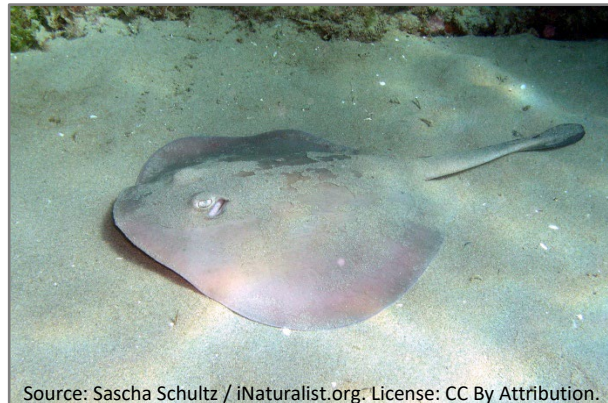


Eastern Shovelnose Stingaree, *Trygonoptera imitata*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern (Endemic to Australia)	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Global Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Finucci, B., Marshall, L.J., Last, P.R. & Trinnie, F.		
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 a relatively minor catch with recent reductions in fishing pressure.		

Summary

The Eastern Shovelnose Stingaree is a common medium-sized ray endemic to temperate continental shelf waters of southern Australia where it occurs in a relatively restricted range across Victoria and into South Australia. It is an incidental catch of trawl and seine fisheries and is caught in the Commonwealth Southern and Eastern Scalefish Fishery (SESSF) in relatively minor amounts, that is, an average annual catch of 720 kg per year from 2001–2006. Fishing effort within the SESSF is limited in Bass Strait



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which would provide some degree of refuge for the species and the species is assessed as at low risk from the SESSF. It is released when caught although post-release mortality for trawl caught stingarees is generally high and stingarees typically abort their embryos when captured. The species is common within Port Phillip Bay and Western Port Bay and the cessation of net fishing in Port Phillip Bay by 2022 will reduce the fishing pressure on the species. The Eastern Shovelnose Stingaree's vulnerability was assessed as low for both fishing and climate change. Therefore, the Eastern Shovelnose Stingaree is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Eastern Shovelnose Stingaree is endemic to temperate waters in southern Australia (Last et al. 2016). It occurs in a relatively restricted range from Jervis Bay (New South Wales) to Beachport (South Australia) (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 common in Port Phillip Bay and Western Port Bay (Victoria) (Last and Stevens 2009). Biomass increased in Port Phillip Bay between 1975–1991 possibly due to declines in other species and thus reduced competition (Hobday et al. 1999, Kyne et al. 2019).

Fisheries

The Eastern Shovelnose Stingaree is an incidental catch of trawl and seine fisheries (Kyne et al. 2019). It is caught in the Commonwealth Southern and Eastern Scalefish Fishery (SESSF) with an estimated annual catch of 720 kg between 2000–2006 (Walker and Gason 2007). Fishing effort in this fishery is limited within Bass Strait which would provide some degree of refuge and the species is assessed as at low risk from the SESSF (Kyne et al. 2021, Sporcic et al. 2021). The species is released when caught, though, post-release mortality for trawl caught stingarees is generally high and urolophids typically abort their embryos when caught which can reduce population viability (Rigby et al. 2016, Adams et al. 2018, Campbell et al. 2018). Commercial net fishing will cease in Port Phillip Bay by 2022 which will reduce the fishing pressure on the species (Kyne et al. 2019). The species vulnerability to fishing and climate change in southern waters was assessed as low (Walker et al. 2021).

Habitat and biology

The Eastern Shovelnose Stingaree is demersal on the continental shelf at depths of 0–120 m though often in less than 5 m depth and common in large bays and near beaches (Last et al. 2016). Maximum size is at least 80 cm total length (TL) and maximum age estimated to 12 years (Trinnie et al. 2003, Last et al. 2016). Both sexes mature at approximately 5 years and 48 cm TL (Trinnie et al. 2009). Litter size is 1–7 pups (Trinnie et al. 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: estimated 12 years Max size: at least 80 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Both sexes: ~5 years, ~48 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 038014

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/60081/68648058>

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

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