

Eastern Banded Catshark, *Atelomycterus marnkalha*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern*	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Data Deficient
Global Assessors	Bates, H. & Kyne, P.M.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Minor bycatch with refuge from fishing pressure.		

*The Australian assessment status is more recent than the Global assessment and the shift from DD to LC aligns with a less evidentiary and more precautionary approach to Red List assessments rather than any significant new information.

Summary

The Eastern Banded Catshark is an uncommon catshark found in tropical, inshore waters of northern and northeastern Australia and in southern Papua New Guinea. The species is a minor bycatch in demersal trawl



fisheries that operate across its known range, but it is of no commercial value and is discarded in Australian waters. Part of its known range is protected from fishing in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Little is known about the catch levels and its life history; however, in Australia it is not frequently captured in fisheries and has refuge from fishing pressure. Therefore, it is assessed as globally Data Deficient, and in Australia as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Eastern Banded Catshark occurs across northern and northeastern Australia in the Arafura Sea, the Gulf of Carpentaria, the Torres Strait, and on the east coast of Australia south to Gladstone (Jacobsen and Bennett 2007, Last and Stevens 2009). It also is found in southern Papua New Guinea. Records of this species are sporadic across this distribution, but it may occur in other areas of northeast Australia where it has not yet been recorded.

Stock structure and status

There is no information on stock structure, population size or trend of this species, but its rare occurrence in fisheries suggests that there has been little or no decline (Kyne et al. 2021).

Fisheries

This species is a minor bycatch of demersal trawl fisheries which operate across its range. It is caught in very low numbers in the Northern Prawn Fishery, where it was recorded (under the name Banded Catshark) in only 0.5% of trawls (Stobutzki et al. 2002). In the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery,

despite extensive surveying, only three specimens have been recorded in the bycatch of the scallop sector (central Queensland coast) (Kyne 2008). The species is of no commercial value and is released at sea.

Habitat and biology

The Eastern Banded Catshark is a demersal species known from depths of 11–74 m (mostly < 50 m) on sandy to coarse rubble substrates (Jacobsen and Bennett 2007). Maximum reported size is 48 cm total length (TL). Males and females have been recorded mature at 35 cm TL (Jacobsen and Bennett 2007). The biology is poorly known.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 48 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Both sexes: 35 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 015037

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/161434/68610162>

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

References

- Jacobsen, I.P. and Bennett, M.P. 2007. Description of a new species of catshark, *Atelomycterus marnkalha* n. sp. (Carcharhiniformes: Scyliorhinidae) from north-east Australia. *Zootaxa* 1520: 19–36.
- Kyne, P.M. 2008. *Chondrichthyans and the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery: Bycatch reduction, biology, conservation status and sustainability*. PhD thesis, University of Queensland, Brisbane, 361 pp.
- 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.
- Stobutzki, I.C., Miller, M.J., Heales, D.S. and Brewer, D.T. 2002. Sustainability of elasmobranchs caught as bycatch in a tropical prawn (shrimp) trawl fishery. *Fishery Bulletin* 100: 800–821.