

## Blurred Smooth Lanternshark, *Etmopterus bigelowi*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Finucci, B., Cheok, J., Cotton, C.F., Kulka, D.W., Neat, F.C., 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	Wide geographical and depth distribution and apparent lack of current threats.		

### Summary

The Blurred Smooth Lanternshark is a widespread, deepwater shark recorded from various localities in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. The species is not targeted but probably a discarded bycatch in some deepwater fisheries. The biology is virtually unknown. Like many deepwater sharks, more information on biology, ecology and importance in fisheries are required. It is important to assess regional bycatch levels of this species as global deepwater fisheries expand. The species has a very

wide geographical and depth distribution and apparent lack of current significant threats. In Australia, its catch in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF) is managed using a basket quota for deepwater sharks. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) in Australia (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).



### Distribution

The Blurred Smooth Lanternshark is widespread throughout various localities in the eastern, western and northern Pacific Oceans (Australia, Japan, seamounts and ocean ridges, Peru); eastern and western Indian; and eastern and western Atlantic (Ebert et al. 2013). The species probably occurs at more locations than presently recorded. In Australia, it is found in the east from Sydney (New South Wales) to Maria Island (Tasmania) and in the west from the North West Shelf to Bunbury (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 threat to the Blurred Smooth Lanternshark from fishing is likely to be minimal because the species is not targeted and its small size makes it less susceptible to capture. It is probably a discarded bycatch in some deepwater demersal and pelagic fisheries, particularly trawls (Compagno 1984). This species is managed in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery using a basket quota for deepwater sharks. However, this species makes up a very small proportion of the catch of this basket group (AFMA 2021).

### Habitat and biology

The Blurred Smooth Lanternshark occurs on continental shelves and slopes, island slopes, and submarine ridges and seamounts, at depths of 163–1,000 m and deeper. Also, partially epipelagic, occurring near the surface in open waters of 110–700 m depth (Ebert et al. 2013). Maximum size is at least 72 cm total length (TL) with males mature at 40–67 cm TL and females at 50–65 cm TL (Ebert et al. 2013). Little else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 72 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 40–67 cm TL Females: 50–65 cm TL

**CAAB Code:** 37 020027

**Link to IUCN Page:** <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/60236/3096618>

**Link to page at Shark References:** <http://www.shark-references.com/species/view/Etmopterus-bigelowi>

#### References

- AFMA 2021. *Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF) Species Summaries 2021*. AFMA, Canberra
- Compagno, L.J.V. 1984. *Sharks of the world. An annotated and illustrated catalogue of shark species known to date. Part 1. Hexanchiformes to Lamniformes*. FAO Fish. Synop., (125) Vol. 4(1).
- Ebert, D.A., Fowler, S. and Compagno, L. 2013. *Sharks of the World*. Wild Nature Press, Plymouth.
- 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
- Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. *Sharks and Rays of Australia*. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood.