

Velvet Dogfish, *Zameus squamulosus*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Finucci, B., Cheek, J., Cotton, C.F., Kulka, D.W., Neat, F.C., Pacoureau, N., Rigby, C.L., Tanaka, S. & Walker, T.I.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Little known of catches or biology.		

Summary

The Velvet Dogfish is a widespread but sporadically distributed deepwater dogfish recorded from most oceans. It is taken as bycatch in various deepwater fisheries but there is little catch information. The presently known disjunct range in many ocean regions suggests that it is more widely distributed than currently recorded. Very little is known of its biology, however deepwater squaloids are vulnerable to population decline from overfishing due to their limited life history characteristics. With limited catches and significant refuge at depth, this species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) in Australia, and Sustainable (SAFS).



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Distribution

The Velvet Dogfish is widespread in the eastern and western Atlantic, western Indian Ocean, and western Pacific. In Australia, it is found from off northern New South Wales to seamounts south of Tasmania and from Cape Naturaliste to Rowley Shoals (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

The Velvet Dogfish is probably rare. There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species.

Fisheries

The species is taken as bycatch by deepwater trawl, longline, and set net gear. In Australia, it is taken in midwater by Japanese longline vessels off southern Australia and by bottom trawlers on the Exmouth Plateau in Western Australia. The species has no commercial value in Australia, but elsewhere it is used dried and salted for human consumption and fishmeal (Last and Stevens 2009).

Habitat and biology

The Velvet Dogfish inhabits continental slopes at depths of 550–1,450 m. It is generally on or near the bottom, but also pelagic off Brazil at depths of 0–580 m in waters 2,000 m deep (Compagno 1984).

Maximum size is at least 84 cm total length (TL) with males mature at approximately 47 cm TL and females at 59 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009). Little else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 84 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: ~47 cm TL Females: ~59 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 020042

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/60215/3093577>

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

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*. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood.