

Freckled Catshark, *Apristurus sinensis*

Report Card assessment	Undefined Stock		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Refer to Global Assessment	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Data Deficient
Assessors	Huvneers, C. & Duffy, C.A.J.		
Report Card Remarks	Taxonomic issues need to be resolved before it can be assessed beyond Undefined Stock		

Summary

The Freckled Catshark is a small deepwater shark known from Australia and the South China Sea. In Australia, there are three genetically distinct forms that may all be separate species. Therefore, until these taxonomic issues are resolved, the species is assessed as Data Deficient (IUCN) and Undefined Stock (SAFS).



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Distribution

The Freckled Catshark is currently known off from Newcastle (New South Wales) to Beachport South Australia) and off North West Cape to Busselton and Ashmore Reef (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009). It is also known from the South China Sea and possibly occurs off New Zealand (Last and Stevens 2009). The distribution of the species is poorly defined due to taxonomic issues

Stock structure and status

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

Fisheries

In Australia, most of the depth range of the species is outside the activity of commercial trawl fisheries so it is expected that bycatch levels would be low to negligible. In the Commonwealth Trawl Sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery, most areas below 700 m are closed to trawling, so there is no fishery operating in the depth range of the Freckled Catshark in this area (Penney et al. 2014). The Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery operates within the range of the species, however current effort and catch is low with only two boats active in the 2012-13 fishing season (Marton and Mazur 2014).

Habitat and biology

The Freckled Catshark is a demersal species from the continental slope. In Australia, it occurs between 940 and 1,290 m, whereas in the South China Sea it is known from 537 m (Last and Stevens 2009). Maximum size is at least 75 cm total length (TL) (possibly 82 cm). Males mature at 47 cm TL and females at 61 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 75 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 47 cm TL Females: 61 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/44225/0>

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

References

- Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. Sharks and Rays of Australia. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood.
- Marton, 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.
- Penney, A., Moore, A., Flood, M., Georgeson, L. and Curtotti, R. 2014. Commonwealth Trawl and Scalefish Hook sectors. In: Georgeson, L., Stobutzki, I. and Curtotti, R. (eds), Fishery Status Reports 2013-14, pp. 128-213. Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.