

## Pinocchio Catshark, *Apristurus australis*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Cavanagh, R.D. & Lisney, T.J.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Deepwater species with refuge outside fished areas.		

### Summary

The Pinocchio Catshark occurs off western, southern, and eastern Australia on the continental slope and seamounts. It is a discarded bycatch of trawl fisheries off



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southeast Australia. However, large areas of its range are closed to trawling, or receive little fishing effort. If fishing for Orange Roughy is re-opened in deepwater off southern Australia, then bycatch levels of this and other deepwater sharks should be monitored. At present, there are no major threats to the population. Therefore, the Pinocchio Catshark is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).

### Distribution

The Pinocchio Catshark has a wide range around Australia, from off Cairns (Queensland) to seamounts south of Tasmania, westwards to South Australia, and off Western Australia northwards to Shark Bay. It possibly occurs across the Great Australian Bight. It may also occur off New Zealand (Last and Stevens 2009).

### Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species.

### Fisheries

The distribution includes some heavily fished areas, particularly off southeast Australia by sectors of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery. The Pinocchio Catshark is a discarded bycatch in trawl sectors of that fishery (Walker and Gason 2007). Off southeast Australia, large areas below 700 m depth are closed to trawling (Penney et al. 2014). In the west of Australia, effort in the Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery is low (Marton and Mazur 2014). In the south, the South Tasman Rise Fishery is currently closed (Patterson and Mazur 2014). This species thus finds refuge at depth outside of

current fishing activities. The situation may change if Orange Roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*) fisheries are re-opened in future.

### Habitat and biology

The Pinocchio Catshark occurs on the continental slope and around seamounts at depths of 485–1,035 m (Last and Stevens 2009). Maximum size is at least 61 cm total length (TL), possibly up to 83 cm TL. Males and females mature at approximately 50 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009). Its biology is virtually unknown.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 60 cm TL, possibly 83 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Both sexes: ~50 cm TL

**CAAB Code:** 37 015020

**Link to IUCN Page:** <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/42704/116878793>

**Link to page at Shark References:** <http://www.shark-references.com/species/view/Apristurus-australis>

### References

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- Patterson, H. and Mazur, K. 2014. *South Tasman Rise Trawl Fishery*. In: Georgeson, L., Stobutzki, I. and Curtotti, R. (eds), Fishery status reports 2013–14, pp. 281–285. Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.
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- Walker, T.I. and Gason, A.S. 2007. *Shark and other chondrichthyan byproduct and bycatch estimation in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery*. Final report to Fisheries and Research Development Corporation Project No. 2001/007. July 2007. vi + 182 pp. Primary Industries Research Victoria, Queenscliff, Victoria, Australia.