

Queensland Deepwater Skate, *Dipturus queenslandicus*

Report Card assessment	Negligible		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern* (Endemic to Australia)	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Data Deficient
Global Assessors	Awruch, C.A. & White, W.T.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T., Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan) & Rigby, C.L.		
Report Card Remarks	Current known spatial and depth range not fished.		

*The Australian assessment status is more recent than the Global assessment and the shift from DD to LC aligns with a less evidentiary and more precautionary approach to Red List assessments rather than any new available information.

Summary

The Queensland Deepwater Skate is a medium-sized deepwater ray endemic to tropical northeast Australia. It is only known from a limited number of specimens and has a restricted range though it may occur more widely, as there have been few surveys and limited fishing effort across its range. The species' current known spatial range is outside of the Commonwealth Coral Sea Fishery area and it occurs too deep to be encountered in the Queensland deepwater eastern king prawn sector of the East Coast Trawl



Fishery (ECTF). Although poorly-known, the species is currently not suspected to be captured in fisheries; it has both spatial and depth refuge. Therefore, the Queensland Deepwater Skate is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Negligible (SAFS).

Distribution

The Queensland Deepwater Skate is endemic to tropical northeast Australia (Last et al. 2016). It has a restricted range in Queensland where it is only known from one location, the Saumarez Plateau off Rockhampton (Last et al. 2008). The extent of occurrence is <20,000 km², though it may occur more widely (Kyne et al. 2021), given that there have been few surveys and limited fishing effort across its spatial and depth range.

Stock structure and status

The Queensland Deepwater Skate is known only from a limited number of specimens and there is currently no information on population size, structure or trend for the species (Last et al. 2008).

Fisheries

The Queensland Deepwater Skate is not currently captured in any fisheries. The species' spatial range is within the area of the Queensland deepwater eastern king prawn sector of the East Coast Trawl Fishery (ECTF), but it occurs deeper than the maximum depth of 300 m fished in the ECTF (Pears et al. 2012, Rigby et al. 2016). Its current known range occurs outside the area of the Commonwealth Coral Sea Fishery (Patterson et al. 2022).

Habitat and biology

The Queensland Deepwater Skate is demersal on the upper continental slope at depths of 400–605 m (Last et al. 2016). Maximum size is at least 76 cm total length (TL) and males are mature by 63 cm TL (Last et al. 2008). Nothing else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 76 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 63 cm TL Females: unknown

CAAB Code: 37 031036

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/195452/68621739>

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

References

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- Pears, R.J., Morison, A.K., Jebreen, E.J., Dunning, M.C., Pitcher, C.R., Courtney, A.J., Houlden, B. and Jacobsen, I.P. 2012. *Ecological Risk Assessment of the East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park*. Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville.
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