

Australian Angelshark, *Squatina australis*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern (Endemic to Australia)	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Walker, T.I., Pogonoski, J. & Pollard, D.A.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Taken as byproduct in managed fisheries.		

Summary

The Australian Angel Shark is a relatively abundant species endemic to eastern and southern Australia. The species is taken as retained byproduct in fisheries targeting higher valued species. Catch susceptibility of the Australian Angel Shark is high for demersal trawl. However, large areas of its range are not trawled and fisheries observer data indicate no decline in abundance during 1994–2004. Although there was a slight decline during 2005–2006, fishing intensity was subsequently markedly reduced by proactive management action. The population size is expected to rise in response to management changes. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).



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Distribution

The Australian Angel Shark occurs from Newcastle (New South Wales, NSW) to Rottnest Island (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

Population size is estimated as comparatively large (tens of thousands of mature individuals), but the number and size of subpopulations is unknown. Scientific observer monitoring of trawl catches indicate during 1994–2004 indicated that overall relative abundance had not declined off southern NSW and eastern Victoria. There was a slight reduction during the 2-year period 2005–2006 (Walker and Gason 2007).

Fisheries

The species is taken as by product and marketed off southern NSW and eastern Victoria. It is captured by demersal otter trawl (98%) and Danish seine (2%) in the South East Trawl Sector of the

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (Walker and Gason 2007). In addition, there are small catches using various fishing gears in inshore fisheries off NSW, Victoria, and South Australia (Walker and Gason 2009). Negligible catches are taken by gillnets and hooks, because of the species low catch susceptibility to these fishing methods (Walker et al. 2005, Braccini et al. 2009).

Habitat and biology

The Australian Angel Shark is demersal on continental shelves in a variety of habitats such as sand and mud substrates, seagrass beds and adjacent to rocky reefs (Michael 2001). It occurs to a depth of 130 m. Maximum size is 152 cm total length (TL) with males mature at 90 cm TL and females at 97 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 152 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 90 cm TL Females: 97 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 024001

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41862/68645631>

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

References

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