

Variegated Catshark, *Asymbolus submaculatus*

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	Small shark with restricted range caught infrequently.		

Summary

The Variegated Catshark is a small endemic shark restricted to a relatively small area off southwest Australia. The species is unlikely to be affected by commercial fisheries



because it tends to inhabit caves and ledges. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Variegated Catshark is endemic and restricted to a region from Recherche Archipelago to Cape Naturalist off the coast of southwest Australia (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

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

Fisheries

This species is caught incidentally and very infrequently in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF). An estimated 83 kg of the species were caught and discarded annually from 2000 to 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

This catshark is found at depths of 30–200 m (Ebert et al. 2013). It is reported to be nocturnal, inhabiting caves and ledges. The maximum size is at least 44 cm total length (TL). Males mature at 38 cm TL (Ebert et al. 2013). Its biology is almost entirely unknown.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 44 cm TL
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Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 38 cm TL Females: unknown
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CAAB Code: 37 015010

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41726/68609812>

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

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., 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.
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