

Zebra Hornshark, *Heterodontus zebra*

Report Card assessment	Negligible		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Data Deficient	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Rigby, C.L., Derrick, D., Dharmadi, Fahmi, Ho, H. & Utzurrum, J.A.T.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Wide ranging and common but in Australia only known from northern Western Australia where it is very rarely encountered by fisheries.		

Summary

The Zebra Shark is wide ranging and apparently common in shallow waters of the Western Pacific. Although of little interest to commercial fisheries, the species is caught as bycatch of demersal trawlers and possibly other fisheries. It could be under some threat from destructive fishing practices and habitat degradation in Indonesia. However, in Australian waters the Zebra Shark is common within its range and there seem to be no major threats to its populations at the present time. Yet, its Australian depth range may not yet be fully known as it occurs at a deeper depth range than elsewhere. If it occurs shallower in northern West Australia, as elsewhere, fisheries interactions are still likely to be minimal. Therefore, the species is assessed as Data Deficient (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) in Australia, and Negligible (SAFS) as it is very rarely encountered in fisheries.



Distribution

The Zebra Hornshark occurs in Japan, Korea, China, Viet Nam, the Philippines, and Indonesia. In Australia, it has only been recorded from northern Western Australia (Compagno 2001, Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species though it is known to be common within its range.

Fisheries

It is caught as bycatch by commercial trawlers and possibly other fisheries outside of its Australian range. In Indonesia, it may also be under threat from destructive fishing practices such as cyanide and dynamite fishing, and habitat destruction. Utilization in aquarium trade is not recorded, but the

species is an obvious candidate because of its attractive colour pattern (Michael 2001). It is very rarely encountered in Australian fisheries warranting a Negligible status; if it does occur in shallower waters in Australia, the fishing effort in northwest Australia is minimal.

Habitat and biology

The Zebra Shark is a demersal shark of continental shelves. It is mostly found in depths shallower than 50 m, although recorded from the continental shelf of northern Western Australia in 150–200 m depths, which suggests its Australian depth range may not yet be fully known (Kyne et al. 2021). Maximum size is approximately 122 cm total length (TL) with males mature at 64–84 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009). Little else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 122 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 64–84 cm Females: unknown TL

CAAB Code: 37 007002

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41825/68625931>

Link to page at Shark References: <http://www.shark-references.com/species/view/Heterodontus-zebra>

References

- Compagno, L.J.V. 2001. Sharks of the world. *An annotated and illustrated catalogue of shark species known to date. Vol. 2. Bullhead, mackerel and carpet sharks (Heterodontiformes, Lamniformes and Orectolobiformes). FAO species catalogue for fisheries purposes. No. 1. Vol. 2.* FAO, Rome.
- 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, Australia.
- Michael, S.W. 2001. *Aquarium sharks and rays: an essential guide to their selection, keeping, and natural history.* Microcosm Ltd., Charlotte, Vermont, and T.F.H. Publications, Neptune City, New Jersey.