



SHARK STEWARDS

RESTORING OCEAN HEALTH BY SAVING SHARKS

Grey Reef Shark (*Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*)

The grey reef shark (*C. amblyrhynchos*) is a medium-sized coastal shark that occurs in coral reef habitats, in tropical waters of the Indian and Pacific Oceans from the surface down to a depth of at least 280 meters. The species has relatively low biological productivity. *C. amblyrhynchos* is assessed as Endangered globally on the IUCN Red List

Endangered
Population decreasing

-As of 2020, the IUCN has listed Grey reef sharks as endangered with globally decreasing populations(1). They are listed as near threatened under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as of 2018.

-Grey reef shark declines of over 90% have been recorded in the Indian and Western Central Pacific Oceans(2, 3, 4). Globally, grey reef shark declines have surpassed approximately 30%.

-The Grey Reef Shark has a strong affinity for sites with high coral cover(5), making it sensitive to habitat degradation. Even if fishing is well managed, threats to coral reef ecosystems can have a direct impact on Grey Reef Sharks populations(5).

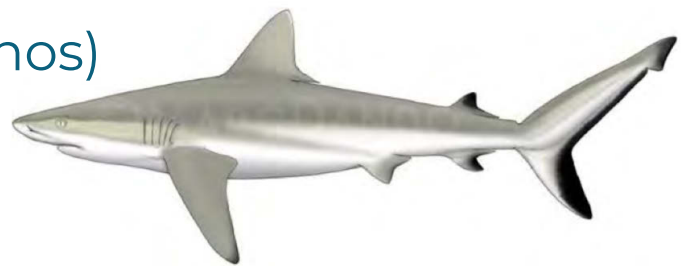


Image CITES

-The Grey Reef Sharks are vulnerable to fishing pressure due to high site fidelity, small litter size and late age at maturity(5). The species is also valued for their fins and used for skin and meat(6).

-Recent studies from 2010-2022 document that grey reef sharks are present in the shark fin trade, albeit in significantly smaller numbers(11, 12, 13, 14).

-In the 2000's this species was heavily fished in Australia due to the high levels of illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing(6).

-Increasing threats of climate change such as ocean warming and acidification have led to the rapid and significant decline of coral reefs and therefore are the primary cause of reef species decline(5, 7, 8, 9).



Image
Florida
Museum

-The coral reef area weighted population depletion of Grey Reef Sharks was estimated as 59.2% and assumed to have occurred over the past three generation lengths(44 years) (10). Based on global data, the Grey Reef Shark population has been estimated to have decreased by approximately 50–79% in the last three generation lengths (44 years)(1).

-If this species is to recover, immediate conservation measures such as: marine protected areas, coral reef management, and increased education must be implemented(15). Additionally, the regulation of human activities affecting ocean warming and acidification must be enforced(1).

-Reef shark tourism has high economic value in small island nations such as Palau where it has a lifetime value of approximately \$1.9 million USD and has been valued at \$189 000 annually(16). The socio-economic, cultural and educational benefits of shark tourism are much more valuable than the consumptive value of sharks(16).

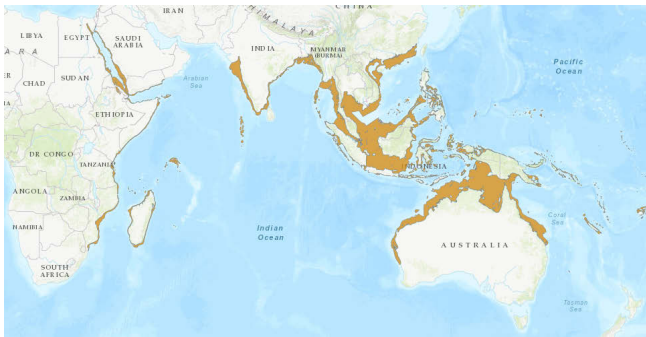


Image IUCN

-Grey Reef sharks under the Rquiem (Carcharhinidae) shark family are recommended for listing under appendix II at Coalition of the Parties 19(COP19) at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora(CITES).

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