

## Sharpnose Sevengill Shark, *Heptranchias perlo*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Near Threatened
Assessors	Finucci, B., Barnett, A., Bineesh, K.K., 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	At moderate ecological risk in Australia but limited interactions with fisheries and some protection from management regulations.		

### Summary

The Sharpnose Sevengill Shark is a wide ranging, but relatively uncommon species. The species is of minor commercial importance, but bycatch in bottom trawl and longline fisheries may have caused population declines where deepwater fisheries have been underway for several decades. It is likely to have a low intrinsic rate of increase, and poor resilience to fishing. Increased deepwater fishing effort in many regions is likely to affect populations in the future. In Australia, no declines have been recorded and management regulations in place for other deepwater species should provide some protection to the Sharpnose Sevengill Shark. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) in Australia (Kyne et al. 2021), and Sustainable (SAFS).



### Distribution

The species is found in most oceans, but particularly in tropical and temperate parts of the Atlantic (including the Mediterranean Sea) and Indian Oceans, and also around Australia and Asia. In Australia, it is found from Cairns (Queensland) south and around Australia to Ashmore Reef (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009).

### Stock structure and status

The population status is uncertain, but it is suspected that declines may have occurred outside of Australia where deepwater demersal trawl fisheries have been operational over the past few decades (such as southern Mozambique). In Australia, based on catch data, the Sharpnose Sevengill Shark has a sparse abundance in the southeast.

### Fisheries

The Sharpnose Sevengill Shark is mostly taken as bycatch of deepwater trawl and longline fisheries but is of minor commercial importance (Scacco et al. 2002, Fowler et al. 1997, Walker et al. 2008). In southeast Australia, the species is highly susceptible to capture in hook fishing gear (automatic longlines) but a moderate to low catch susceptibility to trawl and gillnet gear. This classifies the species at moderate ecological risk in terms of abundance and high risk in terms of catch susceptibility (Walker et al. 2008). However, it is sparsely abundant in southeast Australia and fishing regulations in place for other deepwater species should provide some protection.

### Habitat and biology

The species occurs on or near the bottom of the continental and insular shelves and upper slopes between 27–720 m depth, but has been recorded both close inshore and down to a depth of 1,000 m. Maximum size is approximately 140 cm total length (TL). Males mature at 75–85 cm TL and females at 90–105 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009). Little else is known about the biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 140 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 75–85 cm TL Females: 90–105 cm TL

**CAAB Code:** 37 005001

**Link to IUCN Page:** <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41823/2956343>

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

### References

- Ferretti, F., Myers, R.A., Sartor, P. and Serena, F. 2005. *Long term dynamic of the chondrichthyan fish community in the upper Tyrrhenian Sea*. Annual Science Conference Theme session N: 25. Fowler S.L., Reed T.M. & Dipper F.A. 1997. Elasmobranch biodiversity, conservation and management. In: Fowler S.L., Reed T.M. & Dipper F.A. (ed.), International Seminar and Workshop, pp. 9–13. Sabah, Malaysia.
- Fowler S.L., Reed T.M. & Dipper F.A. 1997. *Elasmobranch biodiversity, conservation and management*. In: Fowler S.L., Reed T.M. & Dipper F.A. (ed.), International Seminar and Workshop, pp. 9–13. Sabah, Malaysia.
- 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. & Stevens J.D. 2009. *Sharks and Rays of Australia*, Second edition. CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne.
- Scacco, U., Andaloro, F., Campagnuolo, S., Castriota, L. & Vacchi, M. 2002. *Cartilaginous fishes as a component of trawl discard in Strait of Sicily (elasmobranch fisheries-oral)*. NAFO Scientific Council Studies.
- Walker T.I., Stevens J.D., Braccini J.M., Daley R.K., Huvneers C., Irvine S.B., Bell J.D., Tovar-Avila J., Trinnie FI, Phillips D.T., Treloar M.A., Awruch C.A., Gason A.S., Salini J. & Hamlett W.C. 2008. *Rapid Assessment of Sustainability for Ecological Risk of Shark and Other Chondrichthyan Bycatch Species Taken in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery*. Primary Industries Research Victoria, Queenscliff.