

## Sicklefin Houndshark, *Hemitriakis falcata*

|  |   |                                    |               |
|--|---|------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Report Card assessment</b>          | <b>Negligible</b>   |                                    |               |
| IUCN Red List<br>Australian Assessment | Least Concern (Endemic to Australia)  | IUCN Red List<br>Global Assessment | Least Concern |
| 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                    | Rare with restricted distribution that is mostly protected from fishing.        |                                    |               |

### Summary

The Sicklefin Houndshark is a rare endemic shark with a restricted geographic and depth range on the outer continental slope off northwest Western Australia. Nothing is known of its biology. The species is a likely bycatch in local trawl fisheries, but a considerable proportion of its range is permanently closed to trawling providing refuge areas from fishing. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and Negligible (SAFS) given its rarity in fisheries and large proportion of its range that is not fished.



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### Distribution

The Sicklefin Houndshark is found in a small area from off Exmouth Gulf to Broome, Western Australia (Compagno and Stevens 1993, Last and Stevens 2009). The species may be more widespread than presently known.

### Stock structure and status

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

### Fisheries

The Sicklefin Houndshark is a likely rare bycatch of the Western Australian managed Pilbara Fish Trawl Fishery, although it was not recorded by Stephenson and Chidlow (2003). The Australian Commonwealth managed North West Slope Trawl Fishery (NWSTF) operates at depths >200 m, and so is outside of the currently known bathymetric range of the species; effort in this fishery is low with a single active vessel at present (Marton and Mazur 2014). Its rarity in fisheries catches makes it suitable for a Negligible status.

### Habitat and biology

The Sicklefin Houndshark has been recorded from the outer continental shelf at depths of 110–200 m. Maximum size is at least 80 cm total length (TL) with size at maturity approximately 65–70 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009). Little else is known of its biology.

|                                   |                                       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Longevity and maximum size        | Longevity: unknown<br>Max size: 80 cm |
| Age and/or size at maturity (50%) | Both sexes: 65–70 cm                  |

**CAAB Code:** 37 017009

**Link to IUCN Page:** <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41822/68625571>

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

#### References

- Compagno, L.J.V. and Stevens, J.D. 1993 *Hemitriakis falcata* n. sp. and *H. abdita* n. sp., two new houndsharks (Carcharhiniformes: Triakidae) from Australia. *Records of the Australian Museum* 45(2): 195–220.
- 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. 2014. *North West Slope Trawl Fishery*. In: Georgeson, L. Stobutzki, I. and Curtotti, R. (eds), *Fishery status reports 2013–14*, pp. 84–90. Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.
- Stephenson, P.C. and Chidlow, J. 2003. *Bycatch in the Pilbara trawl fishery*. Final report to the Natural Heritage Trust. Natural Heritage Trust, Perth.