

Australian Ocellate Skate, *Dentiraja oculus*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern (Endemic to Australia)	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Global Assessors	James, K.C., Kyne, P.M. & Ebert, D.A.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T., Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan) & Rigby, C.L.		
Report Card Remarks	Fishing pressure is low and refuge in marine parks.		

Summary

The Australian Ocellate Skate is a small demersal deepwater ray endemic to subtropical to temperate waters of southwest Australia. It is possibly incidentally caught in the Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery (WDTF). The species has a relatively restricted depth range which means it likely only occupies a narrow stretch of habitat. However, the WDTF has limited effort with only 1–3 active vessels. The species is of little commercial value and is released when caught. Although post-release mortality is unknown, chondrichthyans are considered as at low risk from the WDTF and further, the Australian Ocellate Skate would receive refuge in the South-west Marine Parks Network. Therefore, the Australian Ocellate Skate is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

The Australian Ocellate Skate is endemic to Western Australia. It occurs in subtropical to temperate waters from Shark Bay to Bunbury (Last 2008, Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

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

Fisheries

The Australian Ocellate Skate is possibly caught incidentally by the Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery which targets finfish and bugs (*Ibacus* spp.) at 200–700 m depths (Patterson et al. 2022). As it is of little commercial value, the Australian Ocellate Skate is likely released if caught and there is no information on post-release mortality. Trawl effort has declined considerably in this fishery since the late 1980s and currently it has limited effort with only 1–3 active vessels (Patterson et al. 2022).

Chondrichthyans have been assessed as at low risk in this fishery (Zhou et al. 2009). It would receive refuge in the Commonwealth South-west Marine Parks Network that came into effect in 2018 which include zoning and gear restrictions (Parks Australia 2023).

Habitat and biology

The Australian Ocellate Skate is demersal on the upper continental slope at depths of 200–390 m (Last and Stevens 2009). Maximum size is at least 56 cm total length (TL) and males probably mature at approximately 50 cm TL (Last 2008, Last et al. 2016). Little else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 56 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: ~50 cm TL Females: unknown

CAAB Code: 37 031031

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/195451/68621509>

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

References

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