

Blackbelly Lanternshark, *Etmopterus lucifer*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Finucci, B., Ebert, D.A. & Schaaf-Da Silva, A.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Small shark occasionally taken by trawl.		

Summary

The Blackbelly Lanternshark is a deepwater species found on the outer continental and insular shelves. Confirmed from Australia and the western Pacific; nominal records from elsewhere are likely a different species. The species is occasionally taken by bottom trawls but generally too small to be captured



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by most fishing gear. There is no reason to suspect that declines have occurred given the species' relatively wide depth and geographic range and minimal threats. In Australia, its catch in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF) is managed using a basket quota for deepwater sharks. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) in Australia (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Blackbelly Lanternshark occurs in Australia from Cairns (Queensland) to Perth (Western Australia). Elsewhere in the western Pacific, it has been recorded from Japan, South China Sea, New Caledonia and New Zealand. This species is particularly abundant on the south Chatham Rise, east of New Zealand at around 500 m depth (Dunn et al. 2013). Nominal records from the southeast Pacific, south Atlantic, central Pacific, and some Indo-west Pacific localities are likely a different species (Ebert et al. 2013).

Stock structure and status

On the east coast of the North Island of New Zealand, research trawl surveys over 600–1500 m and between 1992–1994 and 2010 showed a significant increase in biomass of the species (Dunn et al. 2013). Otherwise, nothing is known of the population size, structure, or trend for the species.

Fisheries

The Blackbelly Lanternshark is occasionally taken in bottom trawls, but otherwise this species is generally too small to be taken by longline or most other fishing methods (D. Ebert pers. obs. 2007). This species is managed in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery using a basket quota for deepwater sharks. However, this species makes up a very small proportion of the catch of this basket group (AFMA 2021).

Habitat and biology

The Blackbelly Lanternshark is a demersal species found on outer continental shelves and upper slopes at depths of 158–1,357 m. Maximum size is approximately 47 cm total length (TL). Males mature at 29–42 cm TL and females at 34 cm TL or larger (Ebert et al. 2013). Little else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 47 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 29–42 cm TL Females: ≤ 34 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 020005

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/161517/889953>

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

References

- AFMA 2021. *Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF) Species Summaries 2021*. AFMA, Canberra
- Dunn, M.R., Stevens, D.W., Forman, J.S. and Connell, A. 2013. Trophic interactions and distribution of some squaliforme sharks, including new diet descriptions for *Deania calcea* and *Squalus acanthias*. *PLoS One* 8(3): e59938.
- Ebert, D.A., Fowler, S. and Compagno, L. 2013. *Sharks of the World*. Wild Nature Press, Plymouth.
- 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