



SHARK STEWARDS

RESTORING OCEAN HEALTH BY SAVING SHARKS

Sharptooth Lemon Shark (*Negaprion acutidens*)

The Sharptooth lemon shark is a large coastal shark that is widespread throughout the Indo-West and Central Pacific. It is demersal in shallow inshore and offshore waters to at least 90 m depth and is often found on and around coral reefs and on sandy plateaus near coral. It is also known to occur around and within mangrove forests, which may be used as nursery grounds.

**Endangered
Population decreasing**

-Since 2020, Sharptooth lemon sharks have been listed as vulnerable by the IUCN with a decreasing population trend(1).

-The Sharptooth lemon shark has undergone a population reduction of 50–79% over the last 50 years(1).

-These species commonly found in coastal waters of the tropical and subtropical Indian and Northwest, Western Central, and Eastern Central Pacific Oceans(2, 3).

-Declines in Sharptooth lemon sharks are so significant in many areas that upon surveying 242 reefs and 36 nations the species number of observed species was not sufficient to estimate population decline(4).

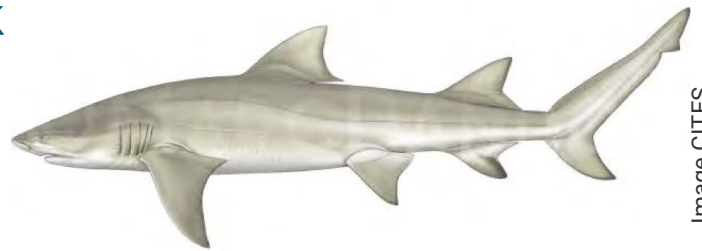


Image CITES

-In southeast asia, surveys have only had limited recorded this species(5, 6) suggesting that it has undergone substantial decline in this region. In several other nations where it was once abundant, it has not recently been observed at all(7) and has seen declines of up to 90%.

-Sharptooth lemon sharks are regularly caught in small amounts as a non-target species in gillnet fisheries in the north of Australia(8) however it has not caused the decline of the species, and it is considered to be sustainably fished in this area(9).

-The Sharptooth lemon shark is caught throughout much of its range in industrial and small-scale longline, gillnet, trawl, and handline fisheries that occur in coastal waters, including around coral reefs and mangrove habitats(1).

-In Australia, this species is caught in coastal gillnet, longline, and trawl fisheries in northern waters(8). It has been reported that it made up 0.3% of the gillnet catch in Queensland(9).



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-The Sharptooth lemon shark was identified as a component of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU) in northern Australian waters during the early 2000s(10, 11). However, IUU fishing has declined significantly since 2006 due to increased border surveillance, international agreements, and reduction in target shark species(10, 12).

-Sharptooth lemon shark for a variety of consumptive purposes and it is reported that this species made up 0.6% of fin trimmings sold in Hong Kong(13).The Sharptooth lemon shark's reliance on coral reefs makes it susceptible to declines in habitat quality due to climate change(14, 15).

-The reliance of this species on mangrove habitats, especially for nursery grounds makes them susceptible to declines in habitat quality(16). Mangrove habitats have significantly declined, with 20-35% of areas lost during the last half of the 20th century due to coastal development, aquaculture and agriculture(17).

-Serious quotas and catch limits must be put in place and enforced for this species, including better management of trawling and gillnet fisheries(18). By implementing more Marine protected areas, Sharptooth lemon sharks may be able to replenish their numbers(19). Additionally, increasing general education and awareness of the vulnerability of this species would be beneficial.

-The Sharptooth lemon shark under the Requiem(Carcharhinidae) shark family are recommended for listing under appendix II at the Coalition of the parties(COP19) at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora(CITES).

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