

Smalltooth Sand Tiger Shark (Australian subpopulation), *Odontaspis ferox*

Report Card assessment	Depleted		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Vulnerable	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Vulnerable
Assessors	Pollard, D., Gordon, I., Williams, S., Flaherty, A. & Fergusson, I.K.		
Report Card Remarks	Significant decline in catches on east coast with continuing fishing pressure and likely low reproductive capacity		

Summary

The Smalltooth Sand Tiger Shark (Australian subpopulation) is a large-bodied species that is sporadically encountered in continental shelf waters. It may be naturally rare and likely has low reproductive capacity and therefore highly sensitive to fishing pressure. Fishery independent surveys have recorded a decline of over 50% in catches along Australia's east coast. Evidence of shallow water aggregations in a number of areas suggests that the species may be more susceptible to fishing pressure than previously assumed. Little is known on its exploitation outside of New South Wales waters. Therefore, the Australian subpopulation of Sand Tiger Sharks is assessed as Vulnerable (IUCN) and Overfished (SAFS). The global population is assessed as Vulnerable (IUCN).



Distribution

In Australia the subpopulation is known to occur in New South Wales, north Western Australia and Victoria (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

There is little information on population size, structure, or trend for the Australian Smalltooth Sand Tiger Shark subpopulation. It is taken as bycatch in commercial fisheries which have driven population declines of over 50% from 1972-1997 in New South Wales waters (Pogonoski et al. 2002).

Fisheries

The Smalltooth Sand Tiger Shark is taken in demersal trawl fisheries in south-eastern Australia. Catches outside of New South Wales are not known but are likely minimal.

Habitat and biology

The Sand Tiger Shark is a bottom dweller in continental shelf and slope waters (Last and Stevens 2009). It occurs to depths of 850 m. Maximum size in Australian waters is at least 360 cm total length (TL), elsewhere at least 410 cm TL (Compagno 2001, Last and Stevens 2009). Reproductive cycle is presumably similar to the Grey Nurse Shark (*Carcharias taurus*) which has very small litters of 2 pups. Little else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 360 cm, possibly up to 410 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: ~275 cm TL Females: ~364 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/41876/0>

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

References

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- Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. Sharks and Rays of Australia. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Australia.
- Pogonoski, J.J., Pollard, D.A. and Paxton, J.R. 2002. Conservation overview and action plan for Australian threatened and potentially threatened marine and estuarine fishes. Environment Australia, Canberra, Australia.