

Bluntnose Sixgill Shark, *Hexanchus griseus*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Near Threatened
Assessors	Finucci, B., Barnett, A., Bineesh, K.K., Cheok, J., Cotton, C.F., Dharmadi, Graham, K.J., Kulka, D.W., Neat, F.C., Pacoureaux, N., Rigby, C.L., Tanaka, S. & Walker, T.I.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Rare in Australia with catches monitored to ensure they remain within acceptable levels.		

Summary

The Bluntnose Sixgill Shark is a wide ranging but patchily distributed species in boreal, temperate, and tropical waters. It is taken as bycatch in a wide range of fishing gear and is considered a valuable food and sports fish. In Australia, it is caught in the southeast fisheries and has been classed as at high ecological risk and its capture in fisheries is monitored to ensure catches remain low. The species appears vulnerable to overfishing and unable to sustain intensive, targeted fisheries for long periods. Some regional populations have been severely depleted. In Australian waters, it is considered rare with catches monitored to ensure they remain within acceptable levels; there is no indication that the population has declined to levels where it would be threatened. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) in Australia (Kyne et al. 2021), and Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

The species is widely but patchily distributed across the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans. In Australia, it is recorded from seamounts off Queensland and from New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

There is currently very little information on population size, structure, or trend for the species. Genetic studies in Puget Sound suggest the local population is fairly large (Larson et al. 2010), but there is apparent cohort-specific, broad variation in abundance (Williams et al. 2010).

Fisheries

Due to its broad depth range and relative sluggishness, the species is often caught as bycatch of longline, handline, gillnet, traps, trammel net, and pelagic and bottom trawls (Fowler et al. 1997, Arocha et al. 2002, Clarke et al. 2005, Walker et al. 2008). It has been commercially utilised, including in Australia, for meat and liver oil. In southeast Australia, it is considered rare based on reported catches, and to have moderate to low catch susceptibility to trawl, gillnet and hook fishing gears. It is classed as high ecological risk in terms of abundance and moderate risk in terms of catch susceptibility (Walker et al. 2008) and the levels of catch in fisheries are monitored to ensure they remain within acceptable levels.

Habitat and biology

The Bluntnose Sixgill Shark occurs along the outer shelves and upper slopes from the surface to a depth of approximately 2,500 m (Last and Stevens 2009). It occasionally comes close inshore in areas adjacent to deepwater trenches or shelves (Dunbrack 2008, Andrews et al. 2009). In Tasmania, a single individual was caught approximately 30 km up the Derwent River, over 100 km from the deeper waters of the continental shelf (Barnett et al. 2010). Maximum size is at least 482 cm total length (TL) with males mature at 315 cm TL and females mature at >400 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity unknown Max size: at least 482 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 315 cm TL Females: >400 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 005005

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/10030/495630>

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

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