

Sawtail Shark, *Figaro boardmani*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern (Endemic to Australia)	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Kyne, P.M. & Bennett, M.B.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Mostly discarded with generally stable catch rates; catches should be monitored in heavily fished areas in southeast Australia.		

Summary

The Australian Sawtail Shark is a small apparently common, endemic catshark that is widespread across southern Australia. The species is sometimes retained as byproduct and is also a regular discarded bycatch in various demersal trawl fisheries. A minor decline in catch rates has been documented in heavily fished areas of southeast Australia, while elsewhere catch rates have been stable. An oviparous species, it is likely to be productive, however catch rates should be monitored in heavily fished areas. It has a wide bathymetric range across the outer continental shelf and upper slope, and likely finds refuge in unfished areas. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).



Source: Australian National Fish Collection, CSIRO

Distribution

The Australian Sawtail Shark occurs in temperate to subtropical waters, ranging from Noosa, southeast Queensland to Carnarvon, Western Australia, and including the waters of New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, and South Australia (Compagno and Niem 1998, Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

The Australian Sawtail Shark is reportedly common (Walker and Gason 2007, Last and Stevens 2009). There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species.

Fisheries

The Australian Sawtail Shark is not targeted by commercial fisheries and is only of minor importance to fisheries through retention as byproduct in the Western Australian Deepwater Trawl Fishery, although the quantity is unknown (Rose and SAG 2001). It is a frequent component of discarded bycatch in other demersal trawl fisheries across its range. It is discarded in the Southern and Eastern

Scalegfish and Shark Fishery where it is regularly caught by trawlers (Walker and Gason 2007). Catch rates recorded in two regions covered by this fishery were stable in one (southern Australia; 2000–2006), and showed a minor but significant decline in the other (southeast Australia; 1988–2006). In bycatch surveys of the eastern king prawn sector (deepwater component) of the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery, this shark was the third most commonly caught elasmobranch, although numbers were low and survivorship from trawling was high (Courtney et al. 2014). Post-release mortality is unknown.

Habitat and biology

The Australian Sawtail Shark is demersal on the outer continental shelf and upper slope at depths of 130–640 m. Maximum size is 61 cm total length (TL), with both sexes maturing at approximately 40 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009, Kyne et al. 2011). It appears to sometimes aggregate by sex (Last and Stevens 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 61 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Both sexes: ~40 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 015009

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41811/68623349>

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

References

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