

Western Highfin Spurdog, *Squalus altipinnis*

Report Card assessment	Negligible		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Data Deficient
Assessors	Finucci, B., White, W.T., Cavanagh, R.D. & Lisney, T.J.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	In Australia, only known only from two specimens, in area of minimal fisheries effort.		

Summary

The Western Highfin Spurdog is a deepwater dogfish, with a patchy Southeast Asia range and in Australia, only known only from two specimens from a restricted area on the continental slope of Western Australia. The area is subject to two deepwater trawl fisheries but effort is low with only a few boats in operation. Like other deepwater dogfishes, this species is likely to have



the limiting life history characteristics making it inherently vulnerable to population depletion. There is lack of information on the species biology, extent of occurrence, population size, or any indicator of population trend. However, due to limited fishing effort in its Australian range, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) in Australia (Kyne et al. 2021), and Negligible (SAFS) due to its rarity in fishery catches.

Distribution

The Western Highfin Spurdog occurs patchily across Southeast Asia and in Australia, is known only from off the Rowley Shoals, 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

There is low effort in the deepwater fisheries in which the species may possibly be taken as bycatch, that is, the North West Slope Trawl and Western Deepwater Trawl (Harris and Ward 1999). However, it has not been recorded from these fisheries.

Habitat and biology

The Western Highfin Spurdog occurs at depths of approximately 300 m. The maximum size of the two adult male specimens was 59 cm total length (TL) (Last and Stevens 2009). Nothing is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 59 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Unknown

CAAB Code: 37 020018

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/158616/68644334>

Link to page at Shark References: <http://www.shark-references.com/species/view/Squalus-altipinnis>

References

- Harris, A. and Ward, P. 1999. *Non-target Species in Australia's Commonwealth Fisheries. A Critical Review*. Bureau of Rural Sciences, Canberra.
- 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*. CSIRO Division of Fisheries, Hobart.