Scortum parviceps, Small-headed Grunter

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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Actinopterygii	Perciformes	Terapontidae

Taxon Name: *Scortum parviceps* (Macleay, 1883)

Common Name(s):

- English: Small-headed Grunter

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Near Threatened [ver 3.1](#)

Year Published: 2019

Date Assessed: February 11, 2019

Justification:

This species is listed as Near Threatened, because its Area of Occupancy is most probably less than 2,000 km² and is known from only one location when considering the introduction of Tilapia and sleepy cod as a threat, however the impacts of these threats are not currently known hence a decline cannot be confirmed.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

1996 – Data Deficient (DD)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.1996.RLTS.T20050A9138592.en>

1994 – Rare (R)

Geographic Range

Range Description:

This species is only known from the upper Burdekin River, Queensland, Australia, where it swims close to the bottom of streams (Allen *et al.* 2002). There have been a few records of this species downstream of Burdekin falls, suggesting it is present but not common in that section of the river (Pusey *et al.* 2004).

Country Occurrence:

Native: Australia (Queensland)

Distribution Map

Scortum parviceps

Range

Extant (resident)

Compiled by:

Lintermans, M. and colleagues 2019 IUCN Red List assessment for Australian freshwater fish.

Population

Over a three year period, 361 individuals were collected using a variety of methods from the upper Burdekin River (Pusey *et al.* 2004). This species is most abundant in the main channel of the Burdekin River, although abundance never reaches high levels, so overall it is not common and populations are highly fragmented (Pusey *et al.* 2004).

Current Population Trend: Unknown

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This species is found in rapids or pools of clear, fast-flowing streams (Allen *et al.* 2002). This species has been collected from shallow riffles, deeper runs and very deep pools, where it occurs over a mix of sand, gravel and bedrock outcrops (Pusey *et al.* 2004). It normally occurs in water temperatures between 23.0 and 32.9°C (Pusey *et al.* 2004). This species spawns between October and November following flows, producing 115,000 pelagic, 4.2-4.3 mm eggs, which hatch in 36 hours (Merrick and Schmida 1984). This species possibly lives for 6-7 years and probably reaches sexual maturity after one year, when males are 23 cm and females are 17 cm (Pusey *et al.* 2004). Fecundity is likely to be less than 100,000 (Pusey *et al.* 2004). It is possible that this species migrates upstream before spawning, but it appears to be limited in its dispersal ability (Pusey *et al.* 2004). It eats mostly algae, aquatic macrophytes and small amounts of aquatic insects.

Systems: Freshwater

Use and Trade

This species is of no interest to fisheries (Froese and Pauly 2018), but in Queensland it has a bag limit of ten (ANSA 2014).

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

Potential and existing threats to this species includes flow regulation and translocated native species. Flow regulation may act as a barrier to movement and may reduce rises in water levels which possibly triggers spawning, while the translocated *Oxyeleotris lineolata* may prey on this species (Pusey *et al.* 2004), and the recently introduced *Tilapia* compete with this species (Davis and Pusey 2010).

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

This species was listed as restricted in Queensland (Wager 1993). This species occurs in Dalrymple National Park.

Credits

Assessor(s): Brooks, S., Ebner, B. & Kennard, M.

Reviewer(s): Hammer, M.

**Facilitators(s) and
Compiler(s):** Chanson, J.S.

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External Resources

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?
5. Wetlands (inland) -> 5.1. Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)	-	Suitable	-

Threats

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

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
7. Natural system modifications -> 7.2. Dams & water management/use -> 7.2.4. Abstraction of surface water (unknown use)	Ongoing	-	-	-
8. Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases -> 8.1. Invasive non-native/alien species/diseases -> 8.1.1. Unspecified species	Ongoing	-	-	-
8. Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases -> 8.2. Problematic native species/diseases -> 8.2.1. Unspecified species	Future	-	-	-

Conservation Actions in Place

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

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Occur in at least one PA: Yes

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

Additional Data Fields

Population
Population severely fragmented: Yes
Habitats and Ecology
Movement patterns: Unknown

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