

Longfin Mako, *Isurus paucus*

Report Card assessment	Undefined Stock		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Refer to Global Assessment	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Vulnerable
Assessors	Reardon, M.B., Gerber, L. & Cavanagh, R.D.		
Report Card Remarks	Bycatch of pelagic longline fisheries; low catches in Australia but no information on population size or trend		

Summary

The Longfin Mako is a large bodied shark that is widely distributed throughout tropical waters but is rarely encountered. It is taken as bycatch in tropical pelagic longline fisheries throughout its distribution. Catches are not adequately monitored and likely underestimated due to common



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misidentification with the more common Shortfin Mako. Populations are considered likely to have declined and it is of conservation concern due to its apparent rarity, large maximum size, low number of pups and continued bycatch in intensive oceanic fisheries. In Australia, the species is reported to be caught occasionally in low numbers in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery but there is no information on the population size or trend. Therefore, the Longfin Mako is assessed as Vulnerable (IUCN) and in Australia as an Undefined Stock (SAFS) because of uncertainty about its status. It is listed on Appendix II of the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS).

Distribution

The Longfin Mako is cosmopolitan in tropical and subtropical waters. In Australia, it is found from Geraldton (Western Australia) across the Northern Territory and Queensland down to Port Stevens (New South Wales) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

There is currently little information on population size, structure, or trend for the Longfin Mako. It is common in the Western Atlantic and Central Pacific Oceans, but is reported to be rare elsewhere (Compagno 2001). The Longfin Mako is often caught in the same fishing gear but in lower numbers than the more common Shortfin Mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*). Declines in catch rates of the Shortfin Mako in the Atlantic of 40-50% suggest that the Longfin Mako may also be in decline (Reardon et al. 2006). Longfin Mako are less abundant, less fecund and therefore more vulnerable to fisheries than Shortfin Mako and thus may have been similarly depleted by longline fisheries (Reardon et al. 2006). There is no information on the population trend in Australian waters.

Fisheries

The primary threat to the Longfin Mako is fishing pressure. It is taken as bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries throughout its distribution. It is poorly documented however, as it is often confused with its relative, the more common Shortfin Mako. In Australia, Longfin Makos are reported to be caught occasionally in very low numbers in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (Patterson et al. 2015).

Habitat and biology

The Longfin Mako is found in tropical, epipelagic waters likely occurring in deep waters based on its diet (Compagno 2001). It has a litters of 2-8 pups. Little else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 425 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 229 cm TL Females: >245 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/60225/0>

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

References

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