

## Banded Catshark, *Atelomycterus fasciatus*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Walls, R.H.L. & Kyne, P.M.		
Report Card Remarks	Bycatch levels should be monitored in Western Australian trawl fisheries		

### Summary

The Banded Catshark is an inshore, shallow water northwest Australian endemic. It has a relatively small and patchy distribution. The species is a minor discarded bycatch of fish and likely prawn trawl fisheries operating



within its range. However, there are significant areas permanently closed to trawling where it occurs, so it receives refuge in these areas. Little is known about its biology but there is limited fishing activity within its known range and it is unlikely that the population is declining or under any immediate threat. However, bycatch levels should be monitored in Western Australian trawl fisheries. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and Sustainable (SAFS).

### Distribution

The Banded Catshark occurs on the continental shelf of Western Australia between Exmouth Gulf and the southern end of Eighty Mile Beach (Last and Stevens 2009).

### Stock structure and status

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

### Fisheries

The Banded Catshark is occasionally caught in Western Australian prawn and fish trawl fisheries are the only fisheries likely to catch this inshore species as bycatch but generally effort is relatively low with areas of spatial closures which provide refuge from trawling. The species is a recorded discarded bycatch in the Pilbara Fish Trawl Fishery (40 individuals in 427 shots) (Stephenson and Chidlow 2003), and likely taken in prawn trawl fisheries such as the Exmouth Prawn Trawl Fishery.

### Habitat and biology

The Banded Catshark is reported from sand and shelly benthic habitats at depths of 27 to 122 m, with the vast majority recorded at depths shallower than 60 m (Compagno and Stevens 1993, Last and Stevens 2009). Males mature at approximately 33 cm total length (TL) and females at approximately 35 cm TL (Compagno and Stevens 1993, Last and Stevens 2009). The biology is poorly known.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 45 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 33 cm TL Females: 35 cm TL

**Link to IUCN Page:** <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/41728/0>

**Link to page at Shark References:** <http://www.shark-references.com/species/view/Atelomycter-fasciatus>

#### References

- Compagno, L.J.V and Stevens, J.D. 1993. *Atelomycter fasciatus* n.sp., a new catshark (Chondrichthyes: Carcharhiniformes: Scyliorhinidae) from tropical Australia. *Records of the Australian Museum*. 45: 147-169.
- Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. *Sharks and Rays of Australia*. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood.
- Stephenson, P. and Chidlow, J. 2003. *Bycatch in the Pilbara Trawl Fishery*. Final report to Natural Heritage Trust. Department of Fisheries. Perth.