

Bristled Lanternshark, *Etmopterus unicolor*

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| Report Card assessment | Sustainable | | |
| IUCN Red List Australian Assessment | Least Concern | IUCN Red List Global Assessment | Data Deficient |
| Assessors | Finucci, B. | | |
| 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 Bristled Lanternshark is a deepwater shark found on continental slopes of the western Pacific. It is taken as bycatch of various deepwater fisheries throughout its range. Discard survival rate is presumed to be low. The species probably has limiting life history characteristics like other deepwater squalid sharks (preliminary age data show that similar species mature at 20 to 30 years), making it sensitive to population depletion. Efforts should be made to quantify bycatch levels because



at present there is insufficient information to accurately assess the status of the species. 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 Bristled Lanternshark occurs in Australia, Japan and New Zealand (Three Kings Ridge and Lord Howe Rise) (Yano, 1997, Ebert et al. 2013). In Australia, it is found from Crowdy Head (New South Wales) south to Perth (Western Australia), including Tasmania and the seamounts to the south (Cascade Plateau and South Tasman Rise) (Last and Stevens 2009). The species was also thought to occur off South Africa, but these records were a different species, *Etmopterus compagnoi* (Ebert et al. 2013).

Stock structure and status

The Bristled Lanternshark is thought to be common off southern Australia. There is currently no other information on population size, structure, or trend for the species. Further taxonomic study is required to determine whether northern and southern Hemisphere populations are the same species (M. Francis pers. comm. 2007).

Fisheries

The primary threat to the Bristled Lanternshark is fishing. The species used to be caught in deepwater trawl fisheries for Orange Roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*) off Australia, although these fisheries have now either reduced to very low fishing effort or been closed below 700 m depth to allow Orange Roughy stocks to rebuild (Marton and Mazur 2014, Patterson and Mazur 2014). The Bristled Lanternshark is sometimes caught in large quantities off southern Australia and discarded; post release survival rate is unknown, though assumed to be very low (J.D. Stevens pers. comm. 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 species occurs on the continental slopes, often at the bottom and sometimes well above it, at depths of 465–1,500 m. Maximum size is 79 cm total length (TL) with males mature at 48–68 cm TL and females at 53–79 cm TL (Ebert et al. 2013). Little else is known of its biology. The Bristled Lanternshark may have similar life history characteristics to the Southern Lanternshark (*Etmopterus baxteri*) which is estimated to mature at 20 years (males) and 30 years (females) and live up to 57 years (Irvine et al. 2006).

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| Longevity and maximum size | Longevity: unknown Max size: 79 cm TL |
| Age and/or size at maturity (50%) | Males: 48–68 cm TL Females: 53–79 cm TL |

CAAB Code: 37 020022

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/124696811/68622840>

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

References

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