

Speckled Catshark, *Halaelurus sellus*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	White, W.T.		
Report Card Remarks	Small species that occurs in an area of low fishing effort		

Summary

The Speckled Catshark is known only from the continental shelf off northwest Australia. Although there are several relatively localized fish



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and prawn trawl fisheries operating within the species' range, the effort is low and there are considerable areas which are closed to trawling that would provide refuge. It is a small species of little or no commercial value. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Speckled Catshark is known only from the northwest Australian continental shelf, from Shark Bay (Western Australia) to the Arafura Sea (Northern Territory) (White et al. 2007).

Stock structure and status

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

Fisheries

The species is caught in the Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery and Northwest Slope Trawl Fishery which operate at depths >200 m (Marton and Mazur 2014a, 2014b) operate within the species' range, but are not likely to interact with this species as it does not occur below 200 m. The species may be a bycatch in the Northern Prawn Fishery, and in a number of localised prawn and fish trawl fisheries, such as the Pilbara Fish Trawl Fishery, on the Western Australian continental shelf, but it would be discarded, and overall trawling effort across its range is low, with spatial closures in place.

Habitat and biology

The Speckled Catshark occurs on the continental shelf at 60 to 165 m. Maximum size is 42 cm total length (TL), with males mature at 34 cm TL and females mature at 38 cm TL (White et al. 2007, Last and Stevens 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 42 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 34 cm TL Females: 38 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/42713/0>

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

References

- Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. Sharks and Rays of Australia. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood.
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- White, W.T., Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2007. *Halaelurus maculosus* n. sp. and *H. sellus* n. sp., two new species of catshark (Carcharhiniformes: Scyliorhinidae) from the Indo-West Pacific. *Zootaxa* 1639: 1-21.