

FACT SHEET

Bowmouth guitarfish

Rhina ancylostoma

Family: Rhinidae

Other common names: Boogbek-sandkruiper

Description

An unmistakable guitarfish with a broad, rounded snout, high, triangular pectoral fins and heavy ridges of spiky thorns over the eyes and on the back and shoulders. Colour is grey to light brown with scattered white spots. Juveniles have black spots between the eyes and on the shoulders.

Distribution

Indo-West Pacific from East Africa to Japan. In southern African waters they have been recorded as far south as Port Shepstone.

Habitat

Mainly found off sandy beaches and offshore banks to depths of 90 m.

Feeding

They eat mainly benthic molluscs and crustaceans.

Reproduction

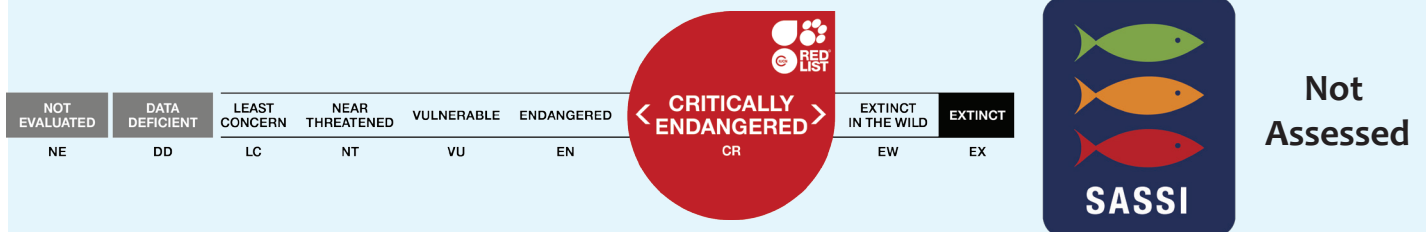
They reach maturity at 150-178 cm total length. They are ovoviviparous and produce litters of 2-11 pups.

Age and growth

They can reach a maximum size of about 300 cm total length and a weight of 135 kg. They have not been aged.

Current status

Not assessed in South Africa. They have been evaluated as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List (2019).
South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List:
Not assessed.



Capture

An extremely rare species sometimes caught by shore anglers or in the shark nets off KwaZulu-Natal beaches. Also sometimes caught as bycatch in demersal trawls.

Current recreational fishing regulations

Daily bag limit: 1 per person per day
Minimum size limit: None
Closed Season: None
Other regulations: None
Marine protected areas (MPAs): It is likely that this species receives some protection within no-take MPAs along the northern KwaZulu-Natal and southern Mozambique coast.

Reference

Information from the ORI Fish App. www.saambr.org.za



INCORPORATING

