

Crocodile Shark, *Pseudocarcharias kamoharai*

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| Report Card assessment | Sustainable | | |
| IUCN Red List Australian Assessment | Refer to Global Assessment | IUCN Red List Global Assessment | Near Threatened |
| Assessors | Sherman, C.S., Compagno, L.J.V. & Musick, J.A. | | |
| Report Card Remarks | In Australia, low fishing pressure and no evidence of decline | | |

Summary

The Crocodile Shark is a small bodied, pelagic shark that is globally distributed throughout tropical waters. It is taken as bycatch in longline fisheries. Due to its small litter size and low productivity, the population is susceptible to fishing mortality. In Australia, fishing pressure is



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low and while its life history makes it a high risk species but there is no evidence of population decline. Therefore, the Crocodile Shark is assessed as globally Near Threatened (IUCN) and in Australia, Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Crocodile Shark is globally distributed throughout tropical pelagic waters (Ebert et al. 2013). In Australia, it has been recorded in Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia as far south as 35°S (Last and Stevens, 2009). It is yet to be recorded in the Northern Territory.

Stock structure and status

A high degree of genetic flow occurs between Indian and Atlantic Oceans (da Silva Ferrette et al. 2015) suggesting limited population structure. It is abundant in the tropical Pacific Ocean and subtropical Indian Ocean (Romanov et al. 2008). Declines in Crocodile Shark abundance is suspected in some heavily fished parts of its range due to recorded declines in species that are similarly distributed and taken in fisheries (Goldman et al. 2009). In Australia, fishing pressure is low and while its life history makes it a high risk species but there is no evidence of population decline. Therefore, the Crocodile Shark is assessed as globally Near Threatened (IUCN) and in Australia, Sustainable (SAFS).

Fisheries

The Crocodile Shark is taken in pelagic longline fisheries throughout its distribution and often discarded due to its low value. Post-release survival rates are high (87%) (Coelho et al. 2012). In Australia, it is taken as bycatch in three commercial fisheries. It is caught on longlines in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF) and the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery (WTBF). It is considered a high risk species in the ETBF due to its life history characteristics (AFMA 2014). In the South East Scalefish and Shark Fishery, very low catches of Crocodile Shark occur. Only 14 kg/year are reported

in otter trawls deeper than 600 m, therefore, this fishery is likely not a threat to the Crocodile Shark (Walker and Gason 2007).

Habitat and biology

The Crocodile Shark is a tropical pelagic species that occurs from the surface to depths of greater than 600 m (Walker and Gason 2007). It exhibits diel vertical migrations, feeding in shallow depths at night (Walker and Gason 2007, Ebert et al. 2013). Maximum size is at least 109 cm total length (TL) for males and 122 cm TL for females (Oliviera et al. 2010). Little else is known of its biology.

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| Longevity and maximum size | Longevity: unknown Max size: males at least 109 cm, TL females 122 cm TL |
| Age and/or size at maturity (50%) | Unknown |

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/39337/0>

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

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