Neoarius leptaspis, Salmon Catfish

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Citation: Hammer, M. & Kennard, M. 2019. *Neoarius leptaspis*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2019: e.T197010A2477832. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2019-3.RLTS.T197010A2477832.en>

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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Actinopterygii	Siluriformes	Ariidae

Taxon Name: *Neoarius leptaspis* (Bleeker, 1862)

Synonym(s):

- *Ariopsis leptaspis* (Bleeker, 1862)
- *Arius leptaspis* (Bleeker, 1862)
- *Hexanematichthys leptaspis* Bleeker, 1862
- *Sciades leptaspis* (Bleeker, 1862)

Common Name(s):

- English: Salmon Catfish, Boofheaded Catfish

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, common and there are no major threats.

Geographic Range

Range Description:

This species occurs in northern Australia and southern New Guinea. In north-western Australia, the distribution of this species extends from the King River in Western Australia through to Cape York Peninsula (Pusey *et al.* 2017). This species is widely distributed in the Alligator Rivers region of the Northern Territory, with a patchy and somewhat restricted distribution in Queensland. This species does not occur east of the Great Dividing Range, and early records of its presence here are reportedly attributable to *A. graeffei* (Pusey *et al.* 2004).

Country Occurrence:

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

Distribution Map

Neoarius leptaspis

Range

Extant (resident)

Compiled by:

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

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.

Population

It is widespread and common species. Dissociation of freshwater habitats from estuarine reaches may have consequences for the maintenance of populations of this species in some rivers. This warm-water species may be negatively affected by impoundments that alter a river's thermal regime. The wide northern distribution of this species should ensure that most populations are secure (Pusey *et al.* 2004).

Current Population Trend: Stable

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This species occupies a wide array of habitat types, including freshwater and estuarine habitats. Juveniles of this species may show a shift from lowland muddy lagoons to floodplain lagoons, and then corridor lagoons with increasing size. Floodplain populations of this species may tolerate slightly acidic conditions. This species has an average lifespan of 5 years and reaches sexual maturity at 24 months. Spawning has a critical temperature of 26 degrees Celsius, and commences prior to flooding during the late dry/early wet season. The average brood size is 28 ova (Pusey *et al.* 2004).

Systems: Freshwater, Marine

Use and Trade

This species does not appear to be harvested for human consumption, however it is of some interest to the aquarium trade in the Northern Territory where individuals can be harvested under licence (Northern Territory Government 2005). There is some bycatch within commercial fisheries.

Threats

There are no major threats to this species.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

It occurs in several protected areas.

Credits

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

Reviewer(s): Brooks, S.

**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	-
5. Wetlands (inland) -> 5.2. Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent/Irregular Rivers/Streams/Creeks	-	Suitable	-
9. Marine Neritic -> 9.10. Marine Neritic - Estuaries	-	Suitable	-
13. Marine Coastal/Supratidal -> 13.4. Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Brackish/Saline Lagoons/Marine Lakes	-	Suitable	-

Conservation Actions in Place

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

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Research, Monitoring and Planning
Action Recovery plan: No
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Occur in at least one PA: Yes

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