Neoarius berneyi, Highfin Catfish

Assessment by: Hammer, M. & Kennard, M.

View on www.iucnredlist.org

Citation: Hammer, M. & Kennard, M. 2019. *Neoarius berneyi*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2019: e.T169360A2477670. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2019-3.RLTS.T169360A2477670.en>

Copyright: © 2019 International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

Reproduction of this publication for educational or other non-commercial purposes is authorized without prior written permission from the copyright holder provided the source is fully acknowledged.

Reproduction of this publication for resale, reposting or other commercial purposes is prohibited without prior written permission from the copyright holder. For further details see [Terms of Use](#).

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](#).

If you see any errors or have any questions or suggestions on what is shown in this document, please provide us with [feedback](#) so that we can correct or extend the information provided.

Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Actinopterygii	Siluriformes	Ariidae

Taxon Name: *Neoarius berneyi* (Whitley, 1941)

Synonym(s):

- *Ariopsis berneyi* (Whitley, 1941)
- *Arius berneyi* (Whitley, 1941)
- *Arius cleptolepis* Roberts, 1978
- *Tachysurus berneyi* Whitley, 1941

Common Name(s):

- English: Highfin Catfish, Berney's Catfish, Lesser Salmon Catfish

Taxonomic Source(s):

Fricke, R., Eschmeyer, W.N. and Van der Laan, R. (eds). 2019. Eschmeyer's Catalog of Fishes: genera, species, references. Updated 05 August 2019. Available at: <http://researcharchive.calacademy.org/research/ichthyology/catalog/fishcatmain.asp>.

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Least Concern [ver 3.1](#)

Year Published: 2019

Date Assessed: February 12, 2019

Justification:

Listed as Least Concern because it is widespread, locally common and there are no major threats.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

2009 – Least Concern (LC)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2009-2.RLTS.T169360A6611376.en>

Geographic Range

Range Description:

This species distribution spans the Sahul shelf, and it regularly occurs in freshwaters of northern Australia and the Fly river system of southern New Guinea (Betancur-R 2010, Pusey *et al.* 2004). In Australia, this species distribution extends from the Mary River system in the Northern Territory, through the Gulf of Carpentaria drainage in Queensland Pusey *et al.* 2017).

Country Occurrence:

Native: Australia (Northern Territory, Queensland); Papua New Guinea (Papua New Guinea (main island group))

Distribution Map

Neoarius berneyi

Range

Extant (resident)

Compiled by:

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

Population

It has a patchy distribution but can be locally common.

Current Population Trend: Stable

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This species occurs in freshwater (Betancur-R 2010) where it is frequently found in rivers, streams, slow flowing waters in turbid conditions (Allen *et al.*, 2002), and in seasonally intermittent streams (Pusey *et al.* 2016). The breeding season usually spans September to October, and if fish are in good condition another breeding bout may occur between January to February.

Systems: Freshwater

Use and Trade

This species is a popular aquarium fish with some wild harvest (Northern Territory Government 2005).

Threats

There are no major threats to this species at present. This is a popular aquarium species but not at levels that are considered a threat.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

This species occurs in protected areas within its range. There are no species-specific conservation measures in place for this species.

Credits

Assessor(s): Hammer, M. & Kennard, M.

Reviewer(s): Brooks, S.

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

Bibliography

Australian Government, Department of Environment and Heritage. 2005. Assessment of the Northern Territory Aquarium Fishery. Wildlife Trade and Sustainable Fisheries Branch, Canberra.

Hermaso, V., Ward, D.P., and Kennard, M.J. 2013. Prioritizing refugia for freshwater biodiversity conservation in highly seasonal ecosystems. *Diversity and Distributions* 19: 1031-1042.

Hermoso V, Ward DP & Kennard MJ. 2013. Prioritizing refugia for freshwater biodiversity conservation in highly seasonal ecosystems. *Diversity and Distributions* 19: 1031–1042.

IUCN. 2019. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2019-3. Available at: www.iucnredlist.org. (Accessed: 10 December 2019).

Northern Territory Government. 2005. Assessing the Ecological Sustainability of the Northern Territory aquarium fishery. Aquarium fishery report. Darwin.

Pusey BJ, Kennard MJ, Douglas M & Allsop Q. 2016. Fish assemblage dynamics in an intermittent river of the northern Australian wet-dry tropics. *Ecology of Freshwater Fish* 27: 78-88.

Pusey, B., Kennard, M. and Arthington, A. 2004. *Freshwater Fishes of North-Eastern Australia*. Csiro Publishing, Colingwood, Victoria.

Citation

Hammer, M. & Kennard, M. 2019. *Neoarius berneyi*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2019: e.T169360A2477670. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2019-3.RLTS.T169360A2477670.en>

Disclaimer

To make use of this information, please check the [Terms of Use](#).

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	-
5. Wetlands (inland) -> 5.2. Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent/Irregular Rivers/Streams/Creeks	-	Suitable	-

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

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](#).