



## FACT SHEET

### LESSER GUITARFISH

*Acroteriobatus annulatus*

**Family:** Rhinobatidae

**Other common names:** Lesser sandshark, Kleiner sandkruiper

<b>Description</b>	A small guitarfish with a triangular, almost translucent snout and rounded pectoral fins. Tan to dark brown in colour with brown spots (KwaZulu-Natal) or white rings with brown centres (rest of South Africa).
<b>Distribution</b>	Endemic, found from southern Angola to northern KwaZulu-Natal.
<b>Habitat</b>	Sandy bottoms - from the shallowest surf-zone to depths of 118 m. Most abundant in the surf-zone and will frequently enter the lower reaches of estuary mouths.
<b>Feeding</b>	Diet includes benthic invertebrates such as small crustaceans, sand mussels and polychaete worms.
<b>Movement</b>	Lesser guitarfish are common in the surf-zone along sandy beaches during summer, but not in winter and it is possible that they move offshore into deeper water at this time. Longshore movement is also possible and the 73 recaptures obtained to date (2019) have shown a mean distance travelled of 44 km.
<b>Reproduction</b>	Males mature at 58 cm and females at 62-65 cm total length at an age of about 3 years. Pupping season is from March-April in shallow inshore waters off sandy beaches throughout their range. They are ovoviviparous (aplacental viviparity) and produce 2-10 pups.

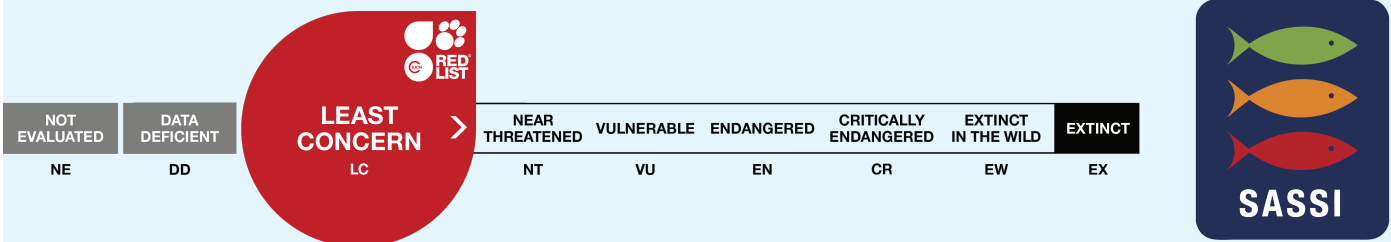
## Age and growth

They can reach a maximum size of 140 cm total length and a weight of 9.1 kg. They have been aged to a maximum of 7 years.

## Current status

The stock has not been assessed and little is known about their current status. Shore angling competition data from the Border region showed a slight decreasing trend in catch per unit effort but catches have been stable in the De Hoop MPA over the past 20+ years. They have been evaluated as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (2016).

South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List:  
Not assessed.



## Capture

Shore anglers catch this species mostly as bycatch, although they are sometimes targeted in catch and release angling competitions. Caught as a bycatch in the beach seine fishery in False Bay but most returned alive. Approximately 18 mt taken annually as bycatch in the inshore trawl grounds, most of which is discarded.

## 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):** Lesser guitarfish are likely to receive protection in most no-take MPAs along the south-eastern seaboard containing suitable habitats.

## Reference

Information from the ORI Fish App. [www.saambr.org.za](http://www.saambr.org.za)



INCORPORATING



Helping people to care for our ocean