

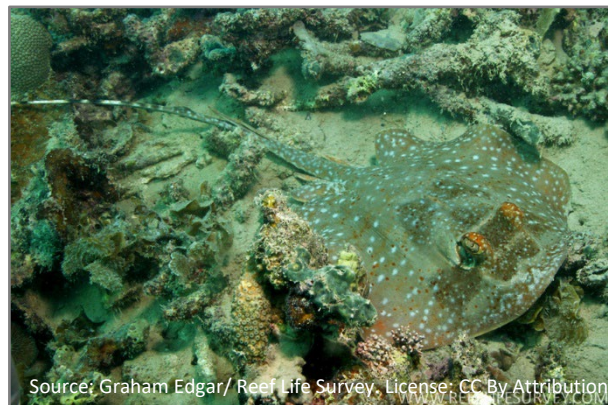
Ningaloo Maskray, *Neotrygon ningalooensis*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern* (Endemic to Australia)	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Data Deficient
Global Assessors	Ferretti, F. & 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	Very shallow depth range, limited interaction with fisheries, and significant refuge across its known range.		

*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 significant new information.

Summary

The Ningaloo Maskray is a small continental shelf ray endemic to tropical and subtropical waters of northern Australia. It is only known from a limited number of specimens and two areas; Gove Peninsula (Northern Territory) and Ningaloo Marine Park to Shark Bay (Western Australia), though it may be more widespread in northwest Australia. It appears to have high habitat specificity occurring only in soft sediments in shallow waters less than 5 m deep. The species' shallow depth range prevents it being caught in trawl fisheries and in most fisheries across its known range. It has refuge in marine parks of Ningaloo and Shark Bay and in other parts of its range that are remote with limited anthropogenic threats. It is susceptible to any future localised development. Due to its limited interaction with fisheries and refuge in protected and remote areas, the Ningaloo Maskray is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).



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Distribution

The Ningaloo Maskray is endemic to tropical and subtropical waters of northern Australia (Last et al. 2016). It has been recorded from Gove Peninsula (Northern Territory) and from Ningaloo Marine Park to Shark Bay (Western Australia) (Last et al. 2010). It may be more widespread across northwest Australia with its distribution potentially linked to its preference for soft sediments in shallow waters (Last et al. 2010, Kyne et al. 2021).

Stock structure and status

The Ningaloo Maskray 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. 2010, Ferretti and White 2015).

Fisheries

The Ningaloo Maskray is not encountered by trawl fisheries as they do not trawl in its very shallow depth range. This shallow depth range and the species high habitat specificity also prevents its capture in most other fisheries that operate in its known range (Ferretti and White 2015, Gaughan and Santoro 2021, NT Fisheries 2021). The Ningaloo Maskray receives refuge within the marine parks of Ningaloo and Shark Bay and across other parts of its range that are remote with limited fishing pressure (Gaughan and Santoro 2021, Kyne et al. 2021). The species is susceptible to habitat degradation and any future coastal development within in its limited known range could be a significant local threat (Ferretti and White 2015).

Habitat and biology

The Ningaloo Maskray is demersal on the continental shelf in coastal shallow water usually less than 5 m depth (Last et al. 2016). It appears to have high habitat specificity occurring only in these shallow waters on soft sediment adjacent to reefs (Ferretti and White 2015). Maximum size is at least 30 cm disc width (DW) (Last et al. 2016). Nothing else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 30 cm DW
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Unknown

CAAB Code: 37 035030

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/195463/68636829>

Link to page at Shark References: <http://shark-references.com/species/view/Alopias-vulpinus>

References

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- Gaughan, D.J. and Santoro, K. (eds). 2021. *Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia 2019/20: The State of the Fisheries*. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia.
- 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.
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- Last, P., White, W., Carvalho, M.R. de, Séret, B., Stehmann, M. and Naylor, G.J.P. 2016. *Rays of the World*. CSIRO Publishing, Clayton, Victoria, Australia.
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