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Roughskin Catshark, *Apristurus ampliceps*

Report Card assessment	**Sustainable**		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Refer to Global Assessment	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Cavanagh, R.D. & Lisney, T.J.		
Report Card Remarks	Poorly known deepwater shark rarely caught in Australia		

Summary

The Roughskin Catshark is a poorly known deepwater shark. It occurs around southern New Zealand and southern Australia. Its Australian occurrence is largely outside of the operating depth of fisheries, due to closures to trawling >700 m and the current closure of the South Tasman Rise Fishery. If fishing for Orange Roughy is re-opened in deepwater areas off southern Australia, then bycatch levels of this and other deepwater sharks should be monitored. Off New Zealand it is a likely bycatch of trawl fisheries, although as relatively little fishing occurs below 1,200 m some of the population occurs beyond fishing depths. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and in Australia, Sustainable (SAFS).

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Distribution

The Roughskin Catshark occurs in parts of southern Australia; Tasmania, the South Tasman Rise, and a small area off southern Western Australia. It also is found off southern New Zealand (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

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

Fisheries

In Australian waters the Roughskin Catshark occurs at a depth range outside the activity of commercial trawl fisheries so it is expected that bycatch levels would be low to negligible. In the Commonwealth Trawl Sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery most areas below 700 m are closed to trawling, so there is no fishery operating in the depth range of this catshark in this area (Penney et al. 2014). The Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery operates within the range of this species off Western Australia, however current effort and catch is low with only two boats active in the 2012-13 fishing season (Marton and Mazur 2014). The South Tasman Rise Fishery is currently closed (Patterson and Mazur 2014).

Habitat and biology

The species occurs on the continental slope at depths of 840 to 1,500 m (Last and Stevens 2009). The Roughskin Catshark is the largest member of the genus found in Australia. Males mature at about 78 cm total length (TL) and females possibly at 68 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009). The biology is virtually unknown.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 87 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 78 cm TL Females: possibly 68 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/42701/0

Link to page at Shark References: http://www.shark-references.com/species/view/Apristurus-ampliceps

References

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