Bigfin Catshark, *Apristurus platyrhynchus*

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 shark with minimal fishing pressure in Australia		

Summary

The Bigfin Catshark is a poorly known small deepwater shark with a patchy distribution in the Indo-West Pacific. It occurs on the continental slope at depths of 400 to 1,080 m. It is probably taken as bycatch in deepwater trawl, set net and line fisheries. However, fishing pressure is minimal in a large part of its Australian range and it likely has refuge from fishing in the deeper part of its depth range. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and in Australia, Sustainable (SAFS).


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Distribution

The Flatnose Catshark has a patchy distribution in the Indo-West Pacific. In Australia, it is known from off Geraldton (Western Australia) and from off Ingham (Queensland) to Brush Island (New South Wales) (Last and Stevens 2009). Elsewhere it has been reported from Suruga Bay, Japan southwards to the East China Sea, Taiwan, the Philippines, South China Sea, Borneo and the Norfolk Ridge (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 Flatnose Catshark is probably taken as bycatch in deepwater trawl, set net and line fisheries that overlap with its range. The species may be caught more regularly in deepwater trawl fisheries than other *Apristurus* species, given its relatively shallower occurrence. Parts of the eastern Australian continental slope have been subjected to heavy trawling pressure, however, the range of the Flatnose Catshark off eastern Australia is primarily outside of heavily fished areas. Deepwater fishing effort is very low where it occurs off northeast Queensland (Noriega et al. 2014).

Habitat and biology

The Flatnose Catshark is demersal on the continental slope between 400 and 1,080 m. Maximum size is 71 cm total length (TL) with both sexes maturing at approximately 60 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009, Ebert et al. 2013). Little is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 71 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Both sexes: ~60 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/44223/0

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

References

Ebert, D.A., Fowler, S. and Compagno, L. 2013. Sharks of the World. Wild Nature Press, Plymouth.

Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. Sharks and Rays of Australia. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Australia.

Noriega, R., Hansen, S. and Mazur, K. 2014. Coral Sea Fishery. In: Georgeson, L., Stobutzki, I. and Curtotti, R. (eds), Fishery status reports 2013-14, pp. 48-60. Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.