

## Bighead Catshark, *Apristurus bucephalus*

<b>Report Card assessment</b>	<b>Sustainable</b>		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern (Endemic to Australia)	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Global Assessors	Lisney, T.J. & Cavanagh, R.D.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Known from only two specimens.		

### Summary

The Bighead Catshark is a deepwater shark known from only two specimens taken off southwest Australia. It could be rare or uncommon, and may be taken in a deepwater trawl fishery, however fishing effort is low overall. If its biology is like other deepwater shark species, it may not be sufficiently fecund to withstand exploitation pressure. Given the lack of threat from fishing this species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).



### Distribution

The Bighead Catshark is known from only two specimens from the mid-continental slope between Mandurah and Cape Leeuwin off Western Australia (White et al. 2008).

### Stock structure and status

There is no information on the stock structure, population size or trend for the species, but its rare occurrence in fisheries suggests that there has been little or no decline (Kyne et al. 2021).

### Fisheries

The Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery operates within the range of this species, however current effort and catch is low with only two boats active in the 2012–2013 fishing season (Marton and Mazur 2014). It is expected that this fishery may take the species as bycatch, but further research is required to determine to what extent.

### Habitat and biology

The two specimens of this poorly known deepwater catshark have been found on the mid-continental slope between 920 and 1,140 m depth. Maximum size is at least 68 cm total length (TL), but its biology is virtually unknown (White et al. 2008).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 68 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Unknown

**CAAB Code:** 37 015019

**Link to IUCN Page:** <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/42703/68608866>

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

#### References

- Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. and Simpfendorfer, C.A. 2021. *The Action Plan for Australian Sharks and Rays 2021*. National Environmental Science Program, Marine Biodiversity Hub, Hobart
- Marion, N. and Mazur, K. 2014. Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery. In: Georgeson, L., Stobutzki, I. and Curtotti, R. (eds), *Fishery status reports 2013–14*, pp. 271–280. Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.
- White, W.T., Last, P.R. and Pogonoski, J.J. 2008. *Apristurus bucephalus* sp. nov., a new deepwater catshark (Carcharhiniformes: Scyliorhinidae) from southwestern Australia. In: Last, P.R., White, W.T. and Pogonoski, J.J. (eds), *Descriptions of new Australian chondrichthyans*, pp. 105–112. CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research Paper No. 022.