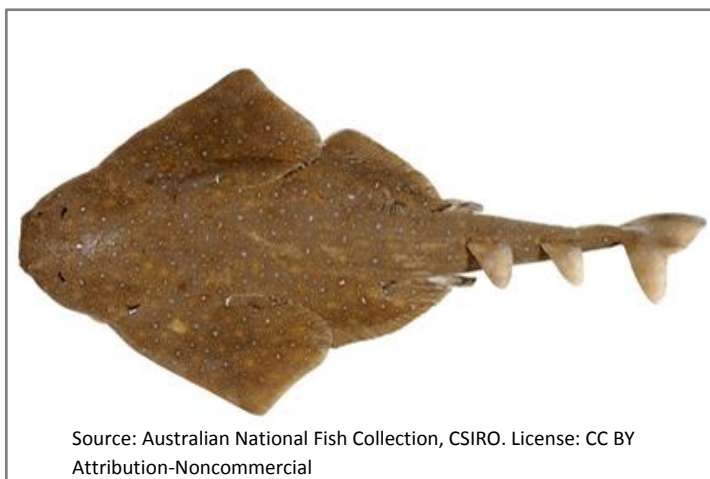


## Eastern Angelshark, *Squatina albipunctata*

<b>Report Card assessment</b>	<b>Depleting</b>		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Vulnerable
Assessors	Pogonoski, J., Pollard, D. & Rigby, C.L.		
Report Card Remarks	Remains a marketable bycatch in southern part of its range		

### Summary

The Eastern Angelshark is an endemic species that occurs in eastern Australia. It has been heavily fished and utilized in the southern parts of its range where it is a marketable bycatch. There have been dramatic population reductions. The fishery responsible for the declines remains active with no conservation measures currently in place. Infrequent captures have been reported from the more northern part of its range where it is discarded bycatch in the Queensland East Coast trawl fishery. There have been significant population declines, however not all of its range is subject to heaving fishing pressure. Therefore, the species is assessed as Vulnerable (IUCN) and Transitional Depleting (SAFS).



### Distribution

The Eastern Angelshark is an Australian endemic species distributed from the Cairns region (Queensland) southwards to Lakes Entrance (Victoria) (Last and Stevens 2009).

### Stock structure and status

There are no estimates of population size of this species but population declines of 96% in relative abundance occurred over two decades (1976-77 to 1996-97) from the Sydney area (central NSW) to the Eden/ Gabo Island Area (southern NSW/ Victoria border) (Graham et al. 2001). In addition, significant reductions in the mean sizes of large Eastern Angelsharks were observed (Graham et al. 2001). This area only represents approximately a quarter of the total range of the species. It is rarely captured in the northern half of its range and the population in that region is believed to be relatively healthy with little fishing occurring. As such, the species is assessed as Transitional Depleting (SAFS)

## Fisheries

The primary threat to the Eastern Angelshark is fishing. It is taken as bycatch in demersal trawl sectors of the New South Wales (NSW) Prawn Trawl Fishery and the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF) in southeast Australia between northern Victoria and central New South Wales continues to threaten its populations in the southern part of its range. Low numbers are taken as bycatch in the Queensland East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery (deepwater eastern king prawn sector; Rigby et al. 2016).

## Habitat and biology

The Eastern Angelshark is a demersal species that occurs on the outer continental shelf and upper slope in 35 to 415 m depth (Last and Stevens 2009). The known maximum size is 130 cm total length (TL) with males mature by 91 cm TL and females at around 107 cm TL (Graham et al. 1997, Graham 1999, Last and Stevens 2009, K. Graham, The Australian Museum, pers. comm. 2003).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 130 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 91 cm TL Females: 107 cm TL

**Link to IUCN Page:** <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/42729/0>

**Link to page at Shark References:** <http://shark-references.com/species/view/Squatina-albipunctata>

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