

## False Catshark, *Pseudotriakis microdon*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Refer to Global Assessment	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Yano, K. & White, W.T.		
Report Card Remarks	Rarely encountered in Australian fisheries		

### Summary

The False Catshark is a large bodied, deepwater shark that is sporadically encountered throughout tropical and temperate waters of the globe. It is sensitive to fishing pressure due to low biological productivity. It is



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infrequently taken as bycatch. In Australia, fishing pressure and encounter rates are currently low. It is widespread and continuing to be documented in new regions. Therefore, the False Catshark is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and in Australia, Sustainable (SAFS).

### Distribution

The False Catshark is wide ranging however, records of its distribution are sporadic and incomplete. It has been recorded throughout the North Atlantic, Indian and Eastern, Central and South Pacific Oceans (Last and Stevens 2009). In Australia, it has been recorded from single specimens taken from Mackay (Queensland) and off Cape Leeuwin (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009). The species most likely occurs at more locations than presently recorded (as evidenced by recent new records e.g. Friedlander et al. 2014, Brooks et al. 2015).

### Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the False Catshark. It is seemingly uncommon throughout much of its distribution.

### Fisheries

It is currently of little interest to fisheries and is only taken sporadically as bycatch. The Queensland, Australia specimen was taken by exploratory deepwater dropline fishing targeting deepwater reef fishes, particularly Flame and Ruby Snapper (*Etelis* spp.) and Bar Cod (*Epinephelus* spp.) (Kyne et al. 2005).

## Habitat and biology

The False Catshark is a deepwater, benthic species occurring at depths of 100-1,890 m. It inhabits continental shelf slopes and deepwater reefs and seamounts. Its large soft body suggests it is an inactive and sluggish species (Ebert et al. 2013). Maximum size is at least 296 cm total length (TL)(Yano 1992). Litter size of this species is two with gestation presumed to be greater than 1 year and possibly more than 2 or 3 years (Taniuchi et al. 1984, Yano 1992, Stewart 2000, K. Yano, unpubl. data).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 296 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: ~260 cm TL Females: ~265 cm TL

**Link to IUCN Page:** <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/44566/0>

**Link to page at Shark References:** <http://shark-references.com/species/view/Pseudotriakis-microdon>

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