

Southern Lanternshark, *Etmopterus baxteri*

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| Report Card assessment | Sustainable | | |
| IUCN Red List Australian Assessment | Refer to Global Assessment | IUCN Red List Global Assessment | Least Concern |
| Assessors | Kyne, P.M. & Paul, L.J. | | |
| Report Card Remarks | Long lived deepwater shark taken as bycatch but currently with some refuge from fishing pressure, although bycatch should be monitored | | |

Summary

The Southern Lanternshark is a moderately common, deepwater shark that occurs off southern Australia and New Zealand. The species is a common bycatch of Orange Roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*) and Oreo deepwater fisheries. Most areas of southern Australia below 700 m depth are closed to deepwater fishing, offering it refuge from incidental capture. The species currently has refuge from fishing pressure in areas. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and in Australia, Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

The Southern Lanternshark occurs in Australia off southern New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania, including seamounts to the south (Last and Stevens 2009). In New Zealand it is abundant on the south Chatham Rise, east of New Zealand (Dunn et al. 2013). Distribution records from anywhere other than Australia and New Zealand are based on a former misidentification of *Etmopterus granulosus* (also called Southern Lanternshark) (Ebert et al. 2013).

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species.

Fisheries

In Australia, it was a moderate bycatch in some deepwater fisheries because its depth range coincided, in part, with that of some commercially important teleosts such as Orange Roughy. However, not only does this species' depth range generally reach deeper than the fisheries, but the South Tasman Rise Fishery is currently closed, as are most waters off southern Australia deeper than 700 m depth in order to allow the Orange Roughy stock to rebuild (Patterson and Mazur 2014). This should indirectly protect the population in waters south of Australia.

Habitat and biology

The Southern Lanternshark is a benthopelagic species found on the continental slopes at 250 to 1,500 m, possibly deeper but usually 700 to 1,400 m (Ebert et al. 2013). Maximum recorded size is 86 cm total length (TL) with males mature at 46-68 cm TL and females at 62-69 cm TL (Irvine 2004, Ebert et al. 2013). The age at maturity is possibly 20 years (males) and 30 years (females), with maximum ages possibly 48 years (males) and 57 years (females) (Irvine et al. 2006).

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| Longevity and maximum size | Longevity: estimated males 48 years, females 57 years Max size: 86 cm TL |
| Age and/or size at maturity (50%) | Males: possibly 20 years, 46-68 cm TL Females: possibly 30 years, 62-69 cm TL |

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/116856245/3120311>

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

References

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