

## Moller's Lanternshark, *Etmopterus molleri*

<b>Report Card assessment</b>	<b>Sustainable</b>		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Data Deficient
Assessors	Kyne, P., Ebert, D. & Schaaf-Da Silva, J.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Small deepwater shark with low catches managed in Australia.		

### Summary

The Moller's Lanternshark is a poorly known deepwater shark found in the Southwest Pacific. It has been found off eastern Australia and around New Zealand. In Australian waters, it is known only from specimens collected off Sydney. Its previous IUCN Red List



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assessment considered the species to be Least Concern based on its supposed wide range and its lack of commercial value in fisheries. However, records of the Moller's Lanternshark from Taiwan and Japan have now been shown to be a different species, and therefore its range is much smaller than previously recognized. There is no information on species size, structure, or interactions with fisheries. In Australia its catch in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF) is managed using a basket quota for deepwater sharks. The limited effect of fishing in Australia on this species means that it is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) in Australia (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).

### Distribution

The Moller's Lanternshark is known only from eastern Australia off Sydney, New South Wales, and New Zealand. Records from Taiwan and Japan are of a different species (Last and Stevens 2009, Ebert et al. 2013).

### Stock structure and status

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

### Fisheries

Lanternsharks are generally not threatened by fishing activities as they are small and have no commercial value. However, the Moller's Lanternshark is likely taken as bycatch in deepwater trawl fisheries off eastern Australia and around New Zealand. 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 Moller's Lanternshark has been recorded on the outer continental and insular shelves, and upper slopes at depths of 238–655 m (Ebert et al. 2013). Maximum size is approximately 46 cm total length (TL) (Last and Stevens 2009, Ebert et al. 2013). Little else is known of the biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: ~46 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 33 cm TL Females: unknown

**CAAB Code:** 37 020033

**Link to IUCN Page:** <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/161407/68622705>

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

### References

- AFMA 2021. *Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF) Species Summaries 2021*. AFMA, Canberra
- 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
- Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. *Sharks and Rays of Australia*. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood.