

Pygmy Shark, *Euprotomicrus bispinatus*

Report Card assessment	Negligible		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Burgess, G.H.		
Australian Assessor	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	One of the smallest sharks that is not likely captured in many fisheries.		

Summary

The Pygmy Shark is a widespread, oceanic species that has been found in numerous locations in the Pacific,



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Indian and Atlantic Oceans. It is known to use a wide range of depths, from the surface to 1,500 m. It is one of the smallest shark species in the world, reaching a total length of 27 cm. It is thought to be too small to be frequently captured in most fisheries. Therefore, there are no apparent threats to the species. Given this, and its large global and depth range, it is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) in Australia (Kyne et al. 2021) and Negligible (SAFS) to its lack of interaction with fisheries.

Distribution

The Pygmy Shark is widespread and is found around the world in the warm-temperate and subtropical portions of the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans. In Australia, it is currently only known from Western Australian waters (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

There are currently no apparent threats to the species. Its small size and use of a wide range of depths means it is not likely to be captured in most fisheries. However, incidental capture would occur sporadically. More information is required to determine the extent of incidental captures in oceanic fisheries.

Habitat and biology

The Pygmy Shark is an oceanic species that occurs from the surface to deeper than 1,500 m over oceans that are 1,829–9,938 m deep. It is bioluminescent and makes daily migrations from near the

surface at night to midwater and possibly to the bottom during the day (Hubbs et al. 1967, Last and Stevens 2009, Ebert et al. 2013). Maximum size is 27 cm total length (TL), making this one of the smallest known shark species (Last and Stevens 2009, Ebert et al. 2013).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 27 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 17–19 cm TL Females: 22–23 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 020034

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/60210/3093076>

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

References

- Ebert, D.A., Fowler, S. and Compagno, L. 2013. *Sharks of the World*. Wild Nature Press, Plymouth.
- Hubbs, C.L., Iwaj, T. and Matsubara, K. 1967. External and internal characters, horizontal and vertical distribution, luminescence, and food of the dwarf pelagic shark, *Euprotomicrus bispinatus*. *Bulletin of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography* 10.
- 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.