

## Smalleye Pygmy Shark, *Squaliolus aliae*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Refer to Global Assessment	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Kyne, P. & Heupel, M.		
Report Card Remarks	A very small shark that has minimal interaction with fisheries		

### Summary

The Smalleye Pygmy Shark has a patchy but widespread distribution in the Eastern Indian and western Pacific Oceans. It is found over a wide depth range over continental slopes. It is one



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of the smallest living sharks with a maximum total length of approximately 22 cm. It is considered too small to be regularly captured in most fisheries, however it has been caught incidentally by demersal trawlers in the western Pacific. Its small size and large geographic and depth range provide it with protection from fisheries. Therefore, it is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and in Australia, Sustainable (SAFS).

### Distribution

The Smalleye Pygmy Shark has a patchy distribution in the Indo-West Pacific off Australia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Japan (Last and Stevens 2009, Ebert et al. 2013). In Australian waters there are records from off northwest Western Australia, Queensland and New South Wales (Kyne et al. 2005, Last and Stevens 2009). It is rarely encountered due to its small size and so may be more widespread than presently known.

### Stock structure and status

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

### Fisheries

The Smalleye Pygmy Shark is thought to be too small to be captured regularly in most fisheries. Eastern Australian specimens have been collected from demersal trawls, so it may be encountered more regularly than is currently recorded off Australia where only a handful of records are known (Kyne et al. 2005).

### Habitat and biology

The Smalleye Pygmy Shark occurs over continental slopes from less than 150 m to 2,000 m depth. Individuals are thought to make daily migrations from shallow depths at night to deeper waters during the day (Last and Stevens 2009). Maximum size is at least 22 cm total length (TL), making this possibly the smallest living shark species (Last and Stevens 2009, Ebert et al. 2013).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 22 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 15 cm TL Females: unknown

**Link to IUCN Page:** <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/41858/0>

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

### References

- Ebert, D.A., Fowler, S. and Compagno, L. 2013. *Sharks of the World*. Wild Nature Press, Plymouth.
- Kyne, P.M., Johnson, J.W., Courtney, A.J. and Bennett, M.B. 2005. New biogeographical information on Queensland chondrichthyans. *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 50: 321-327.
- Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. *Sharks and Rays of Australia*. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood.