



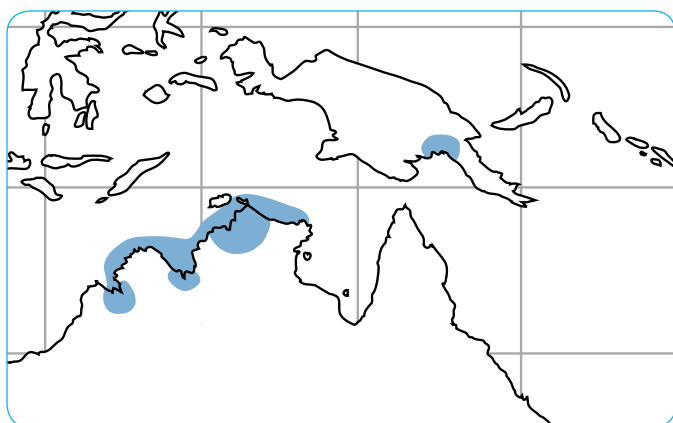
Northern River Shark *Glyphis garricki*

Distribution

Restricted to a small number of river/estuarine systems of northern Australia:

- 1 NT: Adelaide River, Alligator Rivers Region & the Wessel Islands
- 2 WA: Ord River, King River, King Sound & Joseph Bonaparte Gulf

Also southern Papua New Guinea.



Conservation Status

International (IUCN Red List of Threatened Species):
Critically Endangered

Australia: Endangered

Northern Territory: Endangered

- Northern River Shark is a protected species throughout Australia.
- It has a restricted range and restricted habitat.
- Populations are thought to be small.
- The full extent of its distribution in northern Australia is not well understood.

Northern River Shark Identification

Three sharks occur in northern Australian rivers (Northern River Shark, Speartooth Shark and Bull Shark).

Large 2nd dorsal fin (height is about 3/4 height of 1st dorsal fin) separates Northern River Shark/ Speartooth Shark from Bull Shark:



Northern River Shark: Waterline mark more than an eye diameter below eye; undersides of pectoral fins often pale (although can also be dark in some individuals); snout elongate.



Speartooth Shark: Waterline mark just below eye; prominent black blotches on undersides of pectoral fins (not always as dark as in the image); snout short.



Northern River Shark Biology

- Biology is very poorly-known.
- This species inhabits tidal reaches of rivers, estuaries, coastal and marine waters.
- Size at birth is 50–60 cm long.
- Maximum size is 2.5-3 m long.
- Pregnant females give birth to live young; the only examined pregnant female carried 9 embryos.
- Being a large shark, the species has low productivity, which limits its ability to recover from depletion.
- Movement patterns of this species remain unknown, but in rivers these may be similar to Speartooth Sharks which move with the tides (going downstream on the outgoing tide and upstream on the incoming tide).

Research

- This Marine Biodiversity Hub Project is gaining a better understanding of Northern River Sharks to inform their management.
- Northern River Sharks are tagged to monitor movements, determine critical habitats and estimate natural mortality.

Habitat



Releasing Northern River Sharks

- Do not gaff the shark.
- If safe to do so, remove hook and all fishing line using a de-hooking device.
- If you can't remove the hook, cut the line as close to the hook as possible.
- Minimise capture & handling time as much as possible.

Remember: Northern River Sharks are protected. Release them safely to ensure their survival, and that of the species.

Seen a Northern River Shark?



If you've seen or caught a Northern River Shark, please send details to: peter.kyne@cdu.edu.au or call (08) 8946 7616

- Include:**
- Location of sighting or capture
 - Date
 - Size (if possible)
 - Photographs

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