

White-bodied Catshark, *Apristurus albisoma*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Kyne, P.M. & Fowler, S.L.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Assessment should be revisited if deepwater trawling expanded within area of distribution.		

Summary

The White-bodied Catshark is a small demersal deepwater shark. The area of occupancy is presumed to be very limited; restricted to a narrow depth band on insular and seamount slopes in the Western South Pacific. Within Australia, it has only been reported from a few areas around Norfolk and Lord Howe Ridges. There is very limited deepwater fishing activity within the geographic and depth range of the species, and it would generally find refuge outside the reach of fisheries. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and in Australia (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS); with the caveat that this assessment be revisited if deepwater trawling was to expand or increase within its distribution.

Distribution

The White-bodied Catshark has a limited geographic range in the western South Pacific. In Australia, it occurs only on the Norfolk and Lord Howe Ridges. Elsewhere it is found on the island slopes off New Caledonia and adjacent seamounts (Nakaya and Séret 1999).

Stock structure and status

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

Fisheries

The White-bodied Catshark is rarely taken in fisheries. It is possibly a bycatch of deepwater fisheries, but is of no value and would be discarded; its depth range is largely outside that of current fishing activities. Within Australia, current fishing effort is low around the Norfolk and Lord Howe Ridges, with only a small number of areas fished by a limited number of vessels, and so any impacts would be limited (Penney 2014, Penney and Curtotti 2014). New Caledonian deepwater fishing is generally limited to line fishing for deepwater snapper (Gontard and de Coudenhove 2013) with no deepwater trawling at present. The White-bodied Catshark is likely to find refuge outside the reach of any fishing activity.

Habitat and biology

The species is a poorly known deepwater catshark occurring on insular and seamount slopes at depths of 935–1,564 m (Nakaya and Séret 1999). The maximum size is 60 cm total length (TL) and it matures at 40 to 50 cm TL (Nakaya and Séret 1999).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 60 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Both sexes: 40–50 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 015040

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41718/68608640>

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

References

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- Nakaya, K. and Séret, B. 1999. A new species of deepwater catshark, *Apristurus albisoma* n. sp. from New Caledonia (Chondrichthyes: Carcharhiniformes: Scyliorhinidae). *Cybium* 23(3): 297–310.
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