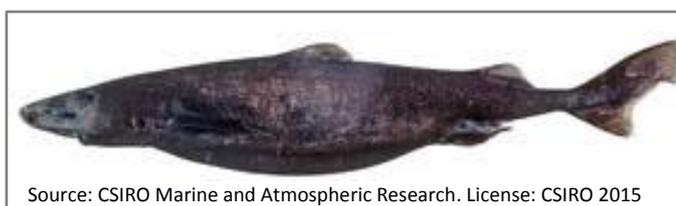


## Velvet Dogfish, *Zameus squamulosus*

|  |                                    |                                    |                |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Report Card assessment</b>          | <b>Undefined Stock</b>             |                                    |                |
| IUCN Red List<br>Australian Assessment | Refer to Global Assessment         | IUCN Red List<br>Global Assessment | Data Deficient |
| Assessors                              | Burgess, G.H. & Chin, A.           |                                    |                |
| Report Card Remarks                    | Little known of catches or biology |                                    |                |

### Summary

The Velvet Dogfish is a widespread but sporadically distributed deepwater dogfish recorded from most oceans. It is taken as bycatch in various deepwater fisheries but there is limited catch



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information. The presently known disjunct range in many ocean regions suggests that it is more widely distributed than currently recorded. Very little is known of its biology, however deepwater squaloids are vulnerable to population decline from overfishing due to their limited life history characteristics. Therefore, the species is assessed as Data Deficient (IUCN) and Undefined Stock (SAFS).

### Distribution

The Velvet Dogfish is widespread in the eastern and western Atlantic, western Indian Ocean and western Pacific. In Australia, it is found from off northern New South Wales to seamounts south of Tasmania and from Cape Naturaliste to Rowley Shoals (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009).

### Stock structure and status

The Velvet Dogfish is probably rare. There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species.

### Fisheries

The Velvet Dogfish is taken as bycatch by deepwater trawl, longline and set net gear. In Australia, it is taken in very small numbers in midwater by Japanese longline vessels off southern Australia and by bottom trawlers on the Exmouth Plateau in Western Australia.

### Habitat and biology

The Velvet Dogfish inhabits continental slopes at depths of 550 to 1,450 m. It occurs from the bottom to midwater in depths from 0 to 580 m in waters 2,000 m deep (Compagno 1984). Maximum size is at least 84 cm total length (TL) with males mature at approximately 47 cm TL and females at 59 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009). Little else is known of its biology.

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Longevity and maximum size        | Longevity: unknown<br>Max size: 84 cm TL |
| Age and/or size at maturity (50%) | Males: ~47 cm TL<br>Females: ~59 cm TL   |

**Link to IUCN Page:** <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/60215/0>

**Link to page at Shark References:** <http://www.shark-references.com/species/view/Zameus-squamulosus>

#### References

- Compagno, L.J.V. 1984. Sharks of the World. An annotated and illustrated catalogue of the shark species known to date. Volume 1. (Hexanchiformes, Squaliformes, Squatiniformes and Pristiophoriformes). FAO Species Catalogue for Fisheries Purposes No. 1, Vol.1. FAO, Rome.
- Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. Sharks and Rays of Australia. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood.