

Striped Stingaree, *Trygonoptera ovalis*

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. & 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	Relatively restricted range but mostly remote with low levels of fishing pressure.		

Summary

The Striped Stingaree is a small inshore species endemic to temperate waters of southwest Australia in a relatively restricted range. It is infrequently caught in fisheries likely due to its preference for rocky bottom and kelp bed habitats which also provides it refuge from fishing pressure. It is occasionally caught incidentally in small-scale trawl fisheries with the low encounter rates likely due to these fisheries mostly operating in sand and mud habitats. If caught, it would likely be released though post-release mortality for trawl caught stingarees is generally high and stingarees typically abort their embryos when captured. The species range is mostly in remote areas where a combination of state and Commonwealth marine parks and reserves and low fishing effort result in 98% of the region not being fished. The species vulnerability has been assessed as low and high for fishing and climate change, respectively. Therefore, the Striped Stingaree is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

The Striped Stingaree is endemic to temperate waters of southwest Australia where it occurs in a relatively restricted range from Eucla in the Great Australian Bight to near the Abrolhos Islands (Last and Stevens 2009, Last et al. 2016).

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species.

Fisheries

The Striped Stingaree is an occasional incidental catch of inshore trawl fisheries (Last et al. 2016, Kyne and White 2019). There are three small-scale fisheries that target scallops (*Ylistrum baloti*) and to a

lesser extent prawns, across its range, that is, Abrolhos Islands and Mid-West Trawl, South West Trawl, and South Coast Trawl. All these fisheries are managed with limited entry, seasonal closures, and mandatory bycatch reduction devices (BRDs), although BRDs are not highly effective at excluding small rays such as this species (Griffiths et al. 2006, Kangas et al. 2019, Gaughan and Santoro 2021). These fisheries are low effort with low levels of bycatch and the infrequent catches of the Striped Stingaree may be partly because the fisheries mainly operate over sand and mud habitats (Gaughan and Santoro 2021); the species preferred rocky habitat likely provides refuge from most trawling. If caught, the Striped Stingaree would be released as rays have been prohibited from retention in Western Australian (WA) commercial fisheries since 2006 (Evans and Molony 2010). However, post-release mortality for trawl caught stingarees is generally high (Campbell et al. 2018) and urolophids typically abort their embryos when caught which can reduce population viability (Rigby et al. 2016, Adams et al. 2018). Within the 200 m isobath in WA, more than 90% of the area may never have been trawled due to a combination of spatial trawl closures and marine parks, providing significant refuge for the species (Gaughan and Santoro 2021). The species vulnerability was assessed as low and high for fishing and climate change, respectively (Walker et al. 2021).

Habitat and biology

The Striped Stingaree is demersal on the continental shelf from inshore to a depth of approximately 45 m (Last et al. 2016). Its preferred habitat is rocky substrates and seagrass beds (Last and Stevens 2009). Maximum size is 61 cm total length (TL) with males mature at approximately 35 cm TL (. Little else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 61 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: ~35 cm TL Females: unknown

CAAB Code: 37 038016

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/60083/68648254>

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

References

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