

Eastern Banded Catshark, *Atelomycterus marnkalha*

Report Card assessment	Undefined Stock		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Refer to Global Assessment	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Data Deficient
Assessors	Bates, H. & Kyne, P.M.		
Report Card Remarks	Minor bycatch but very little information on catches or biology		

Summary

The Eastern Banded Catshark is an uncommon catshark found in tropical, inshore waters of northern and northeastern Australia and in southern Papua New Guinea. The species is a minor bycatch in demersal trawl fisheries



that operate across its known range, but it is of no commercial value and is discarded in Australian waters. Part of its known range is protected from fishing in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Overall, little is known about the catch levels and its life history. Therefore, the species is assessed as Data Deficient (IUCN) and Undefined Stock (SAFS).

Distribution

The Eastern Banded Catshark occurs across northern and northeastern Australia in the Arafura Sea, the Gulf of Carpentaria, the Torres Strait, and on the east coast of Australia south to Gladstone (Jacobsen and Bennett 2007, Last and Stevens 2009). It also is found in southern Papua New Guinea. Records of this species are sporadic across this distribution, but it may occur in other areas of northeast Australia where it has not yet been recorded.

Stock structure and status

The Eastern Banded Catshark appears to be an uncommon species, as it is known from only a moderate number of specimens, and despite extensive sampling across most of its known range, it is rarely recorded.

Fisheries

The Eastern Banded Catshark is a minor bycatch of demersal trawl fisheries which operate across its range. It is caught in very low numbers in the Northern Prawn Fishery, where it was recorded (under the name Banded Catshark) in only 0.5% of trawls (Stobutzki et al. 2002). In the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery, despite extensive surveying, only three specimens have been recorded in the bycatch of the scallop sector (central Queensland coast) (Kyne 2008). The species is of no commercial value and is discarded at sea.

Habitat and biology

The Eastern Banded Catshark is a demersal species known from depths of 11 to 74 m (mostly < 50 m) on sandy to coarse rubble substrates (Jacobsen and Bennett 2007). Males and females have been recorded mature at 35 cm total length (TL) (Jacobsen and Bennett 2007). The biology is poorly known.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 48 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Both sexes: 35 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/161434/0>

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

References

- Jacobsen, I.P. and Bennett, M.P. 2007. Description of a new species of catshark, *Atelomycterus marnkalha* n. sp. (Carcharhiniformes: Scyliorhinidae) from north-east Australia. *Zootaxa* 1520: 19-36.
- Kyne, P.M. 2008. Chondrichthyans and the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery: Bycatch reduction, biology, conservation status and sustainability. PhD thesis, University of Queensland, Brisbane, 361 pp.
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- Stobutzki, I.C., Miller, M.J., Heales, D.S. and Brewer, D.T. 2002. Sustainability of elasmobranchs caught as bycatch in a tropical prawn (shrimp) trawl fishery. *Fishery Bulletin* 100: 800-821.