

Western Spotted Catshark, *Asymbolus occiduus*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern (Endemic to Australia)	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Simpfendorfer, C. & Heupel, M.R.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Little known shark with limited fishing across its range.		

Summary

The Western Spotted Catshark is a small, little known temperate catshark. It is endemic to southern Australia and has a reasonably large geographic and depth range. The species is unlikely to be negatively affected by commercial fisheries because there is limited fishing throughout its range. Therefore, it is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

The Western Spotted Catshark is distributed along the southern and western coasts of Australia from Fowlers Bay (South Australia) to Perth (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

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

Fisheries

The Western Spotted Catshark is caught incidentally and very infrequently in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF). An estimated 69 kg of the species were caught and discarded annually from 2000–2006 (Walker and Gason 2007). The SESSF has decreased in fishing effort and number of operating vessels in recent years (Penney et al. 2014).

Habitat and biology

The Western Spotted Catshark is found at depths of 98– 400 m and is most abundant on the outer continental shelf and common off the Western Australian coast. Maximum size is at least 60 cm total length (TL) and males mature at 58 cm TL. The biology of the species is almost entirely unknown. Adults and juveniles differ significantly in their colour patterns and the association between the two forms was only made recently (Last and Stevens 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 60 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 58 cm TL Females: unknown

CAAB Code: 37 015026

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41722/68609519>

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

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.
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- Penney, A., Georgeson, L., and Curtotti, R. 2014. *Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery*. In: Georgeson, L., Stobutzki, I., and Curtotti, R. (eds), *Fishery status reports 2013–14*, pp. 111–127. Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra, ACT, Australia.
- 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 Research and Development Corporation Project No. 2001/007. (July 2007) pp. 182 + vi. Primary Industries Research Victoria: Queenscliff, Victoria, Australia, Victoria.