

## Speckled Catshark, *Halaelurus sellus*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern (Endemic to Australia)	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	White, W.T.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Small species that occurs in an area of low fishing effort.		

### Summary

The Speckled Catshark is known only from the continental shelf off



northwest Australia. Although there are several relatively localized fish and prawn trawl fisheries operating within the species' range, the effort is low and there are considerable areas which are closed to trawling that would provide refuge. It is a small species of little or no commercial value. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).

### Distribution

The Speckled Catshark is known only from the northwest Australian continental shelf, from Shark Bay (Western Australia) to the Arafura Sea (Northern Territory) (White et al. 2007).

### Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species.

### Fisheries

The Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery and Northwest Slope Trawl Fishery operate at depths >200 m (Marton and Mazur 2014a, 2014b) and are not likely to interact with this species as it does not occur below 200 m. The species may be a bycatch in the Northern Prawn Fishery, and in a number of localised prawn and fish trawl fisheries, such as the Pilbara Fish Trawl Fishery, on the Western Australian continental shelf, but it would be discarded, and overall trawling effort across its range is low, with spatial closures in place.

### Habitat and biology

The Speckled Catshark occurs on the continental shelf at depths of 60–165 m. Maximum size is 42 cm total length (TL), with males mature at 34 cm TL and females mature at 38 cm TL (White et al. 2007, Last and Stevens 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 42 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 34 cm TL Females: 38 cm TL

**CAAB Code:** 37 015004

**Link to IUCN Page:** <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/42713/68624720>

**Link to page at Shark References:** <http://www.shark-references.com/species/view/Halaelurus-sellus>

#### References

- 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.
- Marton, 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.
- Marton, N. and Mazur, K. 2014b. *Western Deepwater 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.
- White, W.T., Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2007. *Halaelurus maculosus* n. sp. and *H. sellus* n. sp., two new species of catshark (Carcharhiniformes: Scyliorhinidae) from the Indo-West Pacific. *Zootaxa* 1639: 1–21.