

## Bighead Catshark, *Apristurus bucephalus*

Report Card assessment	Undefined Stock		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Data Deficient
Assessors	Lisney, T.J. & Cavanagh, R.D.		
Report Card Remarks	Known from only two specimens		

### Summary

The Bighead Catshark is a deepwater shark known from only two specimens taken off southwest Australia. It could be rare or uncommon, and may be taken in a deepwater trawl fishery. However fishing effort is low overall. If its biology is like other deepwater



shark species, it may not be sufficiently fecund to withstand exploitation pressure. Therefore, as there is insufficient information, the species is assessed as Data Deficient (IUCN) and Undefined Stock (SAFS).

### Distribution

The Bighead Catshark is known from only two specimens from the mid-continental slope between Mandurah and Cape Leeuwin off Western Australia (White et al. 2008).

### Stock structure and status

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

### Fisheries

The Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery operates within the depth range of this species, however current effort and catch is low with only two boats active in the 2012-2013 fishing season (Marton and Mazur 2014). It is expected that this fishery may take the species as bycatch, but further research is required to determine to what extent.

### Habitat and biology

The two specimens of this poorly known deepwater catshark have been found on the mid-continental slope between 920 and 1,140 m depth. Maximum size is at least 68 cm total length (TL), but its biology is virtually unknown (White et al. 2008).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 68 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Unknown

**Link to IUCN Page:** <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/42703/0>

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

#### References

Marton, N. and Mazur, K. 2014. Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery. In: Georgeson, L., Stobutzki, I. and Curtotti, R. (eds), Fishery status reports 2013-14, pp. 271-280. Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.

White, W.T., Last, P.R. and Pogonoski, J.J. 2008. *Apristurus bucephalus* sp. nov., a new deepwater catshark (Carcharhiniformes: Scyliorhinidae) from southwestern Australia. In: Last, P.R., White, W.T. and Pogonoski, J.J. (eds), Descriptions of new Australian chondrichthyans, pp. 105-112. CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research Paper No. 022.