stock (SAFS) in Australia.



Distribution

The Antarctic Starry Skate occurs off southern Chile and southern Argentina and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), from South Georgia Island to the Antarctic Peninsula and the Ross Sea, and on the southern Kerguelen Plateau including the Heard and McDonald Islands (HIMI) (Australian Territory) (Last et al. 2016, Pollom et al. 2020, J. Clelland pers. comm. 2022).

Stock structure and status

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

Fisheries

The Antarctic Starry Skate is caught incidentally in demersal trawl and longline fisheries that target the Patagonian Toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*). There are 10 records of this species from the HIMI longline fishery and >600 records for an exploratory longline fishery (J. Cleeland pers. comm. 2022) but overall catch levels in the commercial fishery is unknown. In the HIMI, skates captured in good condition are released alive and can only be retained if hauled dead. In the longline fishery, a 10-year average of 80% of skates are released although post-release mortality is unknown and currently under investigation (Australian Antarctic Division unpubl. data 2022). The species is managed under the Australian Fisheries Management Authority that adopt the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) bycatch limits, move-on rules, and no fishing permitted above depths of 500 m (Dulvy et al. 2020). The species would receive some refuge at depths above 500 m. Waters around the HIMI out to 13 nautical miles are closed to fishing and the HIMI Marine Reserve would provide additional refuge (Patterson et al. 2022).

Habitat and biology

The Antarctic Starry Skate is demersal on the continental and insular shelf and upper slope at depths of 20–1,255 m but mainly at 20–350 m (Last et al. 2016). Maximum size is 115 cm total length (TL) and both sexes mature at approximately 66 cm TL (Pollom et al. 2020). Females are estimated to mature at 20 years and have a maximum age of 38 years (Francis and Gallagher 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: estimated 38 years Max size: 115 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: unknown, 66 cm TL Females: 20 years, 66 cm TL

CAAB Code: Not yet available

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/161490/124494780>

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

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