

Bulldog Catshark, *Apristurus pinguis*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Huveneers, C. & Duffy, C.A.J.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Deepwater species with majority of distribution beyond the depth of fisheries.		

Summary

The Bulldog Catshark is a poorly known demersal, deepwater catshark. It has a patchy distribution in the Indo-West Pacific. It occurs from 996 to 2,057 m with the



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majority of the species' depth range outside the reach of deepwater fisheries operating within its geographic range. This provides a refuge from fishing. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) in Australia (Kyne et al. 2021) Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Bulldog Catshark occurs in southeast Australia from Broken Bay (New South Wales) to Beachport (South Australia). It is also known off New Zealand, the Broken Ridge in the Eastern Indian and from the East China Sea (Okinawa Trough) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

The species is apparently rare. There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species. However, it can be assumed that because it is outside the reach of most deepwater fisheries, it should not be undergoing any exploitation related declines.

Fisheries

The threat from fishing is likely to be minimal because the majority of its depth range is deeper than fishing activities. It is a potential bycatch of deepwater fisheries that operate at great depths. Off southern Australia there are large areas closed to trawling at depths >700 m, providing it refuge (Penney et al. 2014).

Habitat and biology

The Bulldog Catshark has been found between depths of 996–2,057 m (Ebert et al. 2013). The maximum size is 65 cm total length (TL). Males mature from 57 cm TL and females at approximately 50 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 65 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: >57 cm TL Females: 50 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 015018

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/44222/70708974>

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

References

- Ebert, D.A., Fowler, S. and Compagno, L. 2013. *Sharks of the World*. Wild Nature Press, Plymouth.
- 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
- Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. *Sharks and Rays of Australia*. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood.
- Penney, A., Moore, A., Flood, M., Georgeson, L. and Curtotti, R. 2014. *Commonwealth Trawl and Scalefish Hook sectors*. In: Georgeson, L., Stobutzki, I. and Curtotti, R. (eds), *Fishery Status Reports 2013–14*, pp. 128–213. Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.