

Shortspine Chimaera, *Chimaera obscura*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Global Assessors	Kyne, P.M.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T., Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan) & Rigby, C.L.		
Report Card Remarks	Deepwater species with no current fishing effort in its known depth range and limited effort and significant refuge in shallower waters of its unconfirmed depth range.		

Summary

The Shortspine Chimaera is a medium-sized deepwater chimaerid endemic to tropical and temperate waters in a wide range off the east coast. Its known depth range is 1,025–1,080 m is beyond the depth of fisheries on the east coast, however there are unconfirmed reports it occurs to a shallower depth of 450 m. Thus, it is a possible incidental catch of trawl and line fisheries, and may be taken in the



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Commonwealth Coral Sea Fishery (CSF) and the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF). However, the CSF is now closed to trawling and line effort is limited, and it was a minor incidental catch of the SESSF but there is now a fishing closure below 700 m. It would receive significant refuge at depth and in the network of marine parks. The population is suspected to be stable as there is no fishing effort in its known range and limited effort in its unconfirmed depth range. Therefore, the Shortspine Chimaera is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Shortspine Chimaera is endemic to tropical to temperate waters of eastern Australia where it is suspected to occur in a wide range from Townsville (Queensland) to Ulladulla (New South Wales); the full range requires confirmation (Last and Stevens 2009, Kyne et al. 2020).

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure or trend for the species, although it is considered rare (Kyne et al. 2021).

Fisheries

The Shortspine Chimaera is a possible incidental catch of trawl and line fisheries. If it occurs at the shallower depths of 450 m, it may interact with the Commonwealth Coral Sea Fishery (CSF), though

trawl effort has historically been low and since 2006–2007, there has been virtually no trawl activity and as of 2018–2019, trawling was no longer permitted (Patterson et al. 2022). The species may be caught in the Line Sector of the CSF, though this sector has limited effort with only 1–2 vessels active in recent years (Patterson et al. 2022). It was a minor incidental catch of the Commonwealth Southern and Eastern Scalefish Fishery (SESSF) with an estimated annual catch of 45 kg all of which was released (Walker and Gason 2007). It was not included in a recent risk assessment of the fishery. Further, fishing deeper than 700 m has been prohibited in the SESSF since 2007, which would provide the species refuge at depth. It would also receive refuge in the Commonwealth Coral Sea Marine Park and South-east Marine Parks Network (Parks Australia 2023).

Habitat and biology

The Shortspine Chimaera is demersal on the continental slope at depths of 1,025–1,080 m, although there are unconfirmed records of a shallower depth of occurrence of 450 m (Last and Stevens 2009, Kyne et al. 2020). Maximum size is at least 95 cm total length (TL), 69 cm pre-caudal filament length (PCFL), and 53 cm body length (BDL) (Didier et al. 2008, Last and Stevens 2009, Kyne et al. 2020). Nothing else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 95 cm TL, 69 cm PCFL, 53 cm BDL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Both sexes: unknown

CAAB Code:

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/39339/0>

Link to page at Shark References: <http://shark-references.com/species/view/Alopias-vulpinus>

References

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