

Slender Sawtail Shark, *Galeus gracilis*

Report Card assessment	Negligible		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Data Deficient (Endemic to Australia)	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Data Deficient
Assessors	Kyne, P.M. & Cavanagh, R.D.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Rarely interacts with fisheries.		

Summary

The Slender Sawtail Shark is a small, endemic deepwater catshark known only from isolated records from northern Australia. The species appears to be rare. Limited trawl



fisheries operate in its area of occurrence, and while the species is of no commercial interest, bycatch levels are unknown. Therefore, the species is assessed as Data Deficient (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Negligible (SAFS) because it rarely interacts with fisheries.

Distribution

The Slender Sawtail Shark has been reported from off Cape Cuvier and Port Hedland (Western Australia), off Melville Island (Northern Territory) and off Cape York (Queensland). It may also possibly occur off eastern Indonesia (Last and Stevens 2009). The distribution is poorly known.

Stock structure and status

It is uncertain if the Slender Sawtail Shark's presently known patchy distribution represents part of a continuous population or separate subpopulations (Compagno and Stevens 1993, Last and Stevens 2009). There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species.

Fisheries

The area of occurrence of the Slender Sawtail Shark off northwest Australia is subject to low levels of trawl effort from the Commonwealth managed Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery and the North West Slope Trawl Fishery (Marton and Mazur 2014a, 2014b). While it appears to be a rare species, it is of no commercial value and therefore unlikely to be subjected to any directed fishing pressure.

Habitat and biology

The Slender Sawtail Shark is demersal on the continental slope at depths of 290–470 m. Maximum size is at least 34 cm total length (TL) (Last and Stevens 2009). Nothing is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 34 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Unknown

CAAB Code: 37 015008

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41812/68623691>

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

References

- Compagno, L.J.V. and Stevens, J.D. 1993. *Galeus gracilis* n.sp., a new sawtail catshark from Australia, with comments on the systematics of the genus *Galeus* Rafinesque, 1810 (Carcharhiniformes: Scyliorhinidae). *Records of the Australian Museum* 45: 171–194.
- 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.
- Marion, N. and Mazur, K. 2014a. *North West Slope Trawl Fishery*. In: Georgeson, L., Stobutzki, I. and Curtotti, R. (eds), Fishery status reports 2013–14. Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.
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