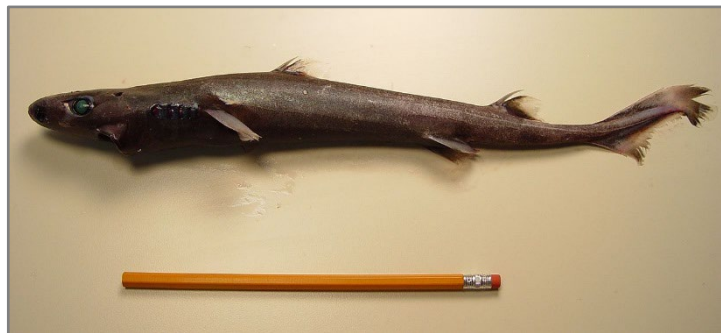


Smooth Lanternshark, *Etmopterus pusillus*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Finucci, B., Cheok, J., Cotton, C.F., Kulka, D.W., Neat, F.C., Rigby, C.L., Tanaka, S. & Walker, T.I.		
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 Smooth Lanternfish is a small, deepwater shark that is widespread but patchily distributed in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans. It is taken as bycatch of bottom trawls, fixed bottom nets and line gear. The species is generally discarded but is probably utilised in some parts of the eastern Atlantic. In the northeast



Atlantic, captures are high and stable. In Australia, it may be taken in deepwater trawls though little is known of the catches. Despite life history traits of late maturity and small litters that likely make it vulnerable to fishing pressure, there is no evidence to suggest that the species has declined or faces significant threats. In Australia, its catch in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF) is managed using a basket quota for deepwater sharks. The species' widespread geographic and bathymetric distribution may provide refuge areas from fishing. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) in Australia (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Smooth Lanternfish occurs in the North and South Atlantic, western Indian Ocean and in the Indo-west Pacific where it is found in Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Taiwan. In Australia, there are patchy records from northern New South Wales to western Victoria and in Western Australia, from Bunbury to the Rowley Shoals (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

Little is known on population size, structure, or trend for the species. Catch-per-unit-effort data from trawls off Portugal in the eastern Atlantic recorded captures of 1.5 individuals per hour (Coelho et al. 2005).

Fisheries

Although of little commercial value, the species is taken as bycatch of bottom trawls, fixed bottom nets, and line gear (Compagno 1984). It is generally discarded but is utilised bycatch in some parts of the eastern Atlantic for meat and fish meal (Compagno 1984). Little information is available on the capture of this species in fisheries throughout the rest of its range, however these catches are not thought to pose a significant threat to the global population at present. 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 Smooth Lanternshark is a demersal species on continental slopes at depths of 150–1,120 m (possibly to 2,000 m) (Last and Stevens 2009). It also occurs in midwater in some areas (Krefft 1980). Maximum size is at least 50 cm total length (TL). Males mature at 31–38 cm TL and females at 38–44 cm TL (Compagno 1984, Coelho and Erzini 2005). The species matures extremely late in its life cycle and it has small litters of 1–6 pups (Coelho unpub. data).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 50 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 31–38 cm TL Females: 38–44 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 020015

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/161443/888910>

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

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