

## Bristled Lanternshark, *Etmopterus unicolor*

Report Card assessment	Undefined Stock		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Refer to Global Assessment	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Data Deficient
Assessors	McCormack, C. & Valenti, S.V.		
Report Card Remarks	Little known of catches and biology		

### Summary

The Bristled Lanternshark is a deepwater shark found on continental slopes of the western Pacific in depths of 465 to 1,500 m. It is taken as bycatch of various deepwater fisheries throughout its range. Discard survival rate is presumed to be low. The species probably has limiting life history characteristics like other deepwater squalid sharks (preliminary age data show that similar species mature at 20 to 30 years), making it sensitive to population depletion. Efforts should be made to quantify bycatch levels because at present there is insufficient information to accurately assess the status of the species. Therefore, the species is assessed as Data Deficient (IUCN) and Undefined Stock (SAFS).



### Distribution

The Bristled Lanternshark occurs in Australia, Japan and New Zealand (Yano, 1997, Ebert et al. 2013). In Australia, it is found from Crowdy Head (New South Wales) south to Perth (Western Australia), including Tasmania and the seamounts to the south (Cascade Plateau and South Tasman Rise) (Last and Stevens 2009). The species was also thought to occur off South Africa, but these records were a different species, *Etmopterus compagnoi* (Ebert et al. 2013).

### Stock structure and status

The Bristled Lanternshark is thought to be common off southern Australia. There is currently no other information on population size, structure, or trend for the species. Further taxonomic study is required to determine whether northern and southern Hemisphere populations are the same species (M. Francis pers. comm. 2007).

### Fisheries

The Bristled Lanternshark was caught in deepwater trawl fisheries for Orange Roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*) off Australia, although these fisheries have now either reduced to very low fishing effort (Marton and Mazur 2014, Patterson and Mazur 2014). Other deepwater trawling below 700 m has been closed. The Bristled Lanternshark was sometimes caught in large quantities off southern

Australia and discarded; post release survival rate is unknown, though assumed to be very low (J.D. Stevens pers. comm. 2007). It is also caught in the epipelagic zone, up to 120 m depth, by Japanese longliners in the open ocean near Australia (Ebert et al. 2013).

### Habitat and ecology

The species occurs on the continental slopes, often at the bottom and sometimes well above it, at depths of 465 to 1,500 m. Maximum size is 79 cm total length (TL) with males mature at 48–68 cm TL and females at 53–79 cm TL (Ebert et al. 2013). Little else is known of its biology. The Bristled Lanternshark may have similar life history characteristics to the Southern Lanternshark (*Etmopterus baxteri*) which is estimated to mature at 20 years (males) and 30 years (females) and live up to 57 years (Irvine et al. 2006).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 79 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 48-68 cm TL Females: 53-79 cm TL

**Link to IUCN Page:** <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/161727/0>

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

### References

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- Yano, K. 1997. First record of the brown lanternshark, *Etmopterus unicolor* from the waters around New Zealand, and comparison with the southern lanternshark, *E. granulosus*. *Ichthyological Research* 44(1): 61-72.