

Galapagos Shark, *Carcharhinus galapagensis*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Barreto, R., Carlson, J., Fernando, D., Fordham, S., Francis, M.P., Herman, K., Jabado, R.W., Liu, K.M., Pacoureau, N., Romanov, E. & Sherley, R.B.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Offshore and open ocean shark with limited catches and protected in Australia by marine reserves.		

Summary

The Galapagos Shark is a large bodied shark found in offshore and pelagic waters of the Indo-West Pacific, including New Zealand and Australia. It often inhabits remote island and reef habitats. Its life history characteristics make it susceptible to fishing pressure. It has limited interactions with fishing operations. Marine reserves at Lord Howe Island, Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs (Australia) and Kermadec Islands (New Zealand)



Source: Andrew Green/Reef Life Survey. License: CC By Attribution.

provide significant protection. Therefore, the species 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 Galapagos Shark (Oceania subpopulation) is patchily distributed in pelagic waters of Australia and New Zealand. Within Australia, it is distributed across northern Australia, from Perth (Western Australia), to the Northern Territory, Queensland and as far south as Sydney (New South Wales). It is also found at isolated island and reef sites in Australia (Lord Howe Island, Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs) and New Zealand (Kermadec Islands) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the Oceania subpopulation of Galapagos Shark.

Fisheries

The threat from fishing is likely to be minimal because fishing interactions appear to be limited. Remote areas where Galapagos Sharks are present in Australia and New Zealand are mostly protected by marine reserves. Its life history characteristics make it susceptible to fishing pressure. There is little data on the number of interactions between Galapagos Sharks and commercial fisheries. However, at Lord Howe Island it does cause significant levels of depredation in charter fishing operations (Mitchell et al. 2021).

Habitat and biology

The Galapagos Shark occurs at isolated, oceanic islands and reefs in tropical and warm-temperate areas. It occurs from surface waters to depths of 680 m (Meyer et al. 2010). The maximum recorded size of Galapagos Shark is 300 cm total length (TL). Maximum age is not known. The species has a moderate intrinsic rebound potential (Smith et al. 1998).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 300 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 6–8 years, 228 cm TL Females: 7–9 years, 235 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 018040

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41736/2954286>

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

References

- 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
- Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. *Sharks and Rays of Australia*. CSIRO Division of Fisheries, Hobart.
- Meyer, C.G., Papastamatiou, Y.P., Holland, K.N. 2010. A multiple instrument approach to quantifying the movement patterns and habitat use of tiger (*Galeocerdo cuvier*) and Galapagos sharks (*Carcharhinus galapagensis*) at French Frigate Shoals, Hawaii. *Marine Biology* 157: 1857–1868.
- Mitchell, J.D., Camillieri-Asch, V., Jaine, F.R., Peddemors, V.M. and Langlois, T.J. 2021. *Galapagos shark movement patterns and interactions with fishing vessels in the marine parks surrounding Lord Howe Island*. Final Report to Parks Australia.
- Smith, S.E., Au, D.W. and Show, C. 1998. Intrinsic rebound potentials of 26 species of Pacific sharks. *Marine and Freshwater Research* 49(7): 663–678.