

Smooth Lanternshark, *Etmopterus pusillus*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Refer to Global Assessment	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Coelho, R., Tanaka, S. & Compagno, L.J.V.		
Report Card Remarks	Small deepwater shark with little known of Australian catches		

Summary

The Smooth Lanternfish is a small, deepwater shark that is widespread but patchily distributed in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. It is taken as bycatch of bottom trawls, fixed bottom nets and line gear. The species is generally discarded but is probably utilised in some parts of the eastern Atlantic. In the northeast



Atlantic, captures are high and stable. In Australia, it may be taken in deepwater trawls though little is known of the catches. Despite life history traits of late maturity and small litters that likely make it vulnerable to fishing pressure, there is no evidence to suggest that the species has declined or faces significant threats. The species' widespread geographic and bathymetric distribution may provide refuge areas from fishing. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and in Australia, Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Smooth Lanternfish occurs in the North and South Atlantic, western Indian Ocean and in the Indo-west Pacific where it is found in Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Taiwan. In Australia, there are patchy records from northern New South Wales to western Victoria and in Western Australia, from Bunbury to the Rowley Shoals (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

Little is known on population size, structure, or trend for the species.

Fisheries

Although of little commercial value, the species is taken as bycatch of bottom trawls, fixed bottom nets and line gear (Compagno 1984). Its occurrence in Australian deepwater fisheries is poorly documented.

Habitat and biology

The Smooth Lanternshark is a demersal species on continental slopes at depths of 150 to 1,120 m (possibly to 2,000 m) (Last and Stevens 2009). It also occurs in midwater in some areas (Krefft 1980). Males mature at 31-38 cm total length (TL) and females at 38-44 cm TL (Compagno 1984, Coelho and Erzini 2005). The species matures extremely late in its life cycle and it has small litters of 1 to 6 pups (Coelho unpub. data).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 50 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 31-38 cm TL Females: 38-44 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/161443/5425124>

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

References

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