

Masked Stingaree, *Trygonoptera personata*

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	Fishing pressure is low and significant spatial refuge.		

Summary

The Masked Stingaree is a small continental shelf ray endemic to subtropical to temperate waters of Western Australia where it occurs in a relatively restricted range. It is relatively common and is caught incidentally in the small-scale inshore scallop and prawn fisheries which are managed with limited entry and seasonal closures. It would be released as rays are prohibited from retention in Western Australian state fisheries though post-release mortality for trawl caught stingarees is generally high and stingarees typically abort their embryos when captured. The Masked Stingaree would receive considerable refuge in state waters where most of the area within the 200 m isobath is protected from trawling. The overall fishing pressure is low across its range and the species' receives significant spatial refuge. Therefore, the Masked Stingaree is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

The Masked Stingaree is endemic to subtropical to temperate waters of Western Australia where it occurs in a relatively restricted range from Shark Bay to Bunbury (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, although it is considered relatively common (Kyne and White 2019).

Fisheries

The Masked Stingaree is incidentally caught in inshore prawn and scallop (*Ylistrum baloti*) trawl fisheries which operate in parts of its range (Kyne and White 2019). It was reported to account for 2.6% of the total fish biomass in the 1990s in research trawl surveys from Perth to Bunbury (Kyne and

White 2019). The prawn fishery is in the northern part of its range, that is, Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery and there are three Managed Fisheries that target scallops across its range, that is, Shark Bay Scallop, Abrolhos Islands and Mid-West Trawl, and South West Trawl. Reconstructed annual catches for this species from South West Trawl in the 1990s were negligible (M. Braccini pers. comm. 2022). 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 2006, Kangas et al. 2019, Gaughan and Santoro 2021). The Masked Stingaree would be released as rays have been prohibited from retention in Western Australian commercial fisheries since 2006 (Evans and Molony 2010). However, 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). Within the 200 m isobath, more than 90% of the region 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). Consequently, overall fishing pressure across the species range is low.

Habitat and biology

The Masked Stingaree is demersal on the continental shelf at depths of 0–115 m (Last et al. 2016). Maximum size is approximately 55 cm total length (TL) and maximum age is 16 years (White et al. 2002). Males mature at 4 years and 22 cm TL and females at 4 years and 23 cm TL (White et al. 2002). Reproduction is annual with a litter size of 1-2 pups (White et al. 2002, Last et al. 2016).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: 16 years Max size: ~55 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 4 years, 22 cm TL Females: 4 years, 23 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 038017

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/60084/68648341>

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

References

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