

Eastern Highfin Spurdog, *Squalus albifrons*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern (Endemic to Australia)	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Finucci, B.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Minimal fishery interactions.		

Summary

The Eastern Highfin Spurdog is a medium sized deepwater dogfish that occurs in eastern Australian waters. Its main known range is in an area with minimal fisheries although future expansion of deepwater trawl fisheries could pose a threat. The biology is virtually unknown though it is likely to have the limiting life history characteristics similar to other deepwater dogfish species. Therefore, as there are minimal fishery interactions, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

The Eastern Highfin Spurdog occurs in eastern Australia, and is currently known from the Queensland Plateau off Cairns, to Montague Island, southern New South Wales (Last and Stevens 2009). The range of the species is currently uncertain.

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species.

Fisheries

The Eastern Highfin Spurdog is not thought to be abundant off central and southern New South Wales (NSW), and their occasional capture in the NSW trawl fishery is unlikely to have much impact on the main population which is presumably to the north of NSW (K. Graham pers. comm.). Future development of deepwater trawl fisheries across its range could pose a threat, as it is susceptible to being caught as bycatch.

Habitat and biology

The Eastern Highfin Spurdog occurs on the upper continental slope at depths of 131–450 m. It is either rare or uncommon and its biology is virtually unknown. The maximum size is at least 86 cm total length (TL), the smallest mature male examined was 61 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 86 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: ~61 cm TL Females: unknown

CAAB Code: 37 020038

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/42723/68644232>

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

References

- Compagno, L.J.V. 1984 *Sharks of the World. An annotated and illustrated catalogue of the shark species known to date. Volume 1. (Hexanchiformes, Squaliformes, Squatiniformes and Pristiophoriformes)*. FAO Species Catalogue for Fisheries Purposes No. 1, Vol.1. FAO, Rome.
- 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*. CSIRO, Australia.
- Last, P.R., White, W.T. and Pogonoski, J.J. 2007. *Descriptions of New Dogfishes of the genus Squalus (Squaloidea: Squalidae)*. CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research Paper. No. 014.