

Fleshynose Catshark, *Apristurus melanoasper*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Refer to Global Assessment	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	McCormack, C. & Iglésias, S.		
Report Card Remarks	Deepwater species that is uncommon bycatch		

Summary

The Fleshynose Catshark is a deepwater species found on upper continental slopes and seamounts. It is widespread across the northeast and northwest Atlantic and the southwest



Pacific. The species is an uncommon bycatch of commercial deepwater trawlers, and the majority of its habitat is outside the reach of fisheries. Given the little overlap between the species' range and deepwater fisheries, it can be inferred that the risk of fisheries exploitation affecting the population is low. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and in Australia, Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Fleshynose Catshark occurs in Australia from Cape Leeuwin (Western Australia) to Sugarloaf Point (New South Wales), including Tasmania (Nakaya et al. 2008). Elsewhere in the southwest Pacific it is known from New Zealand and New Caledonia. In the northeast Atlantic it is found off France, Ireland and the British Isles (Iglésias et al. 2004, Ebert and Stehmann 2013). In the northwest Atlantic it is known from off the northern United States of America (Iglésias et al. 2004).

Stock structure and status

A recently described species, known from 53 specimens. There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species.

Fisheries

The Fleshynose Catshark is an uncommon bycatch of commercial deepwater trawlers. In Australia, most of the depth range of this species is outside the activity of commercial trawl fisheries and it is expected that bycatch levels would be low to negligible. The majority of fishing effort in the Great Australian Bight Trawl sector is in shallower water than the depth range of this species (Moore and Curtotti 2014). In the Commonwealth Trawl sector most areas below 700 m are closed to fishing, so there is no fishery operating in the depth range of this catshark in this area either (Penney et al. 2014).

Habitat and biology

The Fleshnose Catshark occurs on continental mid-slopes and seamounts at depths of 512 to 1,520 m, but generally deeper than 1,000 m (Iglésias et al. 2004, Nakaya et al. 2008). The maximum size is 76 cm total length (TL) (Iglésias et al. 2004). Males and females mature at greater than 60 cm TL (Nakaya et al. 2008). Very little is known of the biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 76 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Both sexes: >60 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/42700/0>

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

References

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