

Pinocchio Catshark, *Apristurus australis*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Cavanagh, R.D. & Lisney, T.J.		
Report Card Remarks	Deepwater species with refuge outside fished areas		

Summary

The Pinocchio Catshark occurs off western, southern, and eastern Australia on the continental slope and seamounts. It is a discarded bycatch of trawl fisheries off



Source: CSIRO National Fish Collection. License: CC BY Attribution

southeast Australia. However, large areas of its range are closed to trawling, or receive little fishing effort. At present, there are no major threats to the population. Therefore, the Pinocchio Catshark is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Pinocchio Catshark has a wide range around Australia, from off Cairns (Queensland) to seamounts south of Tasmania, westwards to South Australia, and off Western Australia northwards to Shark Bay. It possibly occurs across the Great Australian Bight. It may also occur off New Zealand (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

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

Fisheries

The distribution of Pinocchio Catshark includes some heavily fished areas, particularly off southeast Australia by sectors of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery. It is a discarded bycatch in trawl sectors of that fishery (Walker and Gason 2007). Off southeast Australia, most areas below 700 m depth are closed to trawling (Penney et al. 2014). In the west of Australia, effort in the Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery is low (Marton and Mazur 2014). In the south, the South Tasman Rise Fishery is currently closed (Patterson and Mazur 2014). This species thus finds refuge at depth outside of current fishing activities.

Habitat and biology

The Pinocchio Catshark occurs on the continental slope and around seamounts at depths of 485 to 1,035 m (Last and Stevens 2009). Males and females mature at approximately 50 cm total length (TL) (Last and Stevens 2009). Its biology is virtually unknown.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 60 cm, possibly 83 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Both sexes: ~50 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/42704/0>

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

References

- Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. *Sharks and Rays of Australia*. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood.
- Marion, N. and Mazur, K. 2014. Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery. In: Georgeson, L., Stobutzki, I. and Curtotti, R. (eds), *Fishery status reports 2013-14*, pp. 271-280. Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.
- Patterson, H. and Mazur, K. 2014. South Tasman Rise Trawl Fishery. In: Georgeson, L., Stobutzki, I. and Curtotti, R. (eds), *Fishery status reports 2013-14*, pp. 281-285. Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.
- Penney, A., Georgeson, L., and Curtotti, R. 2014. Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery. In: Georgeson, L., Stobutzki, I., and Curtotti, R. (eds), *Fishery status reports 2013-14*, pp. 111-127. Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra, ACT, Australia.
- Walker, T.I. and Gason, A.S. 2007. Shark and other chondrichthyan byproduct and bycatch estimation in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery. Final report to Fisheries and Research Development Corporation Project No. 2001/007. July 2007. vi + 182 pp. Primary Industries Research Victoria, Queenscliff, Victoria, Australia..