

Western Spotted Gummy Shark, *Mustelus stevensi*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern (Endemic to Australia)	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	McAuley, R.B. & Kyne, P.M.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Minor bycatch with refuge from fisheries.		

Summary

The Western Spotted Gummy Shark is a slender shark endemic to northwest Australia waters. It ranges from the continental shelf into deeper upper slope waters. It was a minor bycatch of the Western Australian West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery. However, spatial closures implemented in 1993 mean it may no longer be caught by that fishery. The species may be a bycatch in the offshore Commonwealth managed fisheries operating off northwest Australia, however effort is low in these fisheries. Little is known about the life history characteristics of this recently described species but it is reportedly abundant. Therefore, the Western Spotted Gummy Shark is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

The Western Spotted Gummy Shark is endemic to Western Australia, where it occurs from southwest of Shark Bay to northwest of Cape Leveque (White and Last 2008, Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

The species is reportedly abundant within its range (Last and Stevens 2009). There is currently no other information on population size, structure, or trend for the species.

Fisheries

The Western Spotted Gummy Shark is a very minor bycatch in the Western Australian West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery (R. McAuley unpubl. data). However, these catches are likely to have reduced since shark fishing was prohibited north of Steep Point in 1993 and the species may no longer be caught by this fishery. The species' range occurs within the Pilbara Fish Trawl fishery but it has not been recorded as bycatch in that fishery despite extensive sampling

(Stephenson and Chidlow 2003). It may be a bycatch in the Commonwealth Deepwater Trawl Fisheries, however, these are very low effort fisheries (Marton and Mazur 2014a, b).

Habitat and biology

The species occurs on the outer continental shelf and upper slope mainly at depths of 121–402 m, although one specimen has been recorded from 735 m (White and Last 2008). The maximum size is 103 cm total length (TL) and both sexes mature at approximately 60 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009). Little else is known about its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 103 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Both sexes: ~60 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 017012

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/42716/68634394>

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

References

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- White, W.T. and Last, P.R. 2008. *Description of two new species of Gummy sharks, genus Mustelus (Carcharhiniformes: Triakidae), from Australian waters*. pp. 189–202. In: Last P.R., White W.T. and Pogonoski J.J (eds), Descriptions of New Australian Chondrichthyans, CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research Paper 022.