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Portuguese Dogfish, *Centroscymnus coelolepis*

Report Card assessment	**Sustainable**		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Refer to Global Assessment	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Near Threatened
Assessors	Stevens, J. & Correia, J.P.S.		
Report Card Remarks	In Australia, management measures in SESSF ban trawling below 700 m; mostly taken below 1,000 m		

Summary

The Portuguese Dogfish is a deepwater species widely distributed in the Atlantic and western Pacific. It is taken mainly as bycatch by trawl and hook, although there is some limited targeting for its flesh and oil. Catches in Australia increased in the early 2000s in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF). However, data on biomass or trends in abundance are lacking. The productivity of the species is likely to be low based on similar deepwater shark species. Management measures implemented in the SESSF in the mid-2000s to promote recovery of depleted deepwater dogfish banned trawling below 700 m. This is likely to have reduced fishing pressure on the Portuguese Dogfish in that area, as it is mostly caught below 1,000 m. Therefore, the species is assessed as Near Threatened (IUCN) and in Australia, Sustainable (SAFS).

Source: CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research. License: CSIRO 2015

Distribution

The Portuguese Dogfish has a wide but patchy distribution in the Atlantic (Iceland to South Africa and Grand Banks to Brazil) and western Pacific (Japan, New Zealand and Australia). In Australia, it is known from Cape Hawke (New South Wales) to Cape Leeuwin (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

The species is relatively common in the eastern North Atlantic, Japan, southeast Australia and New Zealand. There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species.

Fisheries

The Portuguese Dogfish is taken by trawl, hook and gillnet both as a target and bycatch species for its liver oil and flesh and has been exploited commercially for a long time. In Australia, it is possibly taken in the trawl sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF) along the east coast in the southern part of its range, although there is no catch data. Large declines in some dogfish species were reported in that fishery at depths of 200-399 m and 400-649 m (Kyne and Simpfendorfer 2010). In Australia, catch rates of the Portuguese Dogfish are generally highest in depths greater than 1,000 m (Daley et al. 2002). The management measures imposed on the SESSF to promote recovery

of the overfished dogfish populations included a ban on trawling below 700 m (AFMA 2006). As the Portuguese Dogfish is mostly caught deeper than 700 m this would have protected the majority of the population in that area from further fishing pressure.

Habitat and biology

The Portuguese Dogfish is a demersal species on the continental slope and abyssal plain in depths from 270 to 3,700 m. Maximum size is 122 cm total length (TL) in Australia and 158 cm TL in Japan and the northeast Atlantic (Yano and Tanaka 1988, Girard and Du Buit 1999, Last and Stevens 2009). Males mature at 75-85 cm TL and females at 85-100 cm TL (Daley et al. 2002, Last and Stevens 2009). Litter size is 8-19 pups (Daley et al. 2002).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: estimated 21 years (males) Max size: 158 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 75-85 cm TL Females: 85-100 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/41747/0
Link to page at Shark References: http://www.shark-references.com/species/view/Centroscymnus-coelolepis

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