

Lobed Stingaree, *Urolophus lobatus*

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 low levels of fishing pressure and significant refuge.		

Summary

The Lobed Stingaree is a common and small inshore shelf species endemic to temperate waters of southwest Australia in a relatively restricted area. It is a common incidental catch in the small-scale inshore scallop and prawn fisheries which are low effort and 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 Lobed Stingaree would receive considerable refuge as most of the area within the 200 m isobath is protected from trawling. The species vulnerability was assessed as low and medium for fishing and climate change, respectively. The overall fishing pressure is low across its range and the species receives significant spatial refuge. Therefore, the Lobed Stingaree is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

The Lobed Stingaree is endemic to temperate waters off southwest Australia in a relatively restricted range (Last et al. 2016). It occurs from Rottnest Island to near Esperance (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species, although it is considered very common across its range (Kyne and White 2019).

Fisheries

The Lobed Stingaree is a common incidental catch in inshore trawl fisheries and possibly in the small-scale finfish net fisheries (Kyne and White 2019, Gaughan and Santoro 2021). It was reported to

account for 4.8% of the total fish biomass in the 1990s in research trawl surveys of the coastal shelf in southwestern Australia (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 relatively low effort and 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). Reconstructed annual catches for this species from South Coast Trawl in the 1990s were negligible (M. Braccini pers. comm. 2022). If caught, the Lobed 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 medium for fishing and climate change, respectively (Walker et al. 2021).

Habitat and biology

The Lobed Stingaree is demersal on the continental shelf from inshore to a depth of 30 m with preferred habitats of sandy substrates and seagrass beds (Last et al. 2016, Kyne and White 2019). Maximum size is at least 43 cm total length (TL) and maximum age of at least 14 years (White et al. 2001). Males mature at 2 years and approximately 25 cm TL and females at 3 years and 31 cm TL with litter sizes of one (occasionally 2) pups annually (White et al. 2001).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: at least 14 years Max size: at least 43 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 2 years, ~25 cm TL Females: 3 years, 31 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 038021

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/60097/68649676>

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

References

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