

Eastern Spotted Gummy Shark, *Mustelus walkeri*

Report Card assessment	Undefined Stock		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Data Deficient
Assessors	Kyne, P.M. & Rigby, C.L.		
Report Card Remarks	Catch poorly known and needed to assess status beyond Data Deficient		

Summary

The Eastern Spotted Gummy Shark is a slender, deepwater species endemic to northeast Australia. Several commercial, recreational and charter fisheries operate across its range and 'Gummy Sharks' are a known component of the shark catch in one of these, the Queensland Deep Water Fin Fish Fishery. The Eastern Spotted Gummy Shark is an infrequent bycatch in the



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Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery. The species likely receives some refuge within deeper areas of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and in areas of its range that are not fished. However, it is a slow growing, late maturing and moderately long-lived species with small litters and may not be resilient to fishing pressure if caught frequently. The level of catch in fisheries across its range is unknown and needs to be better quantified. Therefore, it is assessed as Data Deficient (IUCN) and Undefined Stock (SAFS).

Distribution

The Eastern Spotted Gummy Shark has a restricted range in northeast Australia from Hinchinbrook Island to Swain Reefs, Queensland (White and Last 2008, Last and Stevens 2009, Rigby et al. 2016). The northern and southern extents of its range are uncertain, and at the southern end there are unconfirmed reports off Coffs Harbour, New South Wales (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

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

Fisheries

Several commercial, recreational and charter fisheries operate across the range of the species but the level of catch is poorly known. The Queensland managed Deep Water Fin Fish Fishery overlaps with the range of the species and uses multi-hook line fishing gear with 'Gummy Sharks' a component of the 'shark (unspecified)' catch, which was a significant part of the total catch in 2008–2009 (DEEDI

2009). Queensland commercial line fishers under L1, L2 and L3 entitlements, of which there are more than 1000, can fish below 200 m across Queensland waters using 6 hooks per line and may encounter the species (DAF 2014). Some recreational fishers and charter operators also target deepwater species. The Queensland managed East Coast Trawl Fishery operates within the range of the species and it has been infrequently taken as bycatch in the deepwater eastern king prawn sector (Kyne 2008, Rigby et al. 2016). The species may have some refuge from this fishery at depths beyond those regularly fished. It may also be encountered in the Coral Sea Fishery that uses auto-longlines (Noriega et al. 2014).

Habitat and biology

The Eastern Spotted Gummy Shark occurs on the continental shelf and upper slope at depths of 52 to 403 m (White and Last 2008). Maximum size is approximately 112 cm total length (TL) with an estimated maximum age of 16 years (Last and Stevens 2009, Rigby et al. 2016). Males mature at 7-10 years and 67-81 cm TL and, and females at 10-14 years and 83-101 cm TL and (Rigby et al. 2016).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: estimated 16 years Max size: ~112 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 7-10 years, 67-81 cm TL Females: 10-14 years, 83-101 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/195426/0>

Link to page at Shark References: <http://shark-references.com/species/view/Mustelus-walkeri>

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