Scortum neili, Angalarri Grunter

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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Actinopterygii	Perciformes	Terapontidae

Taxon Name: *Scortum neili* Allen, Larson & Midgley, 1993

Common Name(s):

- English: Angalarri Grunter

Taxonomic Source(s):

Eschmeyer, W.N., Fricke, R., and Ven der Laan, R. (eds.). 2017. Catalog of Fishes: genera, species, references. Updated 01 November 2017. Available at: <http://researcharchive.calacademy.org/research/ichthyology/catalog/fishcatmain.asp>.

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Endangered B1ab(iii)+2ab(iii) [ver 3.1](#)

Year Published: 2019

Date Assessed: January 31, 2019

Justification:

Listed as Endangered as the Extent of Occurrence is less than 2,000 km², its Area of Occupancy is estimated to be around 20 km², it is known from only three locations and there is a continuing decline in the quality of the species' habitat due to fire (increasing intensity), potential invasive species and the impacts of the military range.

Geographic Range

Range Description:

This species is highly restricted within Australia, only occurring in East Baines River and Angalarri River within the Victorian River basin, and is unlikely to be more widely distributed (Pusey *et al.* 2017, Shelley *et al.* 2018). Sufficient sampling suggests this species is highly localised, with an area of occupancy of around 20 km² and three known locations (seven records) spanning 1981 to 2017 (Pavey 2006, Pusey *et al.* 2017, Bush Blitz 2017). This comprises (1) adult refuge in deep pools of the East Baines River, (2) adult refuge in deep gorge pools of an Angalarri River tributary, and (3) potentially temporary floodplain habitat downstream of one refuge area: in 2017 juveniles were found at an additional two sites further downstream on the Angalarri River but it is unknown if these are permanent populations (Bush Blitz 2017).

Country Occurrence:

Native: Australia (Northern Territory)

Distribution Map

Scortum neili

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

This species has been seen in schools of up to 25 individuals in the main headwater tributary of the Angalarri River, where they were common (Corbett *et al.* 2002). Juveniles were recorded in small pool and floodplain habitats of the Angalarri River catchment in 2017 (Bush Blitz 2017).

Current Population Trend: Stable

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This species is found in slow-flowing streams over sand, silt and rock, as well as deep rocky pools. They prefer well-shaded clear waters, between 21-28°C, and neutral to slightly basic pH (Allen *et al.* 1993; Allen *et al.* 2002). They are common in river sections with deep (5-6 m), wide (>10 m) pools, with continuous canopy, submerged and exposed tree roots and algae covered pebble and rock substrate (Corbett *et al.* 2002). River sections with those features were rarely recorded by ground and aerial surveys (Corbett *et al.* 2002). They may form schools with other fish, such as *Hephaestus jenkinsi* (Corbett *et al.* 2002). There is little known of the reproductive biology of this species. The first juveniles of this species were recorded in 2017, from flowing riffles between larger stream pools and also floodplain vegetated pools (Bush Blitz 2017).

Systems: Freshwater

Use and Trade

This species is known by Aboriginal people with unique language names, and has traditional value as part of food and culture.

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

While the adult refuge occurs in rocky gorge areas, these have alluvial riparian zones. The main threats to this species includes degradation of riparian vegetation due to changed fire regimes (increased severity and intensity of fire could impact riparian vegetation and water quality, especially a larger late dry season burn along the gorge) and/or livestock and feral terrestrial animals (especially during dry periods concentrating of few water sources), and alteration of water quality related to land management (Bradshaw Army Field Training Area) (Pavey 2006). 50% of the range is in a military range with live fire, and although managed, chance events including stray ordinance and pollution spills might impact adult refuge pools. Alien fish species are not established in the Victoria River, but could pose a potential risk to the species (e.g. Tilapia) (Bush Blitz 2017). Climate change could alter the nature and condition of key refuge habitats (Pusey *et al.* 2017).

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

This species is classified as vulnerable under the Northern Territory's *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 2000* (Pavey 2006). The Conservation Status of Australian Fishes has this species listed as lower risk (near threatened) (Australian Society for Fish Biology 1999). This species is found in two core sites. One main site is zoned for limited use on Department of Defence land in the Bradshaw Field Training Area, while the other site occurs within Judbarra-Gregory National Park (Pavey 2006). The fisheries section of the Department of Business Industries and Development aims to research the distribution, status and threats, as well as monitoring the known sites (Pavey 2006).

Credits

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

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Compiler(s):

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External Resources

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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
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.3. Livestock farming & ranching -> 2.3.3. Agro-industry grazing, ranching or farming	Ongoing	-	-	-
6. Human intrusions & disturbance -> 6.2. War, civil unrest & military exercises	Ongoing	-	-	-
7. Natural system modifications -> 7.1. Fire & fire suppression -> 7.1.1. Increase in fire frequency/intensity	Ongoing	-	-	-
9. Pollution -> 9.2. Industrial & military effluents -> 9.2.3. Type Unknown/Unrecorded	Ongoing	-	-	-
9. Pollution -> 9.3. Agricultural & forestry effluents -> 9.3.2. Soil erosion, sedimentation	Ongoing	-	-	-

Conservation Actions in Place

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

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Research, Monitoring and Planning
Systematic monitoring scheme: No
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Conservation sites identified: Yes, over entire range
Occur in at least one PA: Yes
Percentage of population protected by PAs (0-100): 31-40

Conservation Actions Needed

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

Conservation Actions Needed
1. Land/water protection -> 1.2. Resource & habitat protection
4. Education & awareness -> 4.3. Awareness & communications

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

Distribution
Estimated area of occupancy (AOO) (km ²): 20
Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km ²): 1857
Number of Locations: 3
Population
Population severely fragmented: Unknown
Habitats and Ecology
Movement patterns: Not a Migrant

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