

Common Sawshark, *Pristiophorus cirratus*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern (Endemic to Australia)	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Global Assessors	Walker, T.I.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan) and Woodhams, J., Braccini, M., Krueck, N., Peddemors, V. & Rogers, P. (SAFS – all sawsharks combined)		
Report Card Remarks	Byproduct species in southern waters; actively managed with Total Allowable Catch and Individual Transferable Quota.		

Summary

The Common Sawshark is a moderately abundant, widely distributed shark endemic to southern Australia. It occurs in temperate and subtropical waters on the shelf and upper slope. The species is harvested over its entire range and is a marketed byproduct. Most of the catch is taken from Bass Strait by gillnets, from southern New South Wales and eastern Victoria by demersal otter trawl and Danish seine; and the Great Australian Bight by demersal otter trawl. The Common Sawshark is



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actively managed with catch rates assessed annually and considered sustainable. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (Woodhams et al. 2021).

Distribution

The Common Sawshark occurs from Jurien Bay (Western Australia) to Coffs Harbour (New South Wales), including Tasmania (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

No information is available on stock structure of this species. The Common Sawshark is moderately abundant, with highest concentrations in Bass Strait. It is assessed as a Tier 4 species in the Southeast Scalefish and Shark Fishery using catch rate data of all sawfish species combined. The most recent stock assessment showed that catch-per-unit-effort is above the target level and so is considered Sustainable (Woodhams et al. 2021).

Fisheries

The Common Sawshark is taken as byproduct in from targeting Gummy Shark (*Mustelus antarcticus*) with gillnets (Walker 1999). It is also taken by otter trawl and Danish seine in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery and Great Australian Bight with estimated annual catches of 276 tonne during 2000 to 2006, of which the majority was retained for market (93%) (Walker and Gason 2007). The Common Sawshark is currently actively managed with a Total Allowable Catch and Individual Transferable Quota.

Habitat and biology

The Common Sawshark is endemic to the waters of southern Australia's outer continental shelf in depths of 40 630 m (Last and Stevens 2009). The maximum size is 149 cm total length (TL) and maximum age is 15 years (Walker et al. 2005). Males mature at approximately 97 cm TL and females at 113 cm TL (Hudson et al. 2005, Last and Stevens 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: estimated 15 years Max size: 149 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: ~97 cm TL Females: 113 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 023002

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/39327/207778564>

Status of Australian Fish Stocks Page: <https://fish.gov.au/report/276-SAWSHARKS-2020>

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

References

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- 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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