

## Australian Blackspot Shark, *Carcharhinus coatesi*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Baje, L.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Low catches in Australian waters.		

### Summary

The Australian Blackspot Shark is an inshore shark restricted to waters of northern Australia and southern Papua New Guinea. It was recently identified as a separate species from the Whitecheek Shark (*C. dussumieri*). The Australian



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Blackspot Shark is relatively abundant in northern Australian waters. It is caught as bycatch throughout its distribution in commercial fisheries. Species-specific catch data is not available however, the catches are relatively low in Australia. 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 Australian Blackspot Shark is commonly found in inshore continental and insular shelf waters of northern Australia and southern Papua New Guinea. Within Australia, it is found in Western Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland (White 2012).

### Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the Australian Blackspot Shark. In northern Queensland, a survey of coastal shark communities collected 87 individuals over a period of 142 days, and considered it to be moderately abundant (Yates et al. 2015).

### Fisheries

In Australia, the Australian Blackspot Shark is taken as bycatch in gillnet and demersal trawl fisheries in northern Australia, including the Northern Prawn Fishery, Northern Territory Offshore Net and Line Fishery and Queensland Gulf of Carpentaria Inshore Finfish Fishery and East Coast Inshore Finfish Fishery.

## Habitat and biology

The Australian Blackspot Shark is found in insular and continental shelf inshore waters. Little information is known on the Coates' Shark as it has only been recently identified as a separate species from *C. dussumieri* (White 2012). Maximum size is approximately 88 cm total length (TL) and males and females mature at approximately 70 cm TL (Ebert et al. 2021).

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

**CAAB Code:** 37 018009

**Link to IUCN Page:** <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/70679787/70680049>

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

### References

- Ebert, D.A., Dando, M. and Fowler, S.F. 2021. *Sharks of the World. A complete guide*. Princeton University Press, New Jersey.
- 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
- White, W.T. 2012. A redescription of *Carcharhinus dussumieri* and *C. seali*, with resurrection of *C. coatesi* and *C. tjtjot* as valid species (Chondrichthyes: Carcharhinidae). *Zootaxa* 3241: 1–34.
- Yates, P.M., Heupel, M.R., Tobin, A.J., Moore, S.K. and Simpfendorfer, C.A. 2015. Diversity in immature-shark communities along a tropical coastline. *Marine and Freshwater Research* 66(5): 399–410.