

Goldeneye Shovelnose Ray, *Rhinobatos sainsburyi*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	McAuley, R.B. & Kyne, P.M.		
Report Card Remarks	Minor bycatch in fisheries with refuge areas		

Summary

The Goldeneye Shovelnose Ray is a little known but common shelf species, endemic to northwest Australia. It is a known discarded bycatch of the Pilbara Fish Trawl Fishery and probably the Northern Prawn Fishery. The species is of negligible commercial value due



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to its small size, low recovery of saleable flesh and lack of markets. Parts of its range are permanently closed to trawling. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Goldeneye Shovelnose Ray occurs in northwest Australia from the Monte Bello Islands (Western Australia) to Melville Island (Northern Territory) (Last 2004, Last and Stevens 2009). Its distribution is possibly wider than reported due to the limited number of surveys of the elasmobranch fauna of the area.

Stock structure and status

The Goldeneye Shovelnose Ray is a common species (Last and Stevens 2009), but nothing is known of population size, structure or trend.

Fisheries

It is a known discarded bycatch in the Pilbara Fish Trawl Fishery (Stephenson and Chidlow 2003). It is also a likely minor bycatch of the Northern Prawn Fishery, where it operates in Joseph Bonaparte Gulf and the western Northern Territory, and other prawn trawl fisheries in its range.

Habitat and biology

The Goldeneye Shovelnose Ray occurs on the continental shelf at depths of 70 to 200 m (Last and Stevens 2009). Maximum size is at least 60 cm total length (TL) with males mature at approximately 40-45 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009). Little else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 60 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 40-45 cm TL Females: unknown

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/42721/0>

Link to page at Shark References: <http://www.shark-references.com/species/view/Rhinobatos-sainsburyi>

References

- Last, P.R. 2004. *Rhinobatos sainsburyi* n.sp. and *Aptychotrema timorensis* n.sp.—two new shovelnose rays (Batoidea: Rhinobatidae) from the eastern Indian Ocean. *Records of the Australian Museum* 56(2): 201-208.
- Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. *Sharks and Rays of Australia*. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood.
- Stevenson, P. and Chidlow, J. 2003. Bycatch in the Pilbara Trawl Fishery. WA Marine Research Laboratories.