

## Nervous Shark, *Carcharhinus cautus*

<b>Report Card assessment</b>	<b>Sustainable</b>		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Morgan, D.L., Kyne, P.M., Bennett, M.B. & Rigby, C.L.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	In Australia, taken mostly in northern Australia where catches are considered sustainable.		

### Summary

The Nervous Shark is a small shark commonly found in shallow, warm coastal waters throughout its distribution. It has moderate reproductive rates. It is taken as bycatch or discarded in coastal gillnet



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and trawl fisheries throughout northern Australia. Mortality rates in these fisheries in northern Australia are considered to be sustainable. Little is known on its population status elsewhere. Therefore, it is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) in Australia (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS). From November 2023, the species will be listed on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

### Distribution

The Nervous Shark is found on continental and insular shelves in tropical and sub-tropical waters of northern Australia, southern Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands (Last and Stevens, 2009). Within Australia, it is found from Shark Bay (Western Australia), through the Northern Territory and Queensland to Moreton Bay (White and Potter 2004, Last and Stevens 2009, Gutteridge 2012).

### Stock structure and status

In Australia, there is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the Nervous Shark. It is considered to be sustainably harvested by commercial fisheries in Australia. It is abundant in regional coastal waters of Western Australia (Shark Bay) (White and Potter 2004) and Northern Territory (Darwin Harbour) (Lyle 1987). It is not as abundant in Queensland (Harry et al. 2011). There is no information on population status in Papua New Guinea or the Solomon Islands.

### Fisheries

The Nervous Shark is taken in small numbers in gill fisheries across northern Australia, including the Western Australian Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi Fishery, Northern Territory Offshore Net and Line Fishery and Queensland Gulf of Carpentaria Inshore Finfish Fishery and East Coast Inshore Finfish Fishery. Fishing is unlikely to have significant effect on the population because catches are small and it has moderate reproductive potential (McAuley et al. 2005).

### Habitat and biology

The Nervous shark is found in nearshore tropical and sub-tropical coastal waters including bays and river mouths (White and Potter 2004, Last and Stevens 2009). The maximum size is estimated to be 150 cm total length (TL) (White et al. 2002). The maximum age is estimated to be 16 years for females and 12 years for males (White et al. 2002).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: males estimated 12 years, females 16 years Max size: 150 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Both sexes: 80–85 cm TL

**CAAB Code:** 37 018034

**Link to IUCN Page:** <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41733/68612504>

**Link to page at Shark References:** <http://shark-references.com/species/view/Carcharhinus-cautus>

### References

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