

Porbeagle, *Lamna nasus*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Vulnerable
Assessors	Rigby, C.L., Barreto, R., Carlson, J., Fernando, D., Fordham, S., Francis, M.P., Herman, K., Jabado, R.W., Liu, K.M., Marshall, A., Pacoureau, N., Romanov, E., Sherley, R.B. & Winker, H.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Declines likely but not uniform across Southern Hemisphere subpopulation. Listed on the EPBC Act (Migratory), CITES Appendix II, and CMS Appendix II.		

Summary

The Porbeagle (Southern Hemisphere subpopulation) is widely distributed throughout cold-temperate coastal and oceanic waters. It is taken in pelagic longlines and is sensitive to fishing pressure as it has a low reproductive capacity and high commercial value. Evidence of declines in the Southern



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Hemisphere subpopulation are limited due to a lack of catch data. Declines in the subpopulation from unexploited levels are likely but are suspected to be less than 30% over three generations. While this species is covered by several international agreements and conventions, there are few regulations specific to the Southern Hemisphere subpopulation. In Australia, catches in the SSSF are monitored. Therefore, the Southern Hemisphere subpopulation that occurs in Australian waters is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS). The species is listed on the EPBC Act (Migratory), CITES Appendix II, and CMS Appendix II.

Distribution

The Porbeagle is cosmopolitan throughout temperate waters from 30–60°S in the Southern Hemisphere. In Australia, it is found in southern Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales, and southern Queensland (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

There are two disjunct subpopulations, the North Atlantic and the Southern Hemisphere. There is limited data on the Southern Hemisphere subpopulation of the Porbeagle. Evidence from catch rates in various fisheries suggest little declines in the southern Hemisphere subpopulation, with the possible exception being in the Southwest Atlantic Ocean. Analysis of Japanese tuna longline fishery catch-per-

unit-effort (CPUE) throughout the Southern Hemisphere showed a stable trend in CPUE from 1994–2011 (Semba et al. 2013). In the southwest Atlantic, declines in CPUE have occurred (Pons and Domingo 2009). In New Zealand, no indication of a declining trend in the subpopulation is apparent (Francis et al. 2014).

Fisheries

The primary threat to the Porbeagle is fishing pressure. The Southern Hemisphere subpopulation is taken in tuna longline fisheries targeting Southern Blue Fin Tuna and other tuna species, and demersal longlines targeting Patagonian Toothfish. It is occasionally taken in the SSSF gillnet sector, where catches are monitored to ensure they remain below trigger limits. The meat is of high quality and so the species is commonly retained when captured. Despite the large amount of fishing activity capturing Porbeagle in the Southern Hemisphere, New Zealand is the only country that reports landings to FAO, indicating that the southern catch is largely unreported.

Habitat and biology

The Porbeagle is found in cold-temperate waters preferring temperatures below 18°C. The species is endothermic, allowing it to maintain muscle temperatures above that of the surrounding waters. Maximum size is at least 226 cm Pre-Caudal Length (Semba et al. 2013). Maximum age is estimated to be 65 years old (Francis et al. 2007). It has small litters of 1–4 pups.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: estimated 65 years Max size: 226 cm Pre-Caudal Length
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 6.3–8.2 years, 140–150 cm Fork Length Females: 13.0–16.3 years, 170–180 cm Fork Length

CAAB Code: 37 010004

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/11200/500969>

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

References

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