Owston’s Dogfish, *Centroscymnus owstonii*

**Summary**
The Owston’s Dogfish is a moderately common deepwater shark within its known geographic range, with a depth distribution (500 to 1,500 m) which extends deeper than is currently recognised. Although captured in some quantity in some deepwater trawl fisheries, it is taken mainly as bycatch, and presumably from only part of its known range. It is likely to have the life history characteristics typical of other deepwater dogfish species (low fecundity, slow growth and high longevity) and so be potentially vulnerable to depletion by commercial fishing. However, the species is currently still common over its wide southern Australian and New Zealand range. Therefore, the species is globally assessed as Least Concern (IUCN), and in Australia the stock is considered Sustainable (SAFS).

**Distribution**
The Owston’s Dogfish is widespread in the Atlantic and eastern and western Pacific oceans. In Australia, it is known to be distributed across southern Australia from Cape Hawke (New South Wales) to Exmouth Gulf (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009).

**Stock structure and status**
There is currently little information on population size or stock structure for Owston’s Dogfish, although it is not specifically targeted by any Australian fishery. It is believed to still be common throughout its Australian range. Given this, the Australian stock is considered Sustainable.

**Fisheries**
The species is a bycatch species in some Australian deepwater trawl and line fisheries. Its depth range coincides (in part) with that of some commercially important teleosts (especially orange roughy and oreos), although it does extend somewhat deeper than those species.
Habitat and biology
The Owston's Dogfish is demersal on the upper and middle continental slope at 250 to 1,500 m, usually 500 to 1,500 m. Maximum size is 120 cm total length (TL) with males mature at 70-79 cm TL and females at 82-105 cm TL (Yano and Tanaka 1983, 1988, Daley et al. 2002). Little else is known of its biology.

| Longevity and maximum size | Longevity: unknown  
Max size: 120 cm TL |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Age and/or size at maturity (50%) | Males: 70-79 cm TL  
Females: 82-105 cm TL |

Link to IUCN Page: http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/41749/0
Link to page at Shark References: http://www.shark-references.com/species/view/Centroscymnus-owstonii

References