

## Coates' Shark, *Carcharhinus coatesi*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Refer to Global Assessment	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Baje, L.		
Report Card Remarks	Low catches are taken in northern Australian waters		

### Summary

Coates' Shark is a small inshore shark restricted to waters of northern Australia and southern Papua New Guinea. It was recently identified as a separate species from the Whitecheek Shark (*C. dussumieri*). Coates' Shark is relatively abundant in



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northern Australian waters. It is caught as bycatch throughout its distribution in commercial fisheries. Species-specific catch data are limited, the catches are expected to be moderate to high in Papua New Guinea and relatively low in Australia. Therefore, it is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and in Australia, Sustainable (SAFS).

### Distribution

The Coates' shark is commonly found in inshore continental and insular shelf waters of northern Australia and southern Papua New Guinea. Within Australia, it is found in Western Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland (White 2012).

### Stock structure and status

A recently described species, there is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the Coates' Shark. In northern Queensland, a survey of coastal shark communities collected 87 individuals over a period of 142 days sampling using gillnets and longlines, and considered it to be moderately abundant (Yates et al. 2015).

### Fisheries

Coates' Shark is taken as bycatch in gillnet and demersal trawl fisheries in northern Australia. In Papua New Guinea, it is taken as bycatch in the prawn trawl fishery where catch rates are moderately high. It is occasionally taken by recreational fishers

### Habitat and biology

The Coates' Shark is found in insular and continental shelf inshore waters. Little information is known on the Coates' Shark as it has only been recently identified as a separate species from *C. dussumieri* (White 2012). Life history data such as size, age and growth parameters have been reported by Smart et al. (2013).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: 7 yr Max size: 91.5 cm
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Unknown

**Link to IUCN Page:** <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

### References

- Smart, J. J., Harry, A. V., Tobin, A. J. and Simpfendorfer, C. A. 2013. Overcoming the constraints of low sample sizes to produce age and growth data for rare or threatened sharks. *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems* 23: 124–134.
- White, W.T. 2012. A redescription of *Carcharhinus dussumieri* and *C. seali*, with resurrection of *C. coatesi* and *C. tjtjtjot* as valid species (Chondrichthyes: Carcharhinidae). *Zootaxa* 3241: 1-34.
- Yates, P.M., Heupel, M.R., Tobin, A.J., Moore, S.K. and Simpfendorfer, C.A. 2015. Diversity in immature-shark communities along a tropical coastline. *Marine and Freshwater Research* 66(5): 399-410.