

Blackspotted Catshark, *Aulohalaelurus labiosus*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern (Endemic to Australia)	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Lisney, T.J. & White, W.T.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Poorly known common catshark with very little fishing pressure but harvest for marine aquarium trade should be monitored.		

Summary

The Blackspotted Catshark is endemic to shallow coastal habitats and offshore reefs of temperate southwestern Australia. It is poorly known but it is reported to be common within



its habitat. Although it has a limited range in coastal waters, it is not subjected to any significant fishing pressure due to its reef dwelling and nocturnal habits and is of no commercial value to fisheries. However, there is evidence that this catshark has entered the marine aquarium trade, harvest levels of which should be monitored to ensure future sustainability. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Black Spotted Catshark is an endemic to southwestern Australia in the Eastern Indian Ocean, from the Recherche Archipelago to the Houtman Abrolhos (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species but it is apparently common in its preferred habitat (Last and Stevens 2009).

Fisheries

There is very little fishing pressure within the species' range and habitat, and it is of little or no commercial value. Although, it is possible that it is a bycatch of some commercial and recreational fishing activities. There is evidence that this small, attractively spotted catshark enters the marine aquarium trade with several having been observed in aquarium retailers in Western Australia and it is possible that this may extend to elsewhere (W. White, pers. obs.). At present, there are no estimates of the effect of this aquarium industry.

Habitat and biology

The Black Spotted Catshark is a common inshore species on the temperate Western Australian continental shelf. It is found in shallow coastal habitats and on offshore reefs to a depth of at least 4 m (Last and Stevens 2009, Ebert et al. 2013). Maximum size is at least 67 cm total length (TL) with males mature at approximately 54 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009). It is nocturnal and its biology is virtually unknown.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 67 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: ~54 cm TL Females: unknown

CAAB Code: 37 015029

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41731/68610330>

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

References

Ebert, D.A., Fowler, S. and Compagno, L. 2013. *Sharks of the World. A Fully Illustrated Guide*. Wild Nature Press, Plymouth, United Kingdom.

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.