

## Crested Hornshark, *Heterodontus galeatus*

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	Uncommon and when captured, mostly discarded alive.		

### Summary

The Crested Hornshark occurs in relatively shallow waters of the continental shelf and is endemic to eastern Australia. The species is not targeted commercially and incidental capture is not thought to be affecting the species. Post-release survival of the Crested Hornshark is expected to be high based on studies on the similar Port Jackson Shark. Relatively little information is available on its life history. Although uncommon, there are no current significant threats to the species, and it likely benefits from a network of marine protected areas across its range. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).



### Distribution

The Crested Hornshark is endemic to warm temperate waters along the Australian east coast from Cape Moreton (southern Queensland) south to Batemans Bay (New South Wales) (Last and Stevens 2009).

### Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species. It is considered less common than the Port Jackson Shark (*Heterodontus portusjacksoni*).

### Fisheries

The threat posed to the Crested Hornshark from fishing is likely to be minimal because it is not targeted or marketed commercially and it is mostly discarded, usually alive (Last and Stevens 2009). The species is caught as bycatch in various commercial fisheries operating in southern Queensland and New South Wales (Kyne 2008). There is a small annual bycatch in the South East Trawl Fishery, although catches are grouped with the Port Jackson Shark, and 100% of the catch is discarded.

(Walker and Gason 2007). Studies on the morphologically similar and closely related Port Jackson Shark suggest high post-release survivorship. Small individuals of the Port Jackson Shark are captured for use in the hobbyist aquarium trade, and it is possible that Crested Hornshark is also collected for the aquarium trade.

### Habitat and biology

The Crested Hornshark occurs from the intertidal zone to a depth of 93 m in a range of habitats including around rocky reefs and seagrass beds (Last and Stevens 2009). Maximum size is up to 150 cm total length (TL) with males mature at 54 cm TL and females at 70 cm TL (Kyne 2008, Last and Stevens 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 150 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 54 cm TL Females: 70 cm TL

**CAAB Code:** 37 007003

**Link to IUCN Page:** <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41824/68625634>

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

### References

- Kyne, P.M. 2008. *Chondrichthyans and the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery: Bycatch reduction, biology, conservation status and sustainability*. PhD thesis, University of Queensland, Brisbane, 361 pp.
- 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.
- Walker, T.I. and Gason, A.S. 2007. *Shark and other chondrichthyan byproduct and bycatch estimation in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery*. Final report to Fisheries and Research Development Corporation Project No. 2001/007. July 2007. vi + 182 pp. Primary Industries Research Victoria, Queenscliff, Victoria, Australia.