

Southern Chimaera, *Chimaera fulva*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Global Assessors	Theiss, S.M., Huveneers, C. & Ebert, D.A.		
Australian Assessors	Refer to Global Assessors		
Report Card Remarks	Deepwater species not currently fished in Australia.		

Summary

The Southern Chimaera is a medium-sized and common deepwater chimaerid endemic to temperate southern Australian waters. It was a previous byproduct of the Commonwealth Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF), however since the 2007 closure of fishing below 700 m depth, it is no longer caught in the SESSF. It may have previously been a minor incidental catch in the South Tasman Rise Trawl Fishery, however that fishery has been closed since 2007. The population is suspected to be stable as the species occurs at depths beyond any current fishing operations. Therefore, the Southern Chimaera is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

The Southern Chimaera is endemic to temperate waters of southern Australia where it occurs in a wide range from Broken Bay (New South Wales) to Shoal Point (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

The population trend is not known but it is suspected to be stable. The Southern Chimaera is a common species and estimates of standardised catch-per-unit-effort in the Commonwealth Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF) from 1994–2006 showed no overall trend in catch rates (Walker and Gason 2007, Kyne et al. 2021).

Fisheries

The Southern Chimaera was previously an incidental catch of the Commonwealth Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF) with approximately 12 t caught annually from 2000–2006 and 89% of this catch retained for its good quality meat for local markets (Walker and Gason 2007).

However, fishing below 700 m in most of the SESSF was prohibited in 2007 (Patterson et al. 2022), and thus since then, this species is not caught by the SESSF as it occurs deeper than current fishing activities. It may have previously been a minor incidental catch in the South Tasman Rise Trawl Fishery that targeted Orange Roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*), though that fishery has been closed since 2007 (Theiss et al. 2015, Patterson et al. 2022).

Habitat and biology

The Southern Chimaera is demersal on the continental slope at depths of 780–1,095 m (Weigmann 2016). Maximum size is 105 cm pre-caudal filament length (PCFL), 110 cm total length (TL), and 66 cm body length (BDL) (Theiss et al. 2015, Kyne et al. 2021). Maximum age is estimated to 35 years (Theiss et al. 2015). Males mature at approximately 66 cm PCFL and females at approximately 72 cm PCFL (Last and Stevens 2009). Little else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: estimated 35 years Max size: 105 cm PCFL, 110 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: ~ 66 cm PCFL Females: ~72 cm PCFL

CAAB Code: 37 042005

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/195429/68617075>

Link to page at Shark References: <https://shark-references.com/species/view/Chimaera-fulva>

References

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