

SOUTH AFRICAN CHONDRICHTHYAN DATABASE

The chondrichthyan fauna of South Africa is one of the richest in the world with 191 species, comprising 50 families and 103 genera. There are 30 families, 64 genera and 111 species of sharks; 17 families, 36 genera and 72 species of batoids; 3 families, 5 genera and 8 species of chimaeras.

Download the [most up-to-date database incorporating the 191 species](#) found in South African waters. It was created by fisheries staff from DFFE and I have updated it, based on the following publication:

Ebert, D.A., Wintner, S.P. and Kyne, P.M. 2021. An annotated checklist of the chondrichthyans of South Africa. Zootaxa 4947: 1–127.

Please could you assist in ensuring that it remains up-to-date by notifying me of any changes needed. These could be in the form of new species, new species names, distributional changes or changes in the IUCN Red List status. The fishery data are just over a decade old and are in need of updating. They are based on the following publication:

da Silva, C., Booth, A.J., Dudley, S.F.J., Kerwath, S.E., Lamberth, S.J., Leslie, R.W, McCord, M.E., Sauer, W.H.H. and Zweig, T. 2015. The current status and management of South Africa's chondrichthyan fisheries, African Journal of Marine Science 37: 233–248.

I am in the process of preparing another 50 species profiles. These are listed as In prep. in column H: SPECIES PROFILE REPORT. They will be published by WILDTRUST in a second volume of SPECIES PROFILES OF SOUTH AFRICAN SHARKS, RAYS AND CHIMAERAS, to supplement Volume 1: THREATENED AND ENDEMIC SPECIES.

Volume 1 comprises 91 species and is available electronically at:

[Cliff, G. and Olbers, J.M. \(Eds\). 2022. Species profiles of South African sharks, rays and chimaeras. Volume 1: Threatened and Endemic Species. WILDTRUST Special Publication 2, Durban, South Africa. 548pp.](#)

Please share this database with your colleagues and students to ensure that it widely referenced.

Many Thanks
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