

## Southern Sawshark, *Pristiophorus nudipinnis*

<b>Report Card assessment</b>	<b>Sustainable</b>		
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

Southern Sawshark is a common endemic species on the continental shelf of southern Australia. 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 Southern Sawshark is actively managed with an annual Total Allowable Catch and Individual Transferable Quotas. Current exploitation rates are assessed annually and considered sustainable. Therefore, this species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (Woodhams et al. 2021).



Southern Sawshark is endemic to the waters of southeast Australia from the western region of the Great Australian Bight (South Australia) to Montague Island (New South Wales) (Last and Stevens 2009).

### Distribution

Southern Sawshark is endemic to the waters of southeast Australia from the western region of the Great Australian Bight (South Australia) to Montague Island (New South Wales) (Last and Stevens 2009).

### Stock structure and status

No information is available on stock structure of this species. The Southern Sawshark is a common species, 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 Southern Sawshark is taken as byproduct from targeting Gummy Shark (*Mustelus antarcticus*) with gillnets off Victoria and, to a lesser extent, Tasmania and South Australia (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 Southern Sawshark is currently actively managed with a Total Allowable Catch and Individual Transferable Quota.

### Habitat and biology

The Southern Sawshark occurs on the inner continental shelf to at least 110 m (Last and Stevens 2009). Maximum size is 124 cm total length (TL) and maximum age is 9 years (Walker et al. 2005). Males mature at 90 cm TL and females at 87 cm TL (Hudson et al. 2005, Last and Stevens 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: 9 years Max size: 124 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 90 cm TL Females: 87 cm TL

**CAAB Code:** 37 023001

**Link to IUCN Page:** <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41846/68641142>

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

**Link to page at Shark References:** [www.shark-references.com/species/view/Pristiophorus-nudipinnis](http://www.shark-references.com/species/view/Pristiophorus-nudipinnis)

### References

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