

Southern Fiddler Ray, *Trygonorrhina dumerilii*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Huveneers, C. & Reardon, M.B.		
Report Card Remarks	Low catches, mostly released alive with likely high post-release survival		

Summary

The Southern Fiddler Ray is a relatively common medium-sized ray of southern Australia. It is taken as bycatch in trawl, gillnet and demersal longline fisheries but is most susceptible to trawling. Catches are relatively low and it is usually discarded alive with a likely high post-release survival rate. Catch data from the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery indicated a stable population with a low risk of future population declines. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

The Southern Fiddler Ray occurs in southern Australia from eastern Bass Strait (including Tasmania) across South Australia to Lancelin (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

The Southern Fiddler Ray is a relatively common species (Last and Stevens 2009). Within the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF) there has been no indication of population decline or increase, with the species considered abundant and at low risk of future population decline from fishing (Walker and Gason 2007). Walker and Gason (2007) suggested that Southern Fiddler Ray from the Eastern region might be decreasing but this likely refers to the Eastern Fiddler Ray.

Fisheries

The Southern Fiddler Ray is taken as bycatch of trawl, gillnet and longline fishing although the catches are relatively low and it is usually discarded alive with likely high post-release survival (Thomas and Chick 2007). In South Australia, the Southern Fiddler Ray is caught as bycatch in the Spencer Gulf and Gulf St Vincent prawn trawl fishery (Currie et al. 2009). In the SESSF, mean annual catch of Southern Fiddler Ray (misnamed as *T. fasciata*) during 2000–2006 was estimated as 220 tonnes, representing 8.3% of all rays within the SESSF and the third most commonly caught ray species (Walker and Gason

2007). The Southern Fiddler Ray is a minor component of the bycatch of the Western Australian southwest trawl, demersal gillnet, and demersal longline fisheries and is most susceptible to trawling (Jones et al. 2010).

Habitat and ecology

The Southern Fiddler Ray occurs on the continental shelf at depths of 30 to 205 m (Last and Stevens 2009). Maximum size is 146 cm total length (TL) with males mature at 68 cm TL and females at 89 cm TL (Marshall et al. 2007, Izzo and Gillanders 2008). Litter sizes are 2-5 pups (Last and Stevens 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity estimated: males 12 years, females 15 years Max size: 146 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: ~4-5 years, 68 cm TL Females: ~9-10 years, 89 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/43270317/0>

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

References

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