

Owston's Dogfish, *Centroscymnus owstonii*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Refer to Global Assessment	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Vulnerable
Assessors	Paul, L.		
Report Card Remarks	Moderately common; bycatch of trawl fisheries with research on life history needed		

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



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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/Centroscyrnus-owstonii>

References

- Daley, R., Stevens, J. and Graham, K. 2002. Catch analysis and productivity of the deepwater dogfish resource in southern Australia. Report by CSIRO Marine Research and NSW Fisheries to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation. FRDC Project 1998/108.
- Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. Sharks and Rays of Australia. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood.
- Yano, K and Tanaka, S. 1987. Reproductive organs of deep sea sharks, *Centroscyrnus owstoni* and *C. coelolepis*. *Journal of the Faculty of Marine Sciences and Technology*, Tokai University 25: 57–67.
- Yano, K. and Tanaka, S. 1983. Portuguese shark, *Centroscyrnus coelolepis* from Japan, with notes on *C. owstoni*. *Japanese Journal of Ichthyology* 30(3): 208–216.