

## Flagtail Swellshark, *Cephaloscyllium signourum*

Report Card assessment	Negligible		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Data Deficient
Assessors	Kyne, P.M. & Cavanagh, R.D.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Known only from two specimens.		

### Summary

The Flagtail Swellshark is a poorly-known deepwater catshark. It is known from only two specimens from isolated locations off northeast Queensland, Australia. It may also occur around New Caledonia, Vanuatu, and Fiji. Presently, there is low fishing effort in its area of occurrence. Nothing is known of its biology. The distribution and status of the species needs to be better defined. Therefore, the species is assessed as Data Deficient (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Negligible (SAFS) because it does not interact with fisheries.



### Distribution

The Flagtail Swellshark is only known with certainty from off northeast Queensland, Australia (Murray Isles and Lihou Reef), but may also occur around New Caledonia, Vanuatu, and Fiji (Last et al. 2008, Last and Stevens 2009).

### Stock structure and status

This swellshark is rare in museum collections and is most likely rare to uncommon in the wild. There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species.

### Fisheries

The distribution of species overlaps slightly with the range of the Australian Commonwealth managed Coral Sea Fishery. This is a relatively small-scale fishery with no trawl effort since the 2006-07 fishing season (Noriega et al. 2014). Trawling in the past within this fishery has been low effort, and it is possible that this catshark was a bycatch of trawling and possibly line fishing.

### Habitat and biology

The Flagtail Swellshark is a deepwater benthic species presently recorded from only two specimens trawled on the northeastern Australian continental slope at depths of 480–700 m. Maximum size is at least 74 cm total length (Last et al. 2008, Last and Stevens 2009). Nothing is known of the biology of the species.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 74 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Unknown

**CAAB Code:** 37 015039

**Link to IUCN Page:** <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/181361/68616304>

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

#### 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.
- Last, P.R., Séret, B. and White, W.T. 2008. New swellsharks (*Cephaloscyllium*: Scyliorhinidae) from the Indo-Australian region. CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research Paper 22: 129–146.
- Noriega, R., Hansen, S. and Mazur, K. 2014. *Coral Sea Fishery*. In: Georgeson, L., Stobutzki, I. and Curtotti, R. (eds), Fishery status reports 2013-14, pp. 48-60. Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.