



**Status of pelagic elasmobranchs (sharks & rays) of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

***Prepared by the IUCN Shark Specialist Group at the New Zealand and Oceania Shark Red List Assessment Workshop, Auckland, 26-27 June 2017.***

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## The IUCN Shark Specialist Group

The IUCN Species Survival Commission's Shark Specialist Group (SSG) has long been a trusted source of science-based information and advice on sharks and their relatives. The Mission of the SSG is to secure the conservation, management and, where necessary, the recovery of the world's sharks, rays, and chimaeras by mobilizing global technical and scientific expertise. A core activity of the SSG is the assessment of the world's sharks, rays, and chimaeras for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, the most comprehensive inventory of the global status of species. The general aim of the system is to provide an explicit, objective framework for the classification of the broadest range of species according to their extinction risk.

### Western and Central Pacific Ocean Pelagic Sharks & Rays

**Table 1** provides a list of pelagic sharks and rays of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) that have been assessed as threatened (Endangered or Vulnerable) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. ***The sharks and rays identified here are priority species which require on-going efforts for bycatch mitigation, improved data collection, and sustainable management in pelagic fisheries of the Western and Central Pacific.***

**Table 2** provides a list of pelagic sharks and rays of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) that have been assessed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. ***The sharks and rays identified here include species which require on-going efforts for improved data collection, and sustainable management (including bycatch mitigation where appropriate, to avoid the species moving into a threatened category in the future) in pelagic fisheries of the Western and Central Pacific.***

**Table 3** provides a list of pelagic sharks and rays of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) that have been assessed as Data Deficient or are Not Evaluated on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. ***The sharks and rays identified here include species which require on-going efforts for improved data collection and research in pelagic fisheries of the Western and Central Pacific, in order to accurately assess their status.***

See the IUCN Red List section at the end of this document for definitions.

**Table 1.** Threatened (EN, Endangered; or VU, Vulnerable) pelagic sharks and rays of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Species indicated by \* are due for Red List reassessment in 2018.

Family	Species	Common name	Global IUCN Red List status
Cetorhinidae	<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	Basking Shark	VU A2bd+3d*
Alopiidae	<i>Alopias pelagicus</i>	Pelagic Thresher	VU A2d+4d*
	<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>	Bigeye Thresher	VU A2bd
	<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>	Common Thresher	VU A2bd+3bd+4bd
Lamnidae	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	White Shark	VU A2cd+3cd*
	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	Shortfin Mako	VU A2abd+3bd+4abd*
	<i>Isurus paucus</i>	Longfin Mako	VU A2bd+3d+4bd*
	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	VU A2bd+3d+4bd*
Rhincodontidae	<i>Rhincodon typus</i>	Whale Shark	EN A2bd+4bd
Carcharhinidae	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	Oceanic Whitetip Shark	VU A2ad+3d+4ad*
Sphyrnidae	<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	Scalloped Hammerhead	EN A2bd+4bd
	<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	Great Hammerhead	EN A2bd+4bd
	<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	Smooth Hammerhead	VU A2bd+3bd+4bd
Mobulidae	<i>Mobula alfredi</i>	Reef Manta	VU A2abd+3bd+4abd
	<i>Mobula birostris</i>	Giant Manta	VU A2abd+3bd+4abd
	<i>Mobula taracapana</i>	Chilean Devil Ray	VU A2bd

**Table 2.** Near Threatened (NT) pelagic sharks and rays of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Species indicated by \* are due for Red List reassessment in 2018.

Family	Species	Common name	Global IUCN Red List status
Pseudocarchariidae	<i>Pseudocarcharias kamoharai</i>	Crocodile Shark	NT*
Carcharhinidae	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	Silky Shark	NT
	<i>Carcharhinus galapagensis</i>	Galapagos Shark	NT*
	<i>Prionace glauca</i>	Blue Shark	NT*
Mobulidae	<i>Mobula mobular</i>	Giant/Spinetail Devil Ray	NT*
	<i>Mobula thurstoni</i>	Bentfin Devil Ray	NT

**Table 3.** Data Deficient and Not Evaluated pelagic sharks and rays of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Species indicated by \* are due for Red List reassessment in 2018.

Family	Species	Common name	Global IUCN Red List status
Odontaspidae	<i>Odontaspis noronhai</i>	Bigeye Sand Tiger	DD
Mobulidae	<i>Mobula kuhlii</i>	Kuhl's Devil Ray	Not Evaluated*

## The New Zealand and Oceania Shark Red List Assessment Workshop, June 2017

The New Zealand and Oceania Shark Red List Assessment Workshop assessed the regional status (that is, their status only in the New Zealand Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)) of New Zealand sharks, rays, and chimaeras (a total of 103 species). The workshop identified that most species within the New Zealand EEZ are currently Least Concern (66%) or Data Deficient (32%). Three species are of conservation concern for New Zealand (those listed below in Table 4). Regional assessments factor in external threats, and these assessments were partly based on potential bycatch impacts of WCPO pelagic fisheries. All three species are protected in New Zealand waters (species for which utilisation is not considered appropriate), are migratory, and are priorities of bycatch mitigation in WCPO fisheries.

**Table 4.** Species of conservation concern for New Zealand waters

Family	Species	Common name	New Zealand IUCN Red List status
Cetorhinidae	<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	Basking Shark	VU
Lamnidae	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	White Shark	VU
Mobulidae	<i>Mobula mobular</i> *	Giant/Spinetail Devil Ray	DD

\*Previously considered *Mobula japonica*, which is now treated as a synonym of *M. mobular*.

In addition, the workshop assessed the global status of endemic sharks, rays, and chimaeras of the Oceania region (28 species, mainly from New Caledonia, Fiji, Vanuatu, and the Solomon Islands). A full regional assessment for all species in the region was not conducted at this time as many of the wide-ranging species will be assessed in a pelagic-specific workshop due to take place in 2018. The Oceania endemic species which were assessed at the workshop are known predominately from the deep-sea, and these species are not likely to regularly interact with most fisheries in the WCPO. However, many of these species are known from a limited number of specimens and overall the fauna is characterised by a high level of data deficiency.

### The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

Threatened categories are Critically Endangered (CR; a species facing an *extremely high* risk of extinction in the wild), Endangered (EN; a species facing a *very high* risk of extinction in the wild), and Vulnerable (VU; a species facing a *high* risk of extinction in the wild). Assessments are based on a set of quantitative criteria, with Criterion A (the 'Population size reduction' criterion) the most applicable to sharks and rays. In addition to presenting the threat categories, Table 1 indicates the detailed criteria under which each species was assessed. The Criteria A1–A4 refer to different time scales of population decline: A1, past decline, the causes of which have ceased (no WCPO pelagic sharks assessed under this criterion); A2, past decline, the causes of which may not have ceased; A3, future decline; A4, combination of a past and future decline. a–d refer to different types of evidence for population size reduction.

Near Threatened (NT) species do not currently qualify for a threatened category, but are close to qualifying or likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future. Data Deficient (DD) species are those where there is currently inadequate information available to make an accurate assessment of their risk of extinction. Data Deficient is not a category of threat, but DD species may prove to be threatened if future research shows that they meet a threatened category. Not Evaluated species are those that have not yet been assessed against the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species Categories and Criteria.

Published Red List assessments are available at: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

Information on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species Categories are available at: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/categories-and-criteria>