

## Grey Gummy Shark, *Mustelus ravidus*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern (Endemic to Australia)	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	McAuley, R.B. & Kyne, P.M.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Minor bycatch and refuge outside fished areas.		

### Summary

The Grey Gummy Shark is a slender, deepwater shark. It occurs in northwest and western Australia. The species is a bycatch of the Western Australian West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery. However, catches are small and the species is most common in deeper waters outside the area of the fishery. Its range also includes a large area where shark fishing is prohibited. Limited biological data suggest it is a relatively productive species. Therefore, it is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).



### Distribution

The range of the Grey Gummy Shark is wider than previously reported (Last and Stevens 2009). It was firstly known only from northwest Australian waters (White and Last 2006). Catches have now been verified from Perth (Western Australia) northwards to Darwin (Northern Territory) (Last and Stevens 2009).

### Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species. However, it is assumed to be stable given its limited interaction with fisheries.

### Fisheries

The Grey Gummy Shark is a minor component of the bycatch in the Western Australian West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery; probably less than four tonnes per year (R. McAuley, unpubl. data). In Western Australia, gummy sharks (*Mustelus* spp.) exhibited a 2% decline in the total catch from 2005–2006, however breeding stock levels were considered adequate (McAuley 2007). The Grey Gummy Shark is not targeted in Western Australia and has not been recorded from the

Pilbara Fish Trawl Fishery despite extensive sampling (Stephenson and Chidlow 2003). Its range also includes a large area (approximately 10,000 km<sup>2</sup>) where shark fishing is prohibited.

### Habitat and biology

The Grey Gummy Shark is a demersal species that occurs at depths of 100–300 m (Last and Stevens 2009). Maximum size is at least 78 cm total length (TL) with males mature at 66 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009). There is very little information available about its life history. Litter sizes of 6–24 pups.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 78 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 66 cm TL Females: unknown

**CAAB Code:** 37 017005

**Link to IUCN Page:** <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/63165/68634279>

**Link to page at Shark References:** <http://www.shark-references.com/species/view/Mustelus-ravidus>

### 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*. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood.
- McAuley, R. 2007. *Demersal Gillnet and Longline Fisheries Status Report*. In: J.W. Penn, W.J. Fletcher and F. Head (eds), State of the Fisheries Report. Department of Fisheries Western Australia, Perth, WA.
- Stephenson, P. and Chidlow, J.A. 2003. *Bycatch in the Pilbara Trawl Fishery*. Final Report to Natural Heritage Trust, Report.
- White, W.T. and Last, P.R. 2006. Description of two new species of smooth-hounds, *Mustelus widodoi* and *M. ravidus* (Carcharhiniformes: Triakidae) from the western central Pacific. *Cybium* 30(3): 235–246.