

Orange Spotted Catshark, *Asymbolus rubiginosus*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern (Endemic to Australia)	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Kyne, P.M. & Bennett, M.B.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Taken in trawl fisheries though likely a productive species.		

Summary

The Orange Spotted Catshark is endemic to the eastern Australian continental shelf and upper slope. Its range overlaps with considerable



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trawl fishing effort. However, six years of monitoring of the sympatric Grey Spotted Catshark in a major southeast Australian fishery showed no overall trend in catches of that species. The Orange Spotted Catshark appears to be reproductively active all year and hence is likely to be a productive species. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Orange Spotted Catshark is endemic to temperate and subtropical waters off eastern Australia, ranging from Moreton Island (southern Queensland) to South East Cape (Tasmania), including waters of New South Wales and eastern Victoria (Last 1999, Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

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

Fisheries

The Orange Spotted Catshark is caught in fisheries, but is not targeted commercially. However, it is captured as bycatch in demersal trawl fisheries across its range. It is a common component of the discarded bycatch of the deepwater component of the eastern king prawn sector of the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery, which operates at the northern extent of its range (Kyne 2008). It is also likely to occur as bycatch in the New South Wales Ocean Prawn Trawl Fishery. It is a discarded bycatch of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery where bycatch monitoring of the sympatric Grey Spotted Catshark (*Asymbolus analis*) showed no overall trend between 2000–2006 (Walker and Gason 2007).

Habitat and biology

The Orange Spotted Catshark is demersal on the continental shelf and upper slope and is reported at depths of 25–540 m (Last 1999), although it is uncommon in shallower waters. Maximum size is at least 55 cm total length (TL). Males at approximately 34 cm TL and females at approximately 30 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009). The species may be reproductively active all year (Kyne et al. 2011).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 55 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: ~34 cm TL Females: ~30 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 015024

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41725/68609711>

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

References

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