

## Western Gulper Shark, *Centrophorus westraliensis*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Data Deficient
Assessors	Bigman, J.S., Ebert, D.A., Huveneers, C. & Kyne, P.M.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Low fishing pressure across its Australian range.		

### Summary

The Western Gulper Shark is a deepwater species that mostly occurs in Western Australia. Very little information is available on the population status of the species. However, its limited depth range (616–750 m) and geographic distribution, combined with a potentially



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very low rate of population increase, makes the species potentially susceptible to population depletion through bycatch in deepwater fisheries. The range of the Western Gulper shark overlaps with the Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery, but current fishing effort is very low and is not likely detrimental to the population. Nevertheless, the species is very poorly known and more research on its occurrence and abundance is needed to accurately assess its status. Therefore, the species is globally assessed as Data Deficient (IUCN) and in Australia, as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) as Sustainable (SAFS).

### Distribution

The Western Gulper Shark occurs mostly Western Australia and is found from Shark Bay to Cape Leeuwin (White et al. 2008, Last and Stevens 2009). It has also been recorded from southern Indonesia.

### Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species, but given the very limited fishing in its depth of occurrence there is no reason to suspect that the population has declined.

### Fisheries

The Western Gulper Shark has increased vulnerability to fisheries due to its very limited geographic and depth ranges, as well as its likely very low intrinsic rate of population increase (Simpfendorfer and Kyne 2009). As a result, similar to other gulper sharks, the Western Gulper Shark could be susceptible to population depletion as a result of fisheries exploitation (Graham et al. 2001). However, the Western Gulper Shark is currently exposed to a very low level of fishing pressure. Only two vessels in

the Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery, which overlaps with the range of the species, were active during the 2012–2013 fishing season (Marton and Mazur 2014).

### Habitat and biology

The Western Gulper Shark is a bottom-dwelling species that occurs on the continental slope at depths of 616–750 m. The known size range is 41–91 cm total length (TL) for females, and a single immature male was 37 cm TL (White et al. 2008, Last and Stevens 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 91 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Unknown

**CAAB Code:** 37 020050

**Link to IUCN Page:** <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/195485/68615179>

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

### References

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- White, W.T., Ebert, D.A., and Compagno, L.J.V. 2008. Description of two new species of gulper sharks, genus *Centrophorus* (Chondrichthyes: Squaliformes: Centrophoridae). In: Last, P.R., White, W.T., Pogonoski, J.J. (ed.) *Descriptions of New Australian Chondrichthyans*, CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research Paper No. 22.