

Bronze Whaler, *Carcharhinus brachyurus*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Near Threatened
Assessors	Huveneers, C., Duffy, C.A.J. & Gordon, I.		
Report Card Remarks	Stable catches and size structure in Australia		

Summary

The Bronze Whaler is a large coastal species that is patchily distributed throughout temperate and tropical waters of the globe. Although it is a cosmopolitan species, regional populations seem to be discrete. It is exploited throughout its range by fisheries however, landings are often grouped with other *Carcharhinus* species. The Bronze Whaler utilises coastal nursery habitats and is sensitive to coastal development and habitat degradation. Stable catches and size structure have been recorded in South



Africa, New Zealand and Australia which all contain discrete populations. Therefore, the Bronze Whaler is assessed as Near Threatened (IUCN) globally and in Australia as Least Concern (IUCN) and Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Bronze Whaler has a patchy, cosmopolitan distribution throughout warm temperate areas. Within Australia, it is found throughout southern Australia, from Geraldton (Western Australia), through South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania (Bass Strait) to Coffs Harbour (New South Wales) (Last and Stevens 2009). Globally, it is found in New Zealand, Japan, California, Peru, South Africa, Algeria and the Mediterranean Sea.

Stock structure and status

Australian waters contain a genetically discrete population of Bronze Whaler (Benavides et al. 2011). This population is not heavily targeted by commercial fisheries. Little is known on the population status of Bronze Whalers in Australian waters, but catches and size structure appear to be stable suggesting it is Least Concern (IUCN) and Sustainable (SAFS)

Fisheries

The Bronze Whaler is taken by demersal gillnet and longline fisheries in southern Australia but annual catches are stable (McAuley and Simpfendorfer 2003, Walker and Gason 2007).

Habitat and biology

The Bronze Whaler is found in inshore and continental shelf habitats, in warm temperate and some tropical areas. The species occurs to depths of 100 m (Cliff and Dudley 1992, Chiamonte 1998a, Last and Stevens 2009). It is often found in shallow waters and juveniles are known to inhabit shallow, coastal waters (Cappo 1992, Rogers et al. 2013). Maximum size recorded is 350 cm total length (TL) (Last and Stevens 2009). Maximum age is not known.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 350 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 235 cm TL Females: 245 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/41741/0>

Link to page at Shark References: <http://shark-references.com/species/view/Carcharhinus-brachyurus>

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