

Pygmy Lanternshark, *Etmopterus fusus*

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	Very small shark known from only a few locations that are areas of low fishing pressure in Australia, with a lack of fisheries interactions.		

Summary

The Pygmy Lanternshark is a small, deepwater shark that is currently only known on the continental slope off northwest Western Australia, and potentially off Java, Indonesia.



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The species is known only from a few small locations, but further exploratory fishing may indicate a wider distribution. Its occurrence and status off Indonesia require confirmation. There is little fishing in its known range off Western Australia. Therefore, the Pygmy Lanternshark is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) in Australia (Kyne et al. 2021) and Negligible (SAFS) due to its lack of interactions with fisheries.

Distribution

The Pygmy Lanternshark has been recorded off northwest Western Australia in the Eastern Indian Ocean, with the possibility of occurrence off Java, 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 no major fishing activities within its known range that would capture this species. It is not targeted in any commercial fisheries. In Australia, the Commonwealth managed North West Slope Trawl Fishery has low fishing effort with only a limited number of vessels operating (Marton and Mazur 2014a). Australian deepwater fisheries presently appear to be decreasing in effort (Marton and Mazur 2014b). If the species occurs off Indonesia, that area is likely to be subject to heavy trawling effort by Indonesian vessels that operate within its depth range. Data on Indonesian fisheries is required to assess the species status in these waters if it is present there. Pressure may

be placed on the species in the future if Indonesian fleets expand into deeper water. Survival rates when returned to the water will be low.

Habitat and biology

The Pygmy Lanternshark has been recorded from the continental slope at depths of 430–550 m off Australia, and possibly at 120–200 m off Indonesia (Last et al. 2002). Maximum size is at least 29 cm total length (TL). Little else is known of the biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 29 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 25 cm TL Females: unknown

CAAB Code: 37 020028

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41808/68622624>

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

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. 2014a. *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.
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