

Western Spotted Catshark, *Asymbolus occiduus*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Simpfendorfer, C. & Heupel, M.R.		
Report Card Remarks	Little known shark with limited fishing across its range		

Summary

The Western Spotted Catshark is a small, little known temperate catshark. It is endemic to southern Australia and has a reasonably large geographic and depth range. The species is unlikely to



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be negatively affected by commercial fisheries because there is limited fishing throughout its range. Therefore, it is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Western Spotted Catshark is distributed along the southern and western coasts of Australia from Fowlers Bay (South Australia) to Perth (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

The Western Spotted Catshark is caught incidentally and very infrequently in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF). An estimated 69 kg of the species were caught and discarded annually from 2000 to 2006 (Walker and Gason 2007).

Habitat and biology

The Western Spotted Catshark is found at depths of 98 to 400 m and is most abundant on the outer continental shelf and common off the Western Australian coast. The biology of the species is almost entirely unknown. Adults and juveniles differ significantly in their colour patterns and the association between the two forms was only made recently (Last and Stevens 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 60 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 58 cm TL Females: unknown

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/41722/0>

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

References

- Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. *Sharks and Rays of Australia*. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Australia.
- Penney, A., Georgeson, L., and Curtotti, R. 2014. Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery. In: Georgeson, L., Stobutzki, I., and Curtotti, R. (eds), *Fishery status reports 2013–14*, pp. 111–127. Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra, ACT, Australia.
- Walker, T.I. and Gason, A.S. 2007. Shark and other chondrichthyan byproduct and bycatch estimation in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery. Final report to Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Project No. 2001/007. (July 2007) pp. 182 + vi. Primary Industries Research Victoria: Queenscliff, Victoria, Australia, Victoria.