

Banded Stingaree, *Urolophus cruciatus*

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. & Treloar, M.A.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T., Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan) & Rigby, C.L.		
Report Card Remarks	Common, some declines at the limit of its range but mostly occurs in areas of limited or no fishing pressure.		

Summary

The Banded Stingaree is a common small ray endemic to temperate continental shelf waters of southern Australia where it occurs in a relatively restricted range. It is an incidental catch of trawl and seine fisheries and is caught in the Commonwealth Southern and Eastern Scalefish Fishery (SESSF) with stable catches from 2001–2006. In earlier years, significant declines in stingarees were noted in SESSF surveys over 20 years from 1977–1997, including this species.



Thus, it likely has undergone some population decline but only at the limit of its range as it mostly occurs in lightly fished or unfished areas, including Bass Strait where there is no trawling. 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 Banded Stingaree's vulnerability was assessed as low for both fishing and climate change. Therefore, the Banded Stingaree is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Banded Stingaree is endemic to temperate southern Australia waters (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

The species is abundant across its range and catch trends were stable in the Commonwealth Southern and Eastern Scalefish Fishery (SESSF) (Walker and Gason 2007, Kyne and Treloar 2019).

Fisheries

The Banded Stingaree is an incidental catch of trawl and seine fisheries. It is caught in the SESSF with an estimated annual catch of 70 t between 2000–2006 and fluctuations in catches with no overall

trend (Walker and Gason 2007). All catch was released; 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). There was a decline of 81–91% in mean catch rates of stingarees in the SESSF at Ulladulla and Eden over 20 years from 1977–1997 with the Banded Stingaree present in some of the survey catches (Graham et al. 2001). Thus, the species has likely undergone some population decline due to the historically high levels of fishing pressure. However, fishing pressure has since declined significantly in the SESSF and the Banded Stingaree is assessed as at low risk in both the Commonwealth Trawl and Danish Seine Sectors (Sporcic et al. 2021a, b). The area of high fishing pressure was at the limit of the species range and most of its range is in unfished or lightly fished inshore waters including Bass Strait where there is no trawling (Kyne et al. 2021). The species vulnerability to fishing and climate change was assessed as low (Walker et al. 2021).

Habitat and biology

The Banded Stingaree is demersal on the continental slope at depths of 0–210 m and occurs in bays and large estuaries (Last et al. 2016). Maximum size is approximately 50 cm total length (TL) (Last et al. 2016). Both sexes mature at approximately 6 years and males mature at 21 cm TL and females at 20 cm TL (Treloar and Laurenson 2006, Trinnie *et al.* 2016). Litter size is 1–4 pups and it has a biennial reproductive cycle (Trinnie et al. 2016). Large estuaries are important habitat for pupping, such as the Derwent River in Tasmania (Kyne and Treloar 2019).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: ~ 50 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 6 years, 21 cm TL Females: 6 years, 20 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 038002

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/60090/68649223>

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

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