

Grey Spotted Catshark, *Asymbolus analis*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Kyne, P.M. & Bennett, M.B.		
Report Card Remarks	Small shark taken in trawl fisheries but likely a productive species		

Summary

The Grey Spotted Catshark is a small shark with a relatively restricted geographic and bathymetric distribution on the eastern Australia continental shelf. Its range overlaps



with considerable trawl fishing effort, however six years of monitoring in a major southeast Australian fishery showed no overall trend in catches. It appears to be reproductively active all year and hence is likely to be a productive species. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Grey Spotted Catshark is endemic to Australia in temperate to subtropical waters off eastern Australia, ranging from Cape Moreton (southeast Queensland) to Lakes Entrance (Victoria) including waters of New South Wales (Kyne et al. 2005, Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

The Grey Spotted Catshark is considered to be less common than other closely related *Asymbolus* species (Last and Stevens 2009). Monitoring of trawl bycatch in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery showed no overall trend between 2000 and 2006 (Walker and Gason 2007).

Fisheries

The Grey Spotted Catshark is captured as bycatch in demersal trawl fisheries across its range. It is an uncommon component of the discarded bycatch of the deepwater component of the eastern king prawn sector of the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery which operates at the northern extent of its range (Kyne 2008). It is also likely to occur as bycatch in the New South Wales Ocean Prawn Trawl Fishery. Monitoring of trawl bycatch in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery, where it is a common discarded bycatch, showed no overall trend between 2000 and 2006 (Walker and Gason 2007).

Habitat and biology

The Grey Spotted Catshark is demersal on the continental shelf in depths of 25 to 200 m (Kyne et al. 2005, Last and Stevens 2009). Maximum size is at least 60 cm total length (TL) and both sexes are mature at 46 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009, Kyne et al. 2011). Reproductive mode is single oviparity and off southern Queensland the species may be reproductively active year-round (Kyne et al. 2011).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 60 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Both sexes: 46 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/41720/0>

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

References

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