

## False Catshark, *Pseudotriakis microdon*

<b>Report Card assessment</b>	<b>Negligible</b>		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Data Deficient	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Yano, K. & White, W.T.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Rarely encountered in Australian fisheries.		

### Summary

The False Catshark is a large bodied, deepwater shark that is sporadically encountered throughout tropical and temperate waters of the globe. It is sensitive to fishing pressure due to low biological productivity. It is infrequently taken as bycatch; however, its capture may increase as deepwater fisheries expand and that could cause localised depletion. In Australia, fishing pressure and encounter rates are currently very low. However, there is little information on its biology and level of fishery interactions. Therefore, the False Catshark is assessed as Data Deficient (IUCN) in Australia (Kyne et al. 2021) and Negligible (SAFS) as it is very rarely encountered in fisheries.



Source: CSIRO National Fish Collection. Licence: CC By Attribution.

It is infrequently taken as bycatch; however, its capture may increase as deepwater fisheries expand and that could cause localised depletion. In Australia, fishing pressure and encounter rates are currently very low. However, there is little information on its biology and level of fishery interactions. Therefore, the False Catshark is assessed as Data Deficient (IUCN) in Australia (Kyne et al. 2021) and Negligible (SAFS) as it is very rarely encountered in fisheries.

### Distribution

The False Catshark is wide ranging however, records of its distribution are sporadic and incomplete. It has been recorded throughout the North Atlantic, Indian and Eastern, Central and South Pacific Oceans (Last and Stevens 2009). In Australia, it has been recorded from single specimens taken from Mackay (Queensland) and off Cape Leeuwin (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009). The species most likely occurs at more locations than presently recorded (as evidenced by recent new records e.g., Friedlander et al. 2014, Brooks et al. 2015).

### Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the False Catshark. It is seemingly uncommon throughout much of its distribution.

### Fisheries

The False Catshark is currently of little interest to fisheries and is only taken sporadically as bycatch. It has been recorded as bycatch in trawl (Gilhen and Coad 1999, Allen and Cowan 1995), demersal longline (Yano 1992), and dropline fisheries. The Queensland, Australia specimen was taken by

exploratory deepwater dropline fishing targeting deepwater reef fishes, particularly Flame and Ruby Snapper (*Etelis* spp.) and Bar Cod (*Epinephelus* spp.) (Kyne et al. 2005).

### Habitat and biology

The False Catshark is a deepwater, benthic species occurring at depths of 100–1,890 m. It inhabits continental shelf slopes and deepwater reefs and seamounts. Its large soft body suggests it is an inactive and sluggish species (Ebert et al. 2013). Maximum size is at least 296 cm total length (TL) (Yano 1992). Litter size of this species is two with gestation presumed to be greater than one year and possibly more than two or three years (Taniuchi et al. 1984, Yano 1992, Stewart 2000, K. Yano, unpubl. data).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 296 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: ~260 cm TL Females: ~265 cm TL

**CAAB Code:** 37 016001

**Link to IUCN Page:** <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/44566/2995045>

**Link to page at Shark References:** <http://shark-references.com/species/view/Pseudotriakis-microdon>

#### References

- Allen, G.R. and Cowan, M.A. 1995. First record of the false catshark, *Pseudotriakis microdon*, from Australian seas. *Records of the Western Australian Museum* 17: 235–236.
- Brooks, E.J., Brooks, A.M.L., Williams, S., Jordan, L.K.B., Abercrombie, D., Chapman, D.D., Howey-Jordan, L.A. and Grubbs, R.D. 2015. First description of deep-water elasmobranch assemblages in the Exuma Sound, The Bahamas. *Deep-Sea Research II* 115: 81–91.
- Ebert, D.A., Fowler, S. and Compagno, L. 2013. *Sharks of the World. A Fully Illustrated Guide*. Wild Nature Press, Plymouth, United Kingdom.
- Friedlander, A.M., Caselle, J.E., Ballesteros, E., Brown, E.K., Turchik, A. and Sala, E. 2014. The real bounty: marine biodiversity in the Pitcairn Islands. *PLoS ONE* 9(6): e100142.
- Gilhen, J. and Coad, B.W. 1999. The false catshark, *Pseudotriakis microdon* Capello, 1867, new to the fish fauna of Atlantic Canada. *Canadian Field Naturalist* 113(3): 514–516.
- Kyne, P.M., Johnson, J.W., White, W.T. and Bennett, M.B. 2005. First records of the false catshark, *Pseudotriakis microdon* Capello, 1868, from the waters of eastern Australia and Indonesia. *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 51: 525–530.
- 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, Australia.
- Stewart, A.L. 2000. False catshark – a real rarity. *Seafood New Zealand*
- Taniuchi, T., Kobayashi, H. and Otake, T. 1984. Occurrence and reproductive mode of the false cat shark, *Pseudotriakis microdon*, in Japan. *Japanese Journal of Ichthyology* 31(1): 88–92.
- Yano, K. 1992. Comments on the reproductive mode of the false cat shark *Pseudotriakis microdon*. *Copeia* 1992(2): 460–468.