



FACT SHEET

Spotted Eagle Ray

Aetobatus narinari

Family: Myliobatidae

Other common names: White-spotted eagle ray, Spikkeldarendrog

Description	A large, diamond-shaped ray with a distinctive duckbill-like snout. Upper surface is dark blue-black to brown with numerous small white spots or rings. White underneath. The whip-like tail may be 2.5 times as long as the body armed with up to five serrated spines (stings).
Distribution	Widespread across the Indo-Pacific and eastern and western Atlantic in tropical and warm-temperate waters. In southern African waters found south to Knysna.
Habitat	Found inshore in tropical shallow waters, often near reefs. Often seen singly or in groups swimming in midwater to depths of 60 m.
Feeding	Their diet includes bivalves such as mussels, crustaceans and octopus.
Movement	Only three tagged spotted eagle rays have been recaptured in South African waters but all three showed large movements of between 200-600 km suggesting that this species is nomadic.

Reproduction	<p>They reach maturity at 100-150 cm disc width and an age of 4-6 years. They are ovoviparous and produce 1-4 young after a gestation period of about 12 months.</p>
Age and growth	<p>They can reach a size of at least 230 cm disc width and a weight of 98 kg, although larger specimens have been reported. They have not been aged.</p>
Current status	<p>Not assessed in South Africa. They have been evaluated as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List (2016). South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Not assessed.</p>
	 <p>A circular graphic representing the IUCN Red List status. The center is red with the word 'VULNERABLE' in white. Above the center is the 'IUCN RED LIST' logo. Surrounding the center are eight categories: NOT EVALUATED (NE), DATA DEFICIENT (DD), LEAST CONCERN (LC), NEAR THREATENED (NT), ENDANGERED (EN), CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR), EXTINCT IN THE WILD (EW), and EXTINCT (EX). The 'VULNERABLE' category is highlighted with a white border.</p>
Capture	<p>Occasionally hooked by shore anglers but these powerful fish are seldom landed. About 16 individuals are caught in the KwaZulu-Natal shark nets each year but most are released alive. Elsewhere this species is caught in a range of different types of fishing gear from gillnets to harpoons.</p>
Current recreational fishing regulations	<p>Daily bag limit: 1 per person per day Minimum size limit: None Closed Season: None Other regulations: None Marine protected areas (MPAs): This species is unlikely to benefit from protection within no-take areas because of their nomadic movement behaviour.</p>
Reference	<p>Information from the ORI Fish App. www.saambr.org.za</p>



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