

Western Gulper Shark, *Centrophorus westraliensis*

Report Card assessment	Undefined Stock		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Data Deficient
Assessors	Kyne, P. & Walls, R.		
Report Card Remarks	Very poorly known and more research needed to assess status		

Summary

The Western Gulper Shark is a deepwater species endemic to Western Australia. Very little information is available on the population status of the species. However, its limited depth range (616 to 750 m) and geographic distribution, combined with a potentially very low rate



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of population increase, makes the species potentially susceptible to population depletion through bycatch in deepwater fisheries. The range of the Western Gulper shark overlaps with the Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery, but current fishing effort is very low and is not likely detrimental to the population. Nevertheless, the species is very poorly known and more research on its occurrence and abundance is needed to accurately assess its status. Therefore, the species is currently assessed as Data Deficient (IUCN) and is an Undefined Stock (SAFS).

Distribution

The Western Gulper Shark is endemic to Western Australia and is found from Shark Bay to Cape Leeuwin (White et al. 2008, Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

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

Fisheries

The Western Gulper Shark has high vulnerability to fisheries due to its very limited geographic and depth ranges, as well as its likely very low intrinsic rate of population increase (Simpfendorfer and Kyne 2009). As a result, similar to other gulper sharks, the Western Gulper Shark could be susceptible to population depletion as a result of fisheries exploitation (Graham et al. 2001). However, the Western Gulper Shark is currently exposed to a very low level of fishing pressure. Only two vessels in the Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery, which overlaps with the range of the species, were active during the 2012-2013 fishing season (Marton and Mazur 2014).

Habitat and biology

The Western Gulper Shark is a bottom-dwelling species that occurs on the continental slope at depths of 616 to 750 m. The known size range is 41 to 91 cm total length (TL) for females, and a single immature male was 37 cm TL (White et al. 2008, Last and Stevens 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 91 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Unknown

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/195485/0>

Link to page at Shark References: <http://shark-references.com/species/view/Centrophorus-westraliensis>

References

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