

Ornate Angelshark, *Squatina tergocellata*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern (Endemic to Australia)	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Walker, T.I. & Bennett, M.B.		
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 Ornate Angelshark is a relatively abundant shark endemic to southwest Australia. The species is taken as retained byproduct in the Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector targeting higher valued species, but catch susceptibility is high for demersal trawl. However, the fishery, has low effort and operates mostly at depths shallower than the greater part of its depth range, including the depth of highest abundance (~300 m). No declines in abundance of the species in this fishery were evident from 2000–2006. In addition, large areas of the species' range are not trawled. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).



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Distribution

The Ornate Angelshark occurs from Port Lincoln (South Australia) to Geraldton (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

The species is common in the Great Australian Bight and population size is estimated as comparatively large (tens of thousands of mature individuals). The number and size of subpopulations is unknown. Scientific observer monitoring of trawl catches indicated that for the period 2000–2006 overall relative abundance had not declined in the Great Australian Bight (Walker and Gason 2007).

Fisheries

The species is commonly taken and marketed in the Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery. The fishery mostly takes immature individuals

(Bridge et al. 1998). Reported landings from this fishery are 234 t for 5-year period 1988–1992 to 84 t for 2002 (McLoughlin et al. 1994, Caton 2002). The majority (75%) is retained for market and 25% is discarded (Walker and Gason 2007). In Western Australia, it is taken in small quantities (10 t annually for all angelsharks for a 5-year period 1994–1999) by shark gillnet and longline (McAuley and Simpfendorfer 2003).

Habitat and biology

The Ornate Angelshark is demersal on the continental shelf and upper slope in depths of 130–400 m, but most common in approximately 300 m depth. Maximum size is 140 cm total length (TL), with males mature at 81–91 cm TL and females at 115–125 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 140 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 81–91 cm TL Females: 115–125 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 024002

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41863/68645801>

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

References

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