SharkChampions
with HSI and AMCS

Save Our Sharks

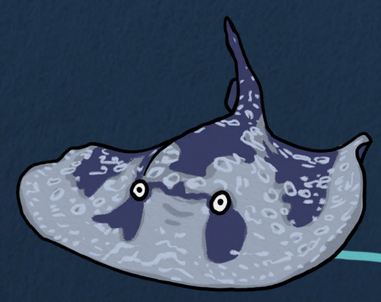
Saving our unique Aussie sharks & rays from commercial fishing

Extinction-risk hotspots

The number of threatened sharks & rays at risk from commercial fishing.

- 18-22 Species
- 14-17 Species
- 10-13 Species
- 5-9 Species
- 1-4 Species

Half of Australia's 322 species of shark & ray are found nowhere else in the world!

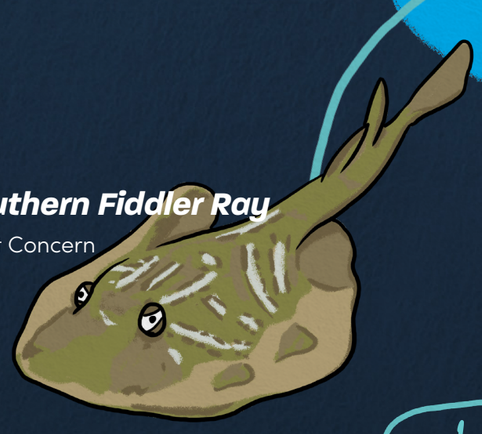


Spotted Stingaree
Least Concern

Eastern Angelshark
Vulnerable

Continental Shelf

Continental Slope



Southern Fiddler Ray
Least Concern

Whitefin Swellshark
Critically Endangered

Sydney Skate
Vulnerable

Why are half of Australia's sharks and rays unique to Australian waters?

Approximately 45 million years ago, Australia started its split from the supercontinent Gondwana and drifted in isolation over millions of years to form the world as we know it today. During this time sea levels changed, and deep ocean trenches and basins formed creating extensive underwater barriers that separated Australia from surrounding islands such as Indonesia and New Zealand. As a result, many sharks and rays in Australian waters evolved in isolation.

Why are they threatened?

Sharks are long-lived and reproduce slowly in low numbers. Most species generally take around 10 years to reach maturity and will produce up to six young every two years. This makes them vulnerable to overfishing and if their populations fall too low, they may not recover.

Trawling on or near the sea floor is a major threat, causing our unique Aussies to be swept up in giant scoop nets. Longlines sunken to the seafloor are also a big threat, with hundreds or thousands of baited hooks that can stretch out for over a kilometre.

Although some sharks and rays are thrown back, those killed are often sold for their meat which is commonly known as 'flake' and even 'boneless fillet'.

What can you do to help?

Our Aussie sharks and rays need someone to be their Champion. Will you be that person for them? Join over 50,000 people and become a Shark Champion today.

Learn more about how you can have your voice heard and take action to save our threatened sharks and rays at sharkchampions.org.au/aussies

Australian Marine Conservation Society

HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA

Supported by

Shark Conservation Fund

1. Heupel, M, Kyne, P, White, W, Simpfendorfer, C (2018) Shark Action Plan Policy Report. Report to the National Environmental Science Program, Marine Biodiversity Hub. Australian Institute of Marine Science.
2. Last, PR, White, WT (2011) Biogeographic patterns in the Australian chondrichthyan fauna. Journal of Fish Biology 79, 1193-1213.