

Southern Sawshark, *Pristiophorus nudipinnis*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Walker, T.I.		
Report Card Remarks	Actively managed with Total Allowable Catch and Individual Transferable Quota This species has been assessed in the Status of Australian Fish Stocks http://www.fish.gov.au/		

Summary

The Southern Sawshark is a common endemic species on the continental shelf of southern Australia. The species is harvested over its entire range and is a marketed byproduct. Most of the catch is taken from Bass Strait by



gillnets, from southern New South Wales and eastern Victoria by demersal otter trawl and Danish seine, and the Great Australian Bight by demersal otter trawl. The Southern Sawshark is actively managed with an annual Total Allowable Catch and Individual Transferable Quotas. Current exploitation rates are assessed annually and considered sustainable. Therefore, this species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and has been assessed as Sustainable in the Status of Australian Fish Stocks.

Distribution

The Southern Sawshark is endemic to the waters of southeast Australia from the western region of the Great Australian Bight (South Australia) to Montague Island (New South Wales) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

The Southern Sawshark is a common species, with highest concentrations in Bass Strait. However, the biological stock structure is not known. The species declined between the 1970s and 1980s but recovered by the late 2000s (Walker et al. 2005, Braccini et al. 2009). The Common Sawshark is currently actively managed with a Total Allowable Catch and Individual Transferable Quota. Current exploitation rates are assessed annually and considered sustainable. Minor threats include capture in the shark gillnet fishery of Western Australia and fishing with longlines and other methods. Current stock assessments indicate that the stock is stable and sustainable (see link to SAFS webpage below).

Fisheries

The Southern Sawshark is fishing is retained as byproduct from targeting Gummy Shark (*Mustelus antarcticus*) with gillnets off Victoria and, to a lesser extent, Tasmania and South Australia (Walker 1999). Annual catches of sawshark (*P. nudipinnis* and *P. cirratus*) were variable (43 to 359 tonne) over the years 1970 to 2006 (Walker and Gason 2009). The average annual catch of the Southern Sawshark was estimated as 276 t from fishing methods other than shark gillnetting in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery for 2000 to 2006. The majority of this catch was retained (93%) (Walker and Gason 2007).

Habitat and biology

The Southern Sawshark occurs on the inner continental shelf to at least 110 m (Last and Stevens 2009). The maximum size is 124 cm total length (TL) and maximum age is 9 years (Walker et al. 2005). Males mature at 90 cm TL and females at 87 cm TL (Hudson et al. 2005, Last and Stevens 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: 9 years Max size: 124 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 90 cm TL Females: 87 cm TL

Link to State of Australian Fish Stocks Page: <http://www.fish.gov.au>

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/41846/0>

Link to page at Shark References: www.shark-references.com/species/view/Pristiophorus-nudipinnis

References

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