

Variegated Catshark, *Asymbolus submaculatus*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Heupel, M.R. & Simpfendorfer, C.		
Report Card Remarks	Small shark with restricted range caught infrequently in fisheries		

Summary

The Variegated Catshark is a small shark restricted to a relatively small area off southwest Australia. The species is unlikely to be affected by commercial fisheries because it tends to inhabit caves and ledges. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

The Variegated Catshark is restricted to a confined region from Recherche Archipelago to Cape Naturalist off the coast of southwest Australia (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

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

Fisheries

The Variegated Catshark is caught incidentally and very infrequently in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF). An estimated 83 kg of the species were caught and discarded annually from 2000 to 2006 (Walker and Gason 2007). The SESSF has decreased in fishing effort and number of operating vessels in recent years (Penney et al. 2014).

Habitat and biology

This catshark is found at depths from 30 to 200 m. It is reported to be nocturnal, inhabiting caves and ledges. Males are mature at 38 cm total length (TL) (Ebert et al. 2013). Its biology is almost entirely unknown.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 44 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 38 cm TL Females: unknown

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/41726/0>

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

References

Ebert, D.A., Fowler, S. and Compagno, L. 2013. *Sharks of the World*. Wild Nature Press, Plymouth.

Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. *Sharks and Rays of Australia*. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood.

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.