

Prickly Shark, *Echinorhinus cookei*

Report Card assessment	Negligible		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Data Deficient	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Data Deficient
Assessors	Finucci, B.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Small fragmented populations with potential for reduction due to fishing, though little reported in Australia.		

Summary

The Prickly Shark is a large, rare deepwater shark, known only from the Pacific Ocean. It may be present and more widely dispersed at greater depths than are presently fished, but this is only speculative. It is likely taken as bycatch in deepwater fisheries but little reported. The species appears to be vulnerable to deepwater trawling and line fishing and, as these fishing activities increase, there is potential for ongoing reduction of what may be a small fragmented population with low resilience to fisheries. There is little evidence that is more than an extremely rare bycatch in Australian fisheries. Therefore, the species is assessed as Data Deficient (IUCN) in Australia (Kyne et al. 2021) and Negligible (SAFS) because it is very rarely taken in fisheries.



Distribution

The Prickly Shark occurs in tropical and temperate waters of the Pacific Ocean. In Australia, the species is known only from Victoria and north Queensland (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

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

Fisheries

The Prickly Shark is a bycatch in some deepwater line and trawl fisheries, which will continue as these expand in geographic area and depth range. There are very limited reports of its capture in Australian fisheries.

Habitat and biology

The Prickly Shark is demersal on the upper and middle continental slope at depths of 70–1,000 m (Last and Stevens 2009). The shallow records are from submarine canyons, in particular Monterey Canyon (California), where there is a notable, and possibly unique localised abundance (Crane 1992). Considered a sluggish shark, but probably capable of swift rushes to capture prey (fishes, crustaceans). Maximum size is approximately 400 cm total length (TL) with males mature at 180–200 cm TL and females at 250–300 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009). Little else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 400 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 180–200 cm TL Females: 250–300 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 022002

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41802/68622003>

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

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.
- Crane, N.L. and Heine, J.N. 1992. Observations of the prickly shark (*Echinorhinus cookei*) in Monterey Bay, California. *California Fish and Game* 78(4): 166–168.