

Speckled Swellshark, *Cephaloscyllium speccum*

Report Card assessment	Undefined Stock		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Data Deficient
Assessors	Kyne, P.M. & Cavanagh, R.D.		
Report Card Remarks	Known only from a few specimens		

Summary

The Speckled Swellshark is a poorly known deepwater catshark, with a patchy occurrence in a restricted area off northwest Australia. It is only known from a few specimens recorded from the outer continental shelf. Presently, there is low fishing effort within its distribution. Nothing is known of its biology. The distribution and status needs to be better defined. Therefore, the species is assessed as Data Deficient (IUCN) and Undefined Stock (SAFS).



Distribution

The Speckled Swellshark is restricted to a relatively small area between Rowley Shoals and Ashmore Reef off northwest Australia where its occurrence is patchy (Last et al. 2008, Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

The species is rare in museum collections and is most likely rare to uncommon in the wild. There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species.

Fisheries

The areas where the few known specimens were collected are subject to minimal fishing effort by the Commonwealth North West Slope Trawl Fishery (Woodhams and Bath 2017). Species may be naturally rare, but no major threats are apparent at present.

Habitat and biology

The Speckled Swellshark is a deepwater benthic species on the outer continental shelf and upper slope at depths of 150 to 455 m. Maximum size is at least 69 cm total length (TL) with males mature at 65 cm TL (Last et al. 2008, Last and Stevens 2009). Nothing else is known of the biology of the species.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 69 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 65 cm TL Females: unknown

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/42710/0>

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

References

- Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. Sharks and Rays of Australia. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Australia.
- Last, P.R., Séret, B. and White, W.T. 2008. New swellsharks (*Cephaloscyllium*: Scyliorhinidae) from the Indo-Australian region. CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research Paper 22: 129–146.
- Woodhams K. and Bath, A. 2017. North West Slope Trawl Fishery. In: Patterson, H., Georgeson, L., Noreigo, R., Koduah, A., Heliodoniotis, F., Larcombe, J., Nicol, S., Williams, A. (eds), Fishery status reports 2017. Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.