

Owston's Dogfish, *Centroscymnus owstonii*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Near Threatened	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Vulnerable
Assessors	Finucci, B. & Kyne, P.M.		
Report Card Remarks	Moderately common and bycatch of trawl fisheries with research on life history needed.		

Summary

Owston's Dogfish is a moderately common deepwater shark within its known geographic range, and which may extend deeper than is currently recognised. Although captured in some quantity in some deepwater trawl fisheries, it is taken mainly as bycatch, and presumably from only part of its known range. It is likely to have the life history characteristics (low fecundity, slow growth and high longevity) typical of other deepwater species and so

be vulnerable to depletion by commercial fishing. Intense fishing on the continental slope in New South Wales and Victoria may have caused some declines. However, the species is currently still common over its wide southern Australian and it is included in the basket quota for deepwater sharks in the South Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery. Therefore, the species is assessed as Near Threatened (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and in Australia, Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

Owston's Dogfish is widespread in the Atlantic, eastern and western Pacific. In Australia, it is known from Cape Hawke (New South Wales) to Exmouth Gulf (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

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

Fisheries

The species is a bycatch species in some deepwater trawl and line fisheries. Its depth range coincides (in part) with that of some commercially important teleosts (especially orange roughy and oreos), although it extends somewhat deeper. This overlap may have resulted in some localised declines in abundance, but over its whole range these are believed to be relatively small. It is included as one of 16 species in the deepwater shark quota managed as part of the South Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery.

Habitat and biology

Owston's Dogfish is demersal on the upper and middle continental slope at depths of 250–1,500 m, usually 500 to 1,500 m. Maximum size is 120 cm total length (TL) with males mature at 70–79 cm TL and females at 82–105 cm TL (Yano and Tanaka 1983, 1988, Daley et al. 2002). Little else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 120 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 70–79 cm TL Females: 82–105 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 020019

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41749/68615392>

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

References

- Daley, R., Stevens, J. and Graham, K. 2002. *Catch analysis and productivity of the deepwater dogfish resource in southern Australia*. Report by CSIRO Marine Research and NSW Fisheries to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation. FRDC Project 1998/108.
- 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
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- Yano, K and Tanaka, S. 1987. Reproductive organs of deep sea sharks, *Centroscyrnus owstoni* and *C. coelolepis*. *Journal of the Faculty of Marine Sciences and Technology*, Tokai University 25: 57–67.
- Yano, K. and Tanaka, S. 1983. Portuguese shark, *Centroscyrnus coelolepis* from Japan, with notes on *C. owstoni*. *Japanese Journal of Ichthyology* 30(3): 208–216.