

Western Shovelnose Ray, *Aptychotrema vincentiana*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Morgan, D.L. & McAuley, R.B.		
Report Card Remarks	Wide ranging and common ray that is taken in some fisheries		

Summary

The Western Shovelnose Ray is endemic to southern and western Australian coastal waters. The species is taken in several commercial fisheries and although it is generally returned to the water (some catch is retained), some mortality is reported to occur in trawl fisheries and possibly post-release. The species occurs in a variety of habitats and is one of the more productive shovelnose rays with litter sizes of 14-16 pups. The Western Shovelnose Ray is wide-ranging and remains common. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and Sustainable (SAFS).



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Distribution

The Western Shovelnose Ray is found from Port Hedland in the Pilbara region (Western Australia) to the Kent Islands in Bass Strait. However, there is some uncertainty regarding the taxonomy of the species within northwestern Australia (probably Shark Bay northwards) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

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

Fisheries

The Western Shovelnose Ray is captured in a variety of fisheries throughout its range, yet bycatch data for this species is relatively poorly reported. It is commonly encountered in inshore trawl fisheries on the west coast, and gillnet and longline fisheries on the southwestern and southern coasts of Western Australia (Jones et al. 2010, Evans and Molony 2012). Outside of Western Australia, the species is a likely bycatch in South Australian prawn trawl fisheries, while in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery, about 7 tonnes are estimated to be caught annually, with the bulk being discarded (Walker and Gason 2007).

Habitat and biology

The Western Shovelnose Ray appears to occupy different habitats throughout its range; in southern Australia they are generally found in nearshore waters while in northwest Australia (north of Exmouth), they appear to be found in offshore waters (Last and Stevens 2009, Jones et al. 2010). However, taxonomic issues may need to be resolved between these areas (Last and Stevens 2009). Maximum size is at least 100 cm total length (TL) with males mature at 64 cm TL and females at 80 cm TL (Jones et al. 2010).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 100 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 64 cm TL Females: 80 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/44186/0>

Link to page at Shark References:

<http://www.shark-references.com/species/view/Aptychotrema-vincentiana>

References

- Evans, R. and Molony, B.W. 2010. Ranked Risk Assessment for Bycatch in Multiple Fisheries: a Bioregional Risk Assessment Method. Fisheries Research Report No. 212. Department of Fisheries, Western Australia. 88pp.
- Jones, A.A., Hall, N.G. and Potter, I.C. 2010. Species compositions of elasmobranchs caught by three different commercial fishing methods off southwestern Australia, and biological data for four abundant bycatch species. *Fishery Bulletin* 108(4): 365-381.
- Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. *Sharks and Rays of Australia*. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood.
- Walker, T.I. and Gason, A.S. 2007. Shark and other chondrichthyan byproduct and bycatch estimation in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery. Final report to Fisheries and Research Development Corporation Project No. 2001/007. July 2007. vi + 182 pp. Primary Industries Research Victoria, Queenscliff, Victoria, Australia.