

Smalltooth Sandtiger Shark, *Odontaspis ferox*

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| Report Card assessment | Recovering | | |
| IUCN Red List Australian Assessment | Near Threatened | IUCN Red List Global Assessment | Vulnerable |
| Assessors | Graham, K.J., Pollard, D.A., Gordon, I., Williams, S., Flaherty, A.A., Fergusson, I. & Dicken, M. | | |
| Australian Assessor | Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan) | | |
| Report Card Remarks | Significant decline in catches on east coast with continuing fishing pressure and likely low reproductive capacity. | | |

Summary

The Smalltooth Sand Tiger Shark is a large-bodied species that is sporadically encountered in continental shelf waters. It may be naturally rare and likely has low reproductive capacity and therefore highly sensitive to fishing pressure. Fishery independent surveys have recorded a decline of over 50% in catches along Australia's east coast. Evidence of shallow water aggregations in a number of areas suggests that the species may be more susceptible to fishing pressure than previously assumed. Little is known on its exploitation outside of New South Wales waters, but it is unlikely that outside of that part of its Australian range there has been significant declines. Therefore, the Australian subpopulation of Smalltooth Sand Tiger Sharks is assessed as Near Threatened (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Recovering (SAFS).



Distribution

In Australia, the subpopulation is known to occur in New South Wales, north Western Australia, and Victoria (Last and Stevens 2009). Important sites occur in southern New South Wales.

Stock structure and status

There is little information on population size, structure, or trend for the Australian Smalltooth Sand Tiger Shark subpopulation. It is taken as bycatch in commercial fisheries which have driven population declines of over 50% from 1972–1997 in New South Wales waters (Pogonoski et al. 2002).

Fisheries

The primary threat to the Smalltooth Sand Tiger Shark is fishing pressure. Demersal trawl fisheries in Australia continue to operate in areas of possible and known occurrence. Catch rates outside of New South Wales are not known but are likely minimal.

Habitat and biology

The Smalltooth Sand Tiger Shark is a bottom dweller in continental shelf and slope waters (Last and Stevens 2009). It occurs to a depth of 850 m. Maximum size in Australian waters is at least 360 cm total length (TL), elsewhere at least 410 cm TL (Compagno 2001, Last and Stevens 2009). The reproductive cycle is presumably similar to the Grey Nurse Shark (*Carcharias taurus*) which has very small litters of 2 pups. Little else is known of its biology.

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| Longevity and maximum size | Longevity: unknown Max size: 360 cm TL, possibly up to 410 cm TL |
| Age and/or size at maturity (50%) | Males: ~275 cm TL Females: ~364 cm TL |

CAAB Code: 37 008003

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41876/103433002>

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

References

- Compagno, L.J.V. 2001. *Sharks of the world. An annotated and illustrated catalogue of shark species known to date. Vol. 2. Bullhead, mackerel and carpet sharks (Heterodontiformes, Lamniformes and Orectolobiformes)*. FAO species catalogue for fisheries purposes. No. 1. Vol. 2. FAO, Rome.
- 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, Australia.
- Pogonoski, J.J., Pollard, D.A. and Paxton, J.R. 2002. *Conservation overview and action plan for Australian threatened and potentially threatened marine and estuarine fishes*. Environment Australia, Canberra, Australia.