

Traveller Lanternshark, *Etmopterus viator*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Finucci, B. & Kyne, P.M.		
Australian Assessors	Simpfendorfer, C.A., Rigby C., & White, W.T.		
Report Card Remarks	Limited fishing effort within the species Australian range.		

Summary

The Traveller Lanternshark is a deepwater shark found in the Southern Ocean, occurring in Australian waters around Heard and MacDonal Islands on the Kerguelen Plateau. It is taken as bycatch of various deepwater fisheries throughout its range, especially those for Patagonian Toothfish and Icefish. When caught it is likely to be discarded. Discard survival rate is presumed to be low. The species probably has limiting life history characteristics like other deepwater squalid sharks (preliminary age data show that similar species mature at 20 to 30 years), making it sensitive to population depletion. Efforts should be made to quantify bycatch levels because at present there is insufficient information to accurately assess the status of the species. Given its size and the limited fishing effort within its Australian range mean that the population has not declined. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) in Australia (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

The Traveller Lanternshark occurs in Australia, Kerguelen Island (France), South Africa and New Zealand; and possibly other parts of the Southern Ocean (Ebert et al. 2021). In Australia, it is only recorded from the Heard and MacDonal Islands on the Kerguelen Plateau (W. White pers. comm.).

Stock structure and status

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

Fisheries

The Traveller Lanternshark is caught as bycatch in Australia's Southern Ocean Fisheries operating around Heard and MacDonalld Islands that target Patagonian Toothfish and Icefish. There are a small number of vessels that operate in this fishery and there are high levels of observer coverage.

Habitat and biology

The species occurs on the continental slopes, often at the bottom and sometimes well above it, at depths of 830–1,610 m. Maximum size is 58 cm total length (TL) with males mature at 46 cm TL and females at 50 cm TL (Ebert et al. 2021). Little else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 58 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 46 cm Females: 50 cm

CAAB Code: no code assigned yet.

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/116878630/116878685>

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

References

- Ebert, D.A., Dando, M. and Fowler, S. 2021. *Sharks of the World. A Complete Guide*. 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