

Sliteye Shark, *Loxodon macrorhinus*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Refer to Global Assessment	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Gutteridge, A.N., Simpfendorfer, C. & Stevens, J.D.		
Report Card Remarks	Relatively abundant and productive inshore species; limited fishing pressure in Australian waters.		

Summary

The Sliteye Shark is a small-bodied, productive shark species found in inshore waters throughout the Indo-West Pacific. It is commonly taken in artisanal, subsistence and commercial fisheries. Declines



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have potentially occurred in areas of high fishing pressure such as Southeast Asia, however the species is likely to be able to sustain a reasonable level of fishing pressure as it has high growth rates and an annual reproductive cycle. In Australia it is occasionally taken in gillnet fisheries in northern Australia, but forms only a small portion of the catch. Therefore, globally the Sliteye Shark is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN), and in Australia stocks are considered Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Sliteye Shark occurs almost continuously across inshore waters from eastern South Africa to southern Japan and eastern Australia (Last and Stevens 2009). Within Australia, it is found from Geraldton (Western Australia), across the Northern Territory to Moreton Bay (Queensland) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

There is currently little information on population size structure for Sliteye Sharks, although it is known to be quite common in some inshore locations such as southeast Queensland (Gutteridge et al. 2011). Given that the species is not harvested in large quantities by Australian fisheries, the local stock is considered Sustainable.

Fisheries

The Sliteye Shark is commonly taken as bycatch in commercial, artisanal and subsistence fisheries throughout its distribution (Compagno 1984, White 2007, Robinson and Sauer 2013). Within Australia, it is commonly encountered in northwest Australian demersal trawls (Last and Stevens 2009) and in gillnet fisheries in Western Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland. Catches in these fisheries are small and the effect on populations is likely low.

Habitat and biology

The Sliteye Shark is a small-bodied species that inhabits coastal and insular shelf waters to depths down to 100 m. It is more abundant in waters of low turbidity (Gutteridge et al. 2011). Maximum size is at least 99 cm total length (TL) (Stevens and McLoughlin 1991, Harry et al. 2011, Gutteridge et al. 2013). Maximum age is estimated for males at 7.1 years and for females at 8.9 years (Gutteridge et al. 2013). It reproduces annually with an average litter size of 2 pups (Gutteridge et al. 2013).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity estimated: males 7.1 years, females 8.9 years Max size: at least 99 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 1.7 years, 60-70 cm TL Females: 1.4 years, 60-70 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/41831/0>

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

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