

Goblin Shark, *Mitsukurina owstoni*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
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Report Card Remarks	In Australia, only a few specimens have been recorded		

Summary

The Goblin Shark is an apparently rare deepwater shark. It has a widespread but patchy distribution in the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans. In Australia, only a few specimens have been caught as an occasional bycatch in the South Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery trawl sector. It may be occupying areas beyond the depths trawled or in areas not yet fished. Elsewhere it is only infrequently taken in deepwater fisheries. It is likely to be found in more locations than previously known when deepwater surveys are undertaken in other regions or as deepwater fisheries expand globally. Therefore, the species is currently assessed as globally, and in Australia, as Least Concern (IUCN) and in Australia as Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

The Goblin Shark species has a wide but patchy distribution across the Atlantic, Pacific and West Indian Oceans. In Australia, a few specimens have been recorded off New South Wales, eastern Bass Strait, Tasmania and possibly South Australia (Stevens and Paxton 1985, Last and Stevens 2009). The species is likely to occur in more locations than presently known.

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species in Australia, where it is naturally rare or occupies areas outside the fished area.

Fisheries

The Goblin Shark is rarely taken in Australian fisheries. It is occasional bycatch in the South Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery trawl sector. Elsewhere it is a rare bycatch of deepwater fisheries and is caught in deep bottom-set gillnet, bottom longline and trawl fisheries. Most reported captures are juveniles suggesting that the bulk of the adult population occurs outside the depth range of, or is otherwise unavailable to most deepwater fisheries. Most captures are around Japan.

Habitat and ecology

The Goblin Shark is an outer continental shelf and mid slope species that is found from 30 to 979 m. As well as occurring near the sea floor it may also occur in open water between 200 to 1000 m. Maximum reported depth is 1,300 m although it was unclear if the animal was taken on the bottom or from the water column (Yano 2003). In Australia, maximum size is 390 cm total length (TL) (Last and Stevens 2009), elsewhere maximum size estimated from a photograph is 540 to 617 cm TL (Parsons et al. 2002). Males are mature at 264 cm TL, female size at maturity is unknown (Last and Stevens 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 390 cm, possibly 617 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 264 cm TL Females: unknown

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/44565/0>

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

References

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