Bull Shark, *Carcharhinus leucas*

Report Card assessment	**Sustainable**		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Refer to Global Assessment	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Near Threatened
Assessors	Espinoza, M & Sparks, J.S.		
Report Card Remarks	Catches in Australian Shark Control Programs have been relatively low and constant		

Summary

The Bull Shark is a large bodied shark that is common to coastal and estuarine waters throughout tropical and subtropical waters of the world. It can spend extended periods of time in freshwater, long distances up river. This makes numerous life stages of the Bull Shark susceptible to a number of coastal and estaurine fisheries. It is also susceptible to habitat degradation of estaurine nursery habitat. In Australia, although frequently encountered, catch rates of Bull Sharks have remained stable over time. Globally, fishing pressure, coastal development and shark control programs may threaten Bull Sharks in the future. Therefore, it is assessed globally and in Australia as Near Threatened (IUCN), and Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Bull Shark has a circumglobal distribution in tropical and warm-temperate waters (Last and Stevens 2009). Within Australia, it is found from Sydney (New South Wales) through Queensland, Northern Territory and to Perth (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

Within Australia, there is currently little information on population size, structure, or trend for the Bull Shark. However, catch rates from Shark Control Programs and commercial fisheries have remained consistent over time, suggesting populations are not declining (Harry et al. 2011, Taylor et al. 2011).

Fisheries

Within Australia, Bull Sharks are not normally targeted but are commonly taken in commercial and recreational fisheries for their meat and fins. One of the main sources of mortality in eastern Australia is in the shark control programs in Queensland and New South Wales. Bull sharks are one of the target species in these programs. Because of their association with coastal and estuarine environments, Bull

Sharks are also susceptible to habitat degradation and the influence of climate change (Heupel and Simpfendorfer 2008).

Habitat and biology

Bull Sharks inhabit continental shelf environments and are known to undertake seasonal migrations (Daly et al. 2014, Heupel et al. 2015). However, mature females give birth in estuarine and fresh waters and juveniles remain there for up to 5 years (Curtis et al. 2011). Bull Sharks occur predominately in waters of less than 30 m however, can reach depths of 150 m. The maximum age estimated was 21 years for males and 24 years for females and (Branstatter and Stiles 1987). Maximum size has been recorded as 400 cm total length (TL) (McCord and Lamberth 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: estimated males 21 years, females 24 years Max size: 400 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 220 cm TL Females: 230 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/39372/0

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

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