

Gulper Shark, *Centrophorus granulosus*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Endangered
Global Assessors	Finucci, B., Bineesh, K.K., Cheok, J., Cotton, C.F., Dharmadi, Kulka, D.W., Neat, F.C., Pacoureaux, N., Rigby, C.L., Tanaka, S. & Walker, T.I.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Lives on the continental slope in areas where there is limited fishing effort.		

Summary

The Gulper Shark is a rare deepwater dogfish with a widespread global distribution. It is taken as bycatch in deepwater fisheries and dramatic declines of 80–95% have been estimated in the northeast Atlantic. In Australia, it may be exposed to some fishing pressure on the east coast and although there is no information on the catch of the species, declines of >90% have been recorded for other *Centrophorus* species in the region. However, this species lives mostly in areas where there is little fishing effort on the continental slope. The Gulper Shark has one of the lowest reproductive potentials of all sharks with only one pup per litter and a two-year gestation period. This makes it extremely vulnerable to overexploitation and population depletion and there is the potential for increased exposure to unmanaged fishing effort as global fishing fleets move deeper. Therefore, the species is assessed as globally Endangered (IUCN) and in Australia, as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

The Gulper Shark is widely distributed in all ocean basins in temperate and tropical waters, except the eastern Pacific. In Australia, it has a disjunct distribution on the east and west coasts; in the east it is found from northeast Queensland to Woolli (New South Wales) and in Western Australia from Dirk Hartog Island to Montebello Islands (White et al. 2013). There has been taxonomic confusion in the past with this species also reported under the names *C. niaukang* and *C. acus*. These are now both known to be *C. granulosus* (White et al. 2013).

Stock structure and status

There is no information on the stock structure of this species. Although it has a disjunct population on the east and west coasts there is insufficient information to conclude that these represent separate stocks. The Gulper Shark is rare and determination of population status has been hindered

by taxonomic issues that have only recently been resolved. Consequently, there is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species. While there have been dramatic declines of >90% in other *Centrophorus* species in south-eastern Australia, this species occurs mostly outside of this region and there is little evidence to suggest that the population has declined (Kyne et al. 2021). On the west coast fishing effort is low within its known range.

Fisheries

The species is reported to be caught as bycatch of deepwater fisheries in the northeast Atlantic, the northwest Pacific and other regions. In Australia, it is likely taken in limited numbers by the trawl sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery, the Queensland East Coast Deepwater Eastern King Prawn Trawl Fishery and the line sector of the Coral Sea Fishery.

Habitat and biology

The Gulper Shark is demersal on the upper continental slopes and outer continental shelves at depths from 98 to 1700 m, mostly between 300 to 800 m (Baino et al. 2001, Compagno 1984, White et al. 2013). Maximum size is 165 cm total length (TL), with males mature at 105–118 cm TL and females at 143 cm TL (White et al. 2013). The species has only one pup per litter, a gestation period of about two years and possible resting periods between pregnancies (Guallart 1998). This makes it one of the shark species with the lowest reproductive potential.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 165 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 105–118 cm L Females: 143 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 020023

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/162293947/2897883>

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

References

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