

## Smoothbelly Catshark, *Apristurus longicephalus*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Refer to Global Assessment	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Duffy, C.A.J. & Huveneers, C.		
Report Card Remarks	Deepwater species with refuge at depth from Australian fisheries		

### Summary

The Longhead Catshark is a relatively small deepwater species with a patchy distribution in the Indo-West Pacific. Throughout its geographic range this catshark may be taken as



bycatch in deepwater fisheries, though species-specific catch data are not available. Despite being a poorly known species, it is wide ranging and has a refuge at depth at least where it occurs off Australia. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and in Australia, Sustainable (SAFS).

### Distribution

The Longhead Catshark has a patchy distribution in the Indo-West Pacific. In Australia, it has been recorded off North West Cape and Ashmore Reef (Western Australia) and off Townsville (Queensland). Elsewhere it has been found in Tosa Bay of Shikoku Island, southern Japan; Okinawa Trough, East China Sea; the Philippines; Taiwan; the Seychelles; Mozambique; and New Caledonia (Iglesias et al. 2005, Last and Stevens 2009, Ebert et al. 2013).

### Stock structure and status

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

### Fisheries

The Longhead Catshark be taken as bycatch in deepwater fisheries, though species-specific catch data are not available. In Australian waters there is limited fishery activity within its range.

### Habitat and biology

The Longhead Catshark occurs on or near the bottom of the continental slope at 500 to 1,140 m (Ebert et al. 2013). Males mature at 49 cm total length (TL) and females at 51 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009, Ebert et al. 2013). Little is known of its biology except that it is hermaphroditic; possesses the genital apparatus of one sex as well as the undeveloped genital apparatus of the opposite sex in the same individual (Last and Stevens 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 59 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 49 cm TL Females: 51 cm TL

**Link to IUCN Page:** <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/44217/0>

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

#### References

- Ebert, D.A., Fowler, S. and Compagno, L. 2013. *Sharks of the World*. Wild Nature Press, Plymouth.
- Iglesias, S.P., Sellos, D.Y. and Nakaya, K. 2005. Discovery of a normal hermaphroditic chondrichthyan species: *Apristurus longicephalus*. *Journal of Fish Biology* 66(2): 417-428.
- Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. *Sharks and Rays of Australia*. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood.