Gulf Catshark, *Asymbolus vincenti*

Report Card assessment	**Sustainable**		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern (Endemic to Australia)	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Smyth, W., Simpfendorfer, C. & Heupel, M.R.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Southern Australian shark that is infrequently caught.		

Summary

The Gulf Catshark is endemic and widely distributed across southern Australia. It appears to be most common in the Great Australian Bight, where there is only limited demersal trawling within its depth range. In the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery it is an infrequent bycatch, and always discarded. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).

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Distribution

The Gulf Catshark is distributed along the southern coast of Australia from Bass Straight (Victoria) and off western Tasmania to Cape Leeuwin (Western Australia), including Tasmania (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

The species appears to be most common in the Great Australian Bight. There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species.

Fisheries

This species is caught as discarded bycatch at a low rate in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF) in southern Australia, mostly in the trawl sector. The annual bycatch of the species was estimated at 632 kg from 2000– 2006 (Walker and Gason 2007). Both fishing effort and number of operating vessels have decreased in the SESSF in recent years (Penney et al. 2014).

Habitat and biology

The Gulf Catshark has been reported from depths of 130– 220 m in the Great Australian Bight (Last and Stevens 2009). In the east, off western Tasmania and Bass Strait, it is found mostly at depths less

than 100 m and is frequently found in seagrass beds near the coast. The maximum size is at least 56 cm total length (TL) and males mature at 38 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009). The biology of the species is almost entirely unknown.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 56 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 38 cm TL Females: unknown

CAAB Code: 37 015003
Link to IUCN Page: https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41727/68609873
Link to page at Shark References: http://www.shark-references.com/species/view/Asymbolus-vincenti

References

Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. and Simpfendorfer, C.A. 2021. *The Action Plan for Australian Sharks and Rays 2021*. National Environmental Science Program, Marine Biodiversity Hub, Hobart

Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. *Sharks and Rays of Australia.* Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Australia.

Penney, A., Georgeson, L., and Curtotti, R. 2014. *Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery*. In: Georgeson, L., Stobutzki, I., and Curtotti, R. (eds), Fishery status reports 2013–14, pp. 111–127. Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra, ACT, Australia.

Walker, T.I. and Gason, A.S. 2007. *Shark and other chondrichthyan byproduct and bycatch estimation in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery.* Final report to Fisheries and Research Development Corporation Project No. 2001/007. July 2007. vi + 182 pp. Primary Industries Research Victoria, Queenscliff, Victoria, Australia.