

Sharpnose Sevengill Shark, *Heptranchias perlo*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Refer to Global Assessment	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Near Threatened
Assessors	Barnett, A. J. & Braccini, M.		
Report Card Remarks	At moderate ecological risk in Australia but sparse with some protection from management regulations		

Summary

The Sharpnose Sevengill Shark is a wide ranging, but relatively uncommon species. The species is of minor commercial importance, but bycatch in bottom trawl and longline fisheries may have caused population declines where deepwater fisheries have been underway for several decades outside of Australia. It is likely to have a low intrinsic rate of increase, and poor resilience to fishing. In Australia, no declines have been recorded and management regulations in place for other deepwater species should provide some protection to the Sharpnose Sevengill Shark. Therefore, the species is assessed as Near Threatened (IUCN) and in Australia, Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

The species is found in most oceans, but particularly in tropical and temperate parts of the Atlantic (including the Mediterranean Sea) and Indian Oceans, and also around Australia and Asia. In Australia, it is found from Cairns (Queensland) south and around Australia to Ashmore Reef (Western Australia) (Last & Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

In Australia, based on catch data, the Sharpnose Sevengill Shark has a sparse abundance in southeastern Australia. The population status is uncertain. Elsewhere, it is suspected that declines may have occurred in places where deepwater demersal trawl fisheries have been operational over the past few decades (such as southern Mozambique).

Fisheries

The Sharpnose Sevengill Shark is mostly taken as bycatch of deepwater trawl and longline fisheries but is of minor commercial importance (Scacco et al. 2002, Fowler et al. 1997, Walker et al. 2008). In southeast Australia, the species is highly susceptible to capture in hook fishing gear (automatic longlines), but a moderate to low catch susceptibility to trawl and gillnet gear. This classifies the species

at moderate ecological risk in terms of abundance and high risk in terms of catch susceptibility (Walker et al. 2008). However, it is sparsely abundant in southeast Australia and fishing regulations in place for other deepwater species should provide some protection. The worldwide expansion of deepwater fisheries over the last decades is likely to further increase the risk of stock overexploitation and overfishing. In the Tyrrhenian Sea, the species disappeared from the catches of coastal and deep waters (Ferretti et al. 2005). Population declines may have occurred in other regions (e.g. southern Mozambique) where demersal trawl effort has been operating over the past few decades.

Habitat and biology

The species occurs on or near the bottom of the continental and insular shelves and upper slopes between 27 and 720 m depth, but has been recorded both close inshore and down to 1,000 m. Males matures at 75-85 cm total length (TL) and females at 90-105 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009). Little else is known about the biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 140 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 75-85 cm TL Females: 90-105 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/41823/0>

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

References

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