Scortum neili, Angalarri Grunter

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

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Taxonomy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>Phylum</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animalia</td>
<td>Chordata</td>
<td>Actinopterygii</td>
<td>Perciformes</td>
<td>Terapontidae</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Common Name(s):**
- English: Angalarri Grunter

**Taxonomic Source(s):**

**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)

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 refuges 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).
Bibliography


Citation


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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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Suitability</th>
<th>Major Importance?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5. Wetlands (inland) -&gt; 5.1. Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Scope</th>
<th>Severity</th>
<th>Impact Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Agriculture &amp; aquaculture -&gt; 2.3. Livestock farming &amp; ranching -&gt; 2.3.3. Agro-industry grazing, ranching or farming</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Human intrusions &amp; disturbance -&gt; 6.2. War, civil unrest &amp; military exercises</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Natural system modifications -&gt; 7.1. Fire &amp; fire suppression -&gt; 7.1.1. Increase in fire frequency/intensity</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Pollution -&gt; 9.2. Industrial &amp; military effluents -&gt; 9.2.3. Type Unknown/Unrecorded</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Pollution -&gt; 9.3. Agricultural &amp; forestry effluents -&gt; 9.3.2. Soil erosion, sedimentation</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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) (km²): 20
Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km²): 1857
Number of Locations: 3

Population
Population severely fragmented: Unknown

Habitats and Ecology
Movement patterns: Not a Migrant
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