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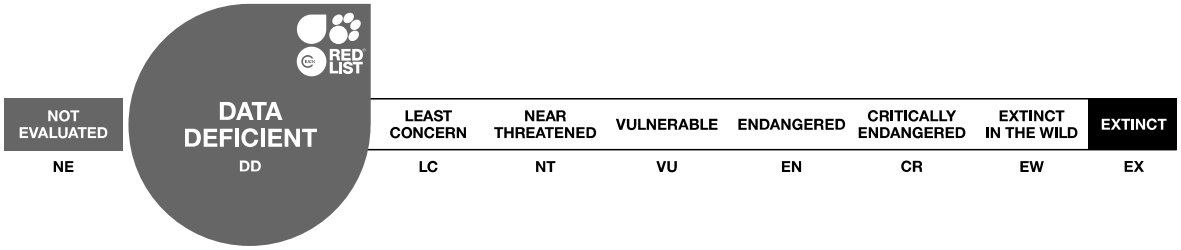
Scope(s): Global
Language: English

Discopyge castelloi, Castello's Apron Numbfish

Assessment by: Pollom, R., Chiaramonte, G.E., Cuevas, J.M., Herman, K. & Rincon, G.



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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Chondrichthyes	Torpediniformes	Narcinidae

Scientific Name: *Discopyge castelloi* Menni, Rincón & García, 2008

Common Name(s):

- English: Castello's Apron Numbfish

Taxonomic Source(s):

Fricke, R., Eschmeyer, W.N. and Van der Laan, R. (eds). 2020. Eschmeyer's Catalog of Fishes: genera, species, references. Updated 14 September 2020. Available at: http://researcharchive.calacademy.org/research/ichthyology/catalog/fishcatmain.asp.

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Data Deficient ver 3.1

Year Published: 2020

Date Assessed: July 1, 2019

Justification:

Castello's Apron Numbfish (*Discopyge castelloi*) is a small (to at least 31 cm total length) ray that occurs in the Southwest Atlantic from Necochea, Buenos Aires, to Camarones, Chubut, Argentina. It inhabits the inner continental shelf at depths of 35–56 m. Its depth range suggests that it is exposed to commercial and artisanal demersal trawl fisheries. Commercial fishing began in Argentina in the late 1800s, became industrialized after World War II, and increased rapidly in the 1980s. By 1992 there were over 300 coastal trawlers. This number increased to over 400 in 2015, and the number of fishing trips undertaken by that fleet nearly doubled from over 7,600 to nearly 14,000 over that time frame. The overall number of fishing vessels in operation in Argentina has grown from under 300 in 1990 to nearly 1,000 in 2015. This species has however been caught only rarely, and may have either a low catchability or a depth range deeper than is currently known. Further research is needed on distribution, life history, population size and trend, and threats. Since it is unknown whether fishing is causing a population reduction, there is currently inadequate information available to assess Castello's Apron Numbfish beyond Data Deficient.

Geographic Range

Range Description:

Castello's Apron Numbfish occurs in the Southwest Atlantic and is endemic to Argentina ranging from Necochea (Buenos Aires) to Camarones (Chubut) (Menni *et al.* 2008).

Country Occurrence:

Native, Extant (resident): Argentina

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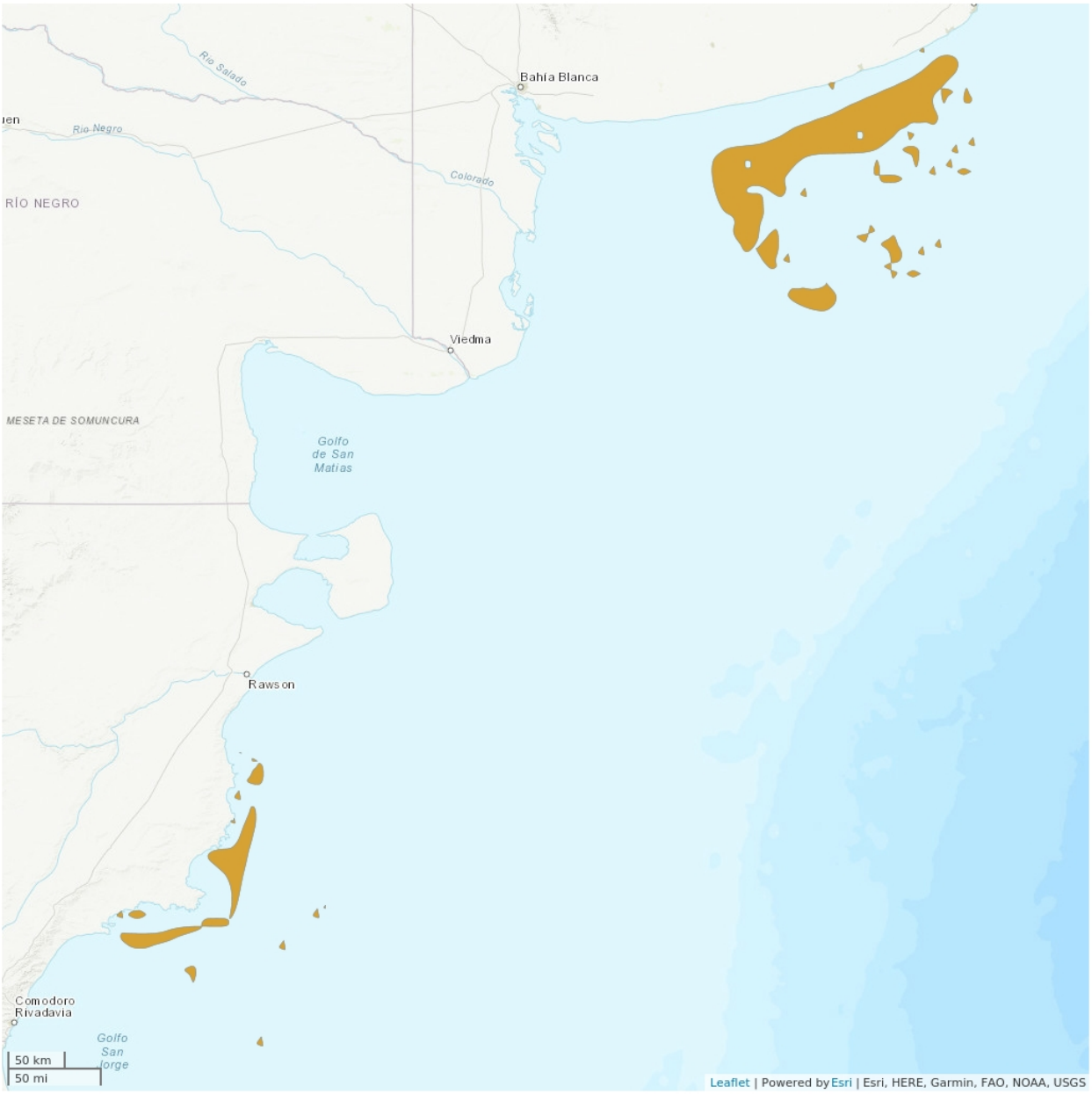
FAO Marine Fishing Areas:

Native: Atlantic - southwest

Distribution Map

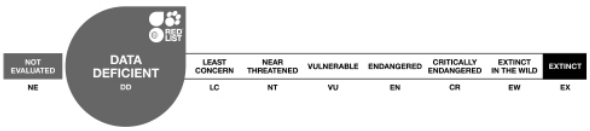


Legend

EXTANT (RESIDENT)

Compiled by:

IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group 2018



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.

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Population

This species is known from very few specimens and there are no data regarding population trend.

Current Population Trend: Unknown

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

Castello's Apron Numbfish is benthic on the inner continental shelf at depths of 35–56 m (Weigmann 2016). It reaches a maximum known size of 31 cm total length (TL) and is born at 9–10 cm TL (Last *et al*. 2016). Little else is known of its biology.

Systems: Marine

Use and Trade (see Appendix for additional information)

This species is not known to be utilized or traded. Other numbfishes are typically not consumed and are discarded where caught.

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

The depth range of this numbfish suggests that it is exposed to commercial and artisanal demersal trawl and gillnet fisheries. Commercial fishing began in Argentina in the late 1800s, became industrialized after World War II (Mateo 2006), and increased rapidly in the 1980s (Watson *et al.* 2006). By 1992 there were over 300 coastal trawlers. This number increased to over 400 in 2015, and the number of fishing trips undertaken by that fleet nearly doubled from over 7,600 to nearly 14,000 over that time frame. The overall number of fishing vessels in operation in Argentina has grown from under 300 in 1990 to nearly 1,000 in 2015 (Dirección Nacional de Planificación Pesquera 2016). This numbfish has been caught only rarely, and may have either a low catchability or a depth range deeper than is currently known.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

There are no species-specific protections or conservation measures in place for this species. Further research is needed on distribution, life history and population size and trend. Coastal fisheries should be monitored for bycatch at the species level.

Credits

Assessor(s): Pollom, R., Chiaramonte, G.E., Cuevas, J.M., Herman, K. & Rincon, G.

Reviewer(s): Dulvy, N.K. & Kyne, P.M.

Facilitator(s) and Compiler(s): Kyne, P.M., Pollom, R., Charvet, P. & Dulvy, N.K.

Authority/Authorities: IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group (sharks and rays)

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IUCN. 2020. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2020-3. Available at: www.iucnredlist.org. (Accessed: 10 December 2020).

Last, P., White, W., de Carvalho, M., Séret, B., Stehmann, M. and Naylor, G. 2016. *Rays of the World*. CSIRO Publishing, Clayton.

Mateo, J. 2006. Sembrando anzuelos para tiburones. Las demandas vitamínicas de la II Guerra Mundial y el desarrollo de la pesca comercial marítima en Argentina (1943-1952). *Boletín del Instituto de Historia Argentina y Americana "Dr. Emilio Ravignani"* 29(3): 119–150.

Menni, R.C., Rincón, G. and García, M.L. 2008. *Discopyge castelloi* sp. nov. (Torpediniformes, Narcinidae), una nueva especie de raya eléctrica del Mar Argentino. *Revista del Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales* 10(1): 161-171.

Watson, R., Revenga, C. and Kura, Y. 2006. Fishing gear associated with global marine catches II. Trends in trawling and dredging. *Fisheries Research* 79: 103-111.

Weigmann, S. 2016. Annotated checklist of the living sharks, batoids and chimaeras (Chondrichthyes) of the world, with a focus on biogeographical diversity. *Journal of Fish Biology* 88(3): 837-1037.

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External Resources

For Supplementary Material, and for Images and External Links to Additional Information, please see the Red List website.

Appendix

Habitats

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
9. Marine Neritic -> 9.2. Marine Neritic - Subtidal Rock and Rocky Reefs	Resident	Suitable	Yes
9. Marine Neritic -> 9.3. Marine Neritic - Subtidal Loose Rock/pebble/gravel	Resident	Suitable	Yes
9. Marine Neritic -> 9.4. Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy	Resident	Suitable	Yes
9. Marine Neritic -> 9.5. Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy-Mud	Resident	Suitable	Yes
9. Marine Neritic -> 9.6. Marine Neritic - Subtidal Muddy	Resident	Suitable	Yes

Threats

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
5. Biological resource use -> 5.4. Fishing & harvesting aquatic resources -> 5.4.3. Unintentional effects: (subsistence/small scale) [harvest]	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Unknown	Unknown
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		
5. Biological resource use -> 5.4. Fishing & harvesting aquatic resources -> 5.4.4. Unintentional effects: (large scale) [harvest]	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Unknown	Unknown
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		

Conservation Actions in Place

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Conservation Action in Place
In-place research and monitoring
Action Recovery Plan: No
Systematic monitoring scheme: No
In-place land/water protection
Conservation sites identified: No
Area based regional management plan: No
Occurs in at least one protected area: Unknown
Invasive species control or prevention: Not Applicable

Conservation Action in Place
In-place species management
Harvest management plan: No
Successfully reintroduced or introduced benignly: No
Subject to ex-situ conservation: No
In-place education
Subject to recent education and awareness programmes: No
Included in international legislation: No
Subject to any international management / trade controls: No

Research Needed

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Research Needed
1. Research -> 1.2. Population size, distribution & trends
1. Research -> 1.3. Life history & ecology
1. Research -> 1.5. Threats
3. Monitoring -> 3.1. Population trends

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Lower depth limit (m): 56
Upper depth limit (m): 35

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The IUCN Red List Partnership

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is produced and managed by the IUCN Global Species Programme, the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) and The IUCN Red List Partnership.

The IUCN Red List Partners are: Arizona State University; BirdLife International; Botanic Gardens Conservation International; Conservation International; NatureServe; Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; Sapienza University of Rome; Texas A&M University; and Zoological Society of London.