

Coffin Ray, *Hypnos monopterygius*

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| Report Card assessment | Sustainable | | |
| IUCN Red List Australian Assessment | Least Concern (Endemic to Australia) | IUCN Red List Global Assessment | Least Concern |
| Global Assessors | Jacobsen, I.P. & Lisney, T.J. | | |
| Australian Assessors | Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T., Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan) & Rigby, C.L. | | |
| Report Card Remarks | Common and wide range, hardy species, low risk in assessed fisheries, and significant refuge in lightly fished and unfished parts of its range. | | |

Summary

The Coffin Ray is a small and common continental shelf ray endemic to Australia in a wide range from tropical to temperate waters. It is an incidental catch of trawl fisheries and is released with likely high post-release survival as it is a hardy species. It is caught in the Commonwealth Southern and Eastern Scalefish Fishery (SESSF) and assessed as at low risk from the fishery. It is also caught in a range of state fisheries, though catch data is mostly limited. It has been assessed as at low risk in the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery and at

medium risk in the Spencer Gulf Prawn Fishery, possibly due to potentially limited productivity. Its vulnerability was assessed as low for both fishing and climate change, and It has significant areas of refuge in unfished or lightly fished parts of its southern and western range. Therefore, the Coffin Ray is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

The Coffin Ray is endemic to Australia in tropical to temperate waters (Last et al. 2016). It has a wide and disjunct range occurring from Heron Island (Queensland) to Eden (New South Wales) in the east and from Timor Reef (Northern Territory) to Gulf St Vincent (South Australia) in the west (Jacobsen and Lisney 2015).

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species. However, it is relatively common in some inshore locations (Jacobsen and Lisney 2015).

Fisheries

The Coffin Ray is an incidental catch of trawl fisheries. In Australia, it is caught in the Commonwealth Southern and Eastern Scalefish Fishery (SESSF) with an estimated annual average catch of 9 tonnes between 2000–2006 with all catch released as it has no commercial value and post-release survival likely high as it is a hardy species (Walker and Gason 2007, Kyne et al. 2021). It is assessed as at low risk in the Sectors of the SESSF in which it is taken, that is, the Commonwealth Trawl and Great Australian Bight Trawl (Sporcic et al. 2021a, b). It is also caught in state fisheries though catch data is mostly limited; it is assessed as at low risk in the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery and at medium risk in the Spencer Gulf Prawn Fishery, possibly due to potentially limited productivity (PIRSA 2014, Campbell et al. 2018). It is caught and released in the New South Wales Ocean Trawl Fishery (OTF) with the species noted in 25% of observed shots over two years (2017/18–2018/19) and mean catch rates of 3–25 kg/observed fishing trip (Johnson and Barnes 2023). Within Western Australia, it would have significant refuge as more than 90% of the area may never have been trawled within the 200 m isobath due to a combination of spatial trawl closures and marine parks (Gaughan and Santoro 2021). Unfished or lightly fished areas across the western Great Australian Bight also provide refuge for the species (Kyne et al. 2021). The Coffin Ray’s vulnerability was assessed as low for both fishing and climate change (Walker et al. 2021).

Habitat and biology

The Coffin Ray is demersal on the continental shelf at depths of 0–220 m, though mainly to 80 m depth (Last et al. 2016). Maximum size is at least 63 cm total length (TL) and both sexes mature at 40–48 cm TL (Last et al. 2016). Litter size is 4–8 pups and it is a hardy species capable of surviving out of water for several hours (Jacobsen and Lisney 2015).

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| Longevity and maximum size | Longevity: unknown Max size: 63 cm TL |
| Age and/or size at maturity (50%) | Both sexes: 40–48 cm TL |

CAAB Code: 37 028001

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41828/68630121>

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

References

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