

Western Highfin Spurdog, *Squalus altipinnis*

Report Card assessment	Undefined Stock		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Data Deficient
Assessors	White, W., Cavanagh, R.D. & Lisney, T.J.		
Report Card Remarks	Known only from two specimens		

Summary

The Western Highfin Spurdog is a deepwater dogfish, known only from two specimens from a restricted area on the continental slope of Western Australia. The area is subject to the two deepwater trawl fisheries but effort is low with only a few boats in operation. Like other deepwater dogfishes, this species is likely to have the limiting life history characteristics making it inherently vulnerable to population depletion. There is lack of information on the species biology, extent of occurrence, population size, or any indicator of population trend. Therefore, the species is assessed as Data Deficient (IUCN) and Undefined Stock (SAFS).



Distribution

The Western Highfin Spurdog is known only from off the Rowley Shoals, Western Australia (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

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

Fisheries

The species is fishing but the threat is likely to be minimal because there is low effort in the deepwater fisheries in which the species may be taken as bycatch, that is, the North West Slope Trawl and Western Deepwater Trawl (Harris and Ward 1999).

Habitat and biology

The Western Highfin Spurdog occurs at depths of approximately 300 m. The maximum size of the two adult male specimens was 59 cm total length (TL) (Last and Stevens 2009). Nothing is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 59 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Unknown

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/158616/5241598>

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

References

- Harris, A. and Ward, P. 1999. Non-target Species in Australia's Commonwealth Fisheries. A Critical Review. Bureau of Rural Sciences, Canberra.
- Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. Sharks and Rays of Australia. CSIRO Division of Fisheries, Hobart.