

Blackmouth Lanternshark, *Etmopterus evansi*

Report Card assessment	Negligible		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Kyne, P. & Cavanagh, R.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Small deepwater species with little fishing pressure in Australia, and rarely, if ever, caught in fisheries.		

Summary

The Blackmouth Lanternshark is a small, deepwater species currently known only off northwest Western Australia and the Arafura Sea (Indonesia) on the continental



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slope. Further fisheries exploration may indicate a wider distribution. Deepwater trawl fishery expansion in Indonesian waters may place future pressure on the species. However, the Blackmouth Lanternshark is currently unlikely to be captured often as most trawl activity is not within its known depth range. Off northwest Australia, fishing effort is low in its depth range. There is no reason to suspect a decline in range, habitat quality, or number of mature individuals. It is therefore assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) in Australia (Kyne et al. 2021) and Negligible (SAFS) as it is rarely, if ever, caught in fisheries.

Distribution

The Blackmouth Lanternshark is currently known from localised records off northwest Western Australia and from the Arafura Sea, south of the Tanimbar Islands, Indonesia (Last et al. 2002, Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

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

Fisheries

There are currently no major fishing activities in its known range. The Commonwealth managed North West Slope Trawl Fishery has low fishing effort with a limited number of vessels operating (Marton and Mazur 2014). The Arafura Sea and Indonesian waters may be subject to some trawling effort by Indonesian vessels, however this is currently mostly in less than 200 m depth. Pressure may be placed upon the species in the future if Indonesian fleets expand into deeper water. Australian

deepwater fisheries effort appears to be decreasing. Survival rates of returned individuals will be low.

Habitat and biology

The Blackmouth Lanternshark has been recorded from the continental slope at depths of 430–550 m (Last et al. 2002). Maximum size is at least 30 cm total length (TL). Little else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 30 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 26 cm TL Females: unknown

CAAB Code: 37 020030

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41807/68622556>

Link to page at Shark References: <http://shark-references.com/species/view/Etmopterus-evansi>

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.
- Last, P.R., G.H. Burgess and Séret, B. 2002. Description of six new species of lantern-sharks of the genus *Etmopterus* (Squaloidea: Etmopteridae) from the Australasian region. *Cybium* 26(3): 203–223.
- Marton, N. and Mazur, K. 2014. *North West Slope Trawl Fishery*. In: Georgeson, L. Stobutzki, I. and Curtotti, R. (eds), Fishery status reports 2013–14. Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.