

## Smalleye Pygmy Shark, *Squaliolus aliae*

Report Card assessment	Negligible		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Kyne, P. & Heupel, M.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Very small and has minimal interaction with fisheries.		

### Summary

The Smalleye Pygmy Shark has a patchy but widespread distribution in the Eastern Indian and western Pacific Oceans. It is found over a wide depth range over continental slopes. It is



one of the smallest living sharks with a maximum total length of approximately 22 cm. It is considered too small to be regularly captured in most fisheries, however it has been caught incidentally by demersal trawlers in the western Pacific. Its small size and large geographic and depth range provide it with protection from fisheries. Therefore, it is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) in Australia (Kyne et al. 2021) and Negligible (SAFS).

### Distribution

The Smalleye Pygmy Shark has a patchy distribution in the Indo-West Pacific off Australia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Japan (Last and Stevens 2009, Ebert et al. 2013). In Australian waters, there are records from off northwest Western Australia, Queensland, and New South Wales (Kyne et al. 2005, Last and Stevens 2009). It is rarely encountered due to its small size and so 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 Smalleye Pygmy Shark is too small to be captured regularly in most fisheries. It is a common bycatch of bottom trawl fisheries in the western Pacific (Ebert et al. 2013). Eastern Australian specimens have been collected from demersal trawls, so it may be encountered more regularly than is currently recorded off Australia where only a handful of records are known (Kyne et al. 2005).

### Habitat and biology

The Smalleye Pygmy Shark occurs over continental slopes from less than 150 m to 2,000 m depth. Individuals are thought to make daily migrations from shallow depths at night to deeper waters during the day (Last and Stevens 2009). Maximum size is at least 22 cm total length (TL), making this possibly the smallest living shark species (Last and Stevens 2009, Ebert et al. 2013).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 22 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 15 cm TL Females: unknown

**CAAB Code:** 37 020017

**Link to IUCN Page:** <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41858/68643995>

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

#### References

- Ebert, D.A., Fowler, S. and Compagno, L. 2013. *Sharks of the World*. Wild Nature Press, Plymouth.
- 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.
- Kyne, P.M., Johnson, J.W., Courtney, A.J. and Bennett, M.B. 2005. New biogeographical information on Queensland chondrichthyans. *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 50: 321–327.
- Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. *Sharks and Rays of Australia*. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood.