

Boreal Skate, *Amblyraja hyperborea*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Global Assessors	Kulka, D.W., Barker, A.S., Pasolini, P., Orlov, A. & Walls, R.H.L.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T., Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan) & Rigby, C.L.		
Report Card Remarks	In Australia, occurs deeper than fisheries operations and is not subject to any threat.		

Summary

The Boreal Skate is a medium-sized deepwater species that is globally distributed and widespread throughout temperate waters. It is incidentally caught in deepwater demersal trawl and longline fisheries and occasionally retained for consumption, except in Australia. In Australia, it was previously a minimal incidental catch in the Commonwealth Southern and Eastern Scalefish Fishery (SESSF). However, since 2007 with the prohibition of fishing deeper than 700 m in most of the SESSF, this species occurs beyond the depth of current fishing operations and there is no threat to this species in Australian waters. It is also beyond the depths of many fisheries elsewhere across its range and where it is captured, such as in the Northeast Atlantic, it is considered common. Therefore, the Boreal Skate is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) globally and in Australia (Kyne et al. 2021), and Sustainable (SAFS) in Australia.



Distribution

The Boreal Skate is circumglobal and widespread mainly in temperate waters in high latitudes (Last et al. 2016). In Australia, it occurs off Victoria, Tasmania, and Macquarie Island (Kyne et al. 2021, J. Cleeland pers. comm. 2023).

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species. However, it is considered relatively common in parts of the Northeast Atlantic (Kulka et al. 2016).

Fisheries

The Boreal Skate is incidentally caught in deepwater demersal trawl and longline fisheries and occasionally retained for consumption, except in Australia (Kulka et al. 2016). In Australia, it was

previously caught in the Commonwealth Southern and Eastern Scalefish Fishery (SESSF) but at an average annual catch of 57 kg between 2000–2006, catch levels were very low (Walker and Gason 2007). In addition, since 2007, fishing deeper than 700 m has been prohibited in most SESSF waters and thus in Australia, this species occurs beyond the depth of current fishing operations.

Habitat and biology

The Boreal Skate is demersal on the continental and insular slope at depths of 165–3,165 m, though in Southeast Australia it is known from depths of 980–2,000 (Last and Stevens 2009). Maximum size is 112 cm total length (TL) and males mature at 86–93 cm TL and females at approximately 100 cm TL (Last et al. 2016, Ebert and Dando 2021).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 112 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 86–93 cm TL Females: ~100 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 031041

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/63119/68608464>

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

References

- Ebert, D.A. and Dando, M. 2021 *Field guide to sharks, rays & chimaeras of Europe and the Mediterranean*. Princeton University Press.
- Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. and Simpfendorfer, C.A. 2021. *The Action Plan for Australian Sharks and Rays 2021*. National Environmental Science Program, Marine Biodiversity Hub, Hobart.
- Kulka, D.W., Barker, A.S., Pasolini, P., Orlov, A. and Walls, R.H.L. 2016. *Amblyraja hyperborea*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* 2016: e.T63119A68608464
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- Last, P., White, W., Carvalho, M.R. de, Séret, B., Stehmann, M. and Naylor, G.J.P. 2016. *Rays of the World*. CSIRO Publishing, Clayton, Victoria, Australia.
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