

## Fleshynose Catshark, *Apristurus melanoasper*

<b>Report Card assessment</b>	<b>Sustainable</b>		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	McCormack, C. & Iglésias, S.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Deepwater species that is uncommon bycatch.		

### Summary

The Fleshynose Catshark is a deepwater species found on upper continental slopes and seamounts. It is widespread across the



northeast and northwest Atlantic and the southwest Pacific. The species is an uncommon bycatch of commercial deepwater trawlers, and the majority of its habitat is outside the reach of fisheries. Given the little overlap between the species' range and deepwater fisheries, it can be inferred that the risk of fisheries exploitation affecting the population is low. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) Australia (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).

### Distribution

The Fleshynose Catshark occurs in Australia from Cape Leeuwin (Western Australia) to Sugarloaf Point (New South Wales), including Tasmania (Nakaya et al. 2008). Elsewhere in the southwest Pacific, it is known from New Zealand and New Caledonia. In the northeast Atlantic, it is found off France, Ireland, and the British Isles (Iglésias et al. 2004, Ebert and Stehmann 2013). In the northwest Atlantic, it is known from off the northern United States of America (Iglésias et al. 2004).

### Stock structure and status

A recently described species, known from 53 specimens. There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species.

### Fisheries

The species is an uncommon bycatch of commercial deepwater trawlers. In Australia, most of the depth range of this species is outside the activity of commercial trawl fisheries and it is expected that bycatch levels would be low to negligible. The majority of fishing effort in the Great Australian Bight Trawl sector is in shallower water than the depth range of this species (Moore and Curtotti 2014). In the Commonwealth Trawl sector, most areas below 700 m are closed to fishing, so there is no

fishery operating in the depth range of this catshark in this area either (Penney et al. 2014). Areas of the Northeast Atlantic were subject to a fairly rapid increase in deepwater fishing activities in the 1990s with overall concern for the sustainability of deepwater fish stocks (Gordon 2003). Since then the deepwater fishery effort in European waters has decreased. The Fleshynose Catshark is generally recorded deeper than 1,000 m and the depth range may extend deeper than currently known, offering some refuge from fishing pressure. It may share the limiting life history characteristics of other deepwater sharks that make them vulnerable to depletion. Therefore, any future expansion in deepwater fishing effort may negatively affect the species.

### Habitat and biology

The Fleshynose Catshark occurs on continental mid-slopes and seamounts at depths of 512– 1,520 m, but generally deeper than 1,000 m (Iglésias et al. 2004, Nakaya et al. 2008). The maximum size is 76 cm total length (TL) (Iglésias et al. 2004). Males and females mature at greater than 60 cm TL (Nakaya et al. 2008). Very little is known of the biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 76 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Both sexes: >60 cm TL

**CAAB Code:** 37 015016

**Link to IUCN Page:** <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/42700/70708776>

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

### References

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