

SHARK RAY

“NOT QUITE A SHARK BUT DEFINITELY ALL RAY”

SHARK RAY FACTS

Found in waters down to 70m deep, stretching from Western Australia's Shark Bay, across northern Australia, through the Great Barrier Reef, and south to Sydney.

Northern Australia is a refuge for the shark ray. However, it is globally listed as “Critically Endangered” because of rapid declines in populations in the Indo-West Pacific, including India and Southeast Asia.

Shark rays are popular in commercial aquariums.

Max. size 270cm



AUSTRALIAN SHARK RAY DISTRIBUTION



Females mature at 7 years old and give live birth to 2-11 pups.

SHARK RAY

Rhina ancylostoma

Near Threatened (Australia)

Critically Endangered (Global)



THREATS & SOLUTIONS



THREAT: Trawl fishing. It lives mostly on and near the seafloor where it can be 'scooped' up in trawls.

SOLUTION: Trawlers with escape hatches in the trawl nets have reduced the numbers caught in Australia.

THREAT: Live-finning: Fins are sliced off and bodies dumped at sea.

SOLUTION: Ensure that sharks and rays are brought back to land in one piece with their fins attached.



THREAT: Coastal development and climate change.

SOLUTION: Protect critical habitats from industrial development.



References:
1. IUCN Red List: Shark Ray (Bowmouth guitarfish) www.iucnredlist.org/species/41848/124421912

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