

Marbled Catshark, *Atelomycterus macleayi*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern (Endemic to Australia)	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	White, W.T.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Small catshark endemic to northwest Australia with likely little interactions with fisheries.		

Summary

The Marbled Catshark is a small species endemic to northwest Australia. It is restricted to shallow water habitats. It may be a discarded bycatch in fish and prawn trawl fisheries. However, there are significant areas permanently closed to trawling where it occurs, so it receives refuge in these areas. Furthermore, its occurrence on rocky habitats in remote coastal regions also provide it refuge from fishing. Little is known about the biology of the species but due to the limited fishing activity within its known range it is unlikely that the population is declining or under any immediate threat. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

The Marbled Catshark is confined to tropical Australia between Port Hedland (Western Australia) to Melville Island (Northern Territory) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species, although it is reportedly abundant along the Northern Territory coast (Last and Stevens 2009).

Fisheries

Very little is known about the species but it is of no commercial value. Western Australia prawn and fish trawl fisheries are the only fisheries likely to catch this inshore species as bycatch but generally effort is relatively low with areas of spatial closures which allow refuge from trawling (Fletcher and Santoro 2014). It is a possible discarded bycatch in the Western Australian Pilbara Fish Trawl Fishery and some local prawn trawl fisheries, and in the Commonwealth-managed Northern Prawn Fishery. However, its occurrence in very shallow inshore waters (often very close inshore) and in rocky

habitats in very remote coastal areas of northwest Australia would reduce the likelihood of interactions with trawl fisheries.

Habitat and biology

The Marbled Catshark is reported from shallow, inshore regions on both sandy and rocky benthic habitats to at least 60 m depth (Springer 1979, Last and Stevens 2009). Maximum size is 60 cm total length (TL) with males maturing at 48 cm TL and females at 51 cm TL, and hatching at approximately 10 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 60 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 48 cm TL Females: 51 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 015028

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41729/68610061>

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

References

- Fletcher, W.J. and Santoro, K. 2014. *Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia 2013/14: The State of the Fisheries*. Department of Fisheries, Western Australia.
- 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.
- Springer, S. 1979 *A revision of the catsharks, family Scyliorhinidae*. *NOAA Technical Report*. National Marine Fisheries Service Circular 422:1–152.