

OCEANIC MANTA RAY

- Manta rays are the largest of rays and are related to sharks and skates. They are filter feeders that eat zooplankton (the primary level consumers) of the ocean food chain.
- Of the manta ray species, the Giant Manta Ray is the largest. Like all manta rays, its pectoral fins have adapted into wing-like structures!
- On their heads, they have two structures called cephalic lobes that unfurl during feeding to channel water with zooplankton into their mouths. When they are rolled up, they look like horns, and in many local languages, they are called devil rays!

DESCRIPTION

Scientific Name: *Mobula birostris*

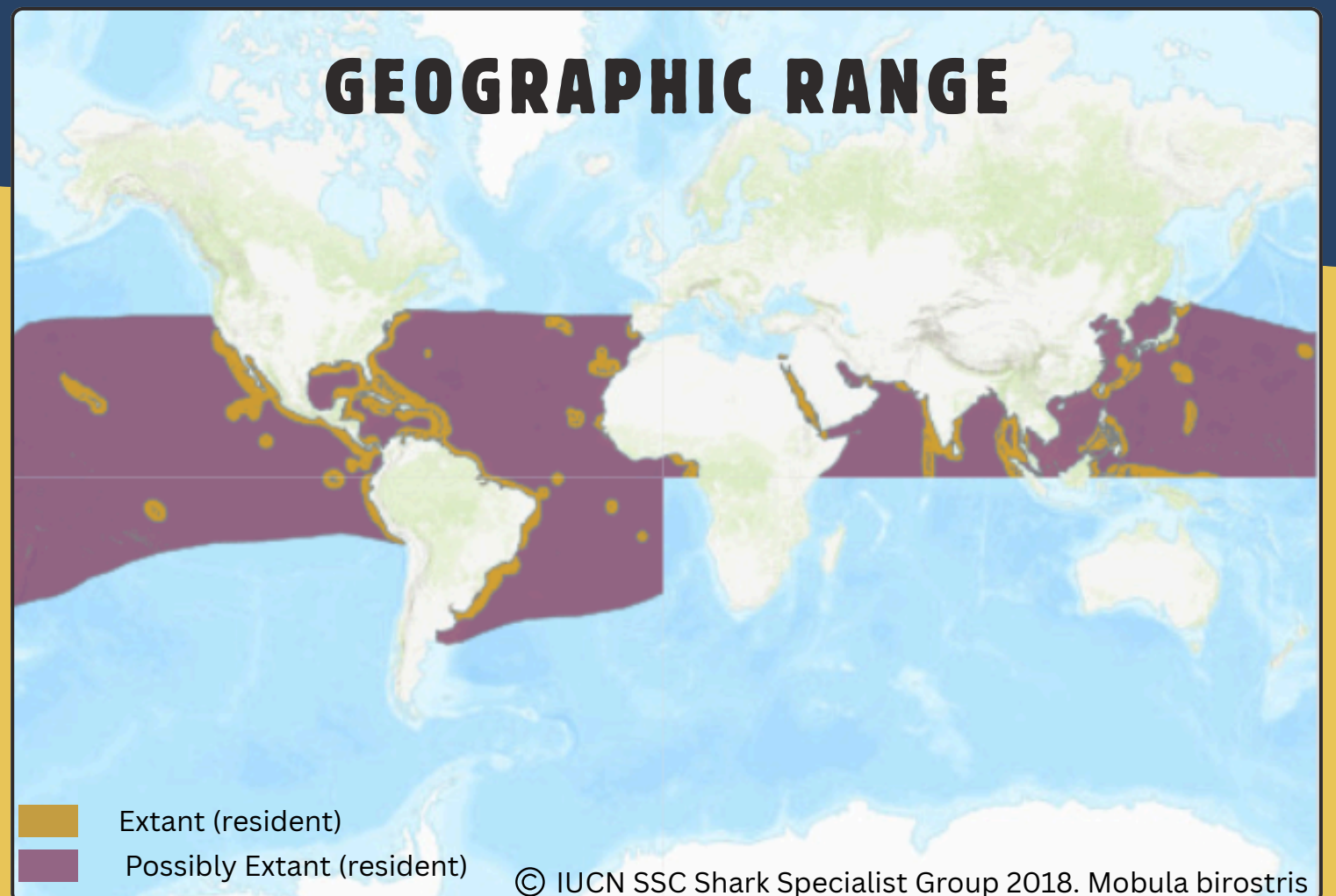
Disc width: upto 8 m

Habitat: Marine

Distribution: Found in across the oceans

Diet: zooplankton

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE



IMPORTANCE

- Manta rays are beautiful and long living slow reproducing species.
- This along with their behaviour of traversing world oceans makes them excellent indicators of ocean health!

FUN FACT

The giant manta ray is the world's largest ray with a wingspan of up to 26 feet. It weighs around 2,000 kg, and has an average lifespan of around 40 years.

THREATS

Overexploitation, unregulated fishing, bycatch, prey base depletion, and climate crisis. Manta rays are particularly valued for their gill plates, which are traded internationally.

IUCN

Endangered

