Published Date: 1 March 2019

Draughtboard Shark, *Cephaloscyllium laticeps*

Report Card assessment	**Sustainable**		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Walker, T.I.		
Report Card Remarks	Abundant with low fishing mortality		

Summary

The Australian Swell Shark is an abundant species endemic to shallow water in southeast Australia. Although large numbers of the species are caught by demersal trawl and bottom-set gillnets, most of the catch is discarded alive. Fishing mortality is low because the species is extremely resilient to capture by fishing gear and to handling out of water. There has been no decline in the species' abundance in over 25 years of monitoring. Recent management measures are expected to increase the population. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Australian Swell Shark is distributed across southern Australia from the Recherche Archipelago (Western Australia) to Jervis Bay (New South Wales) (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

The Australian Swell Shark is one of the most abundant sharks of southern Australia. Monitoring of commercial trawl catches and fishing effort indicate for the 11-year period 1996–2006 that overall relative abundance had not declined off southern NSW and eastern Victoria (Walker and Gason 2007). Fishery-independent survey of the gillnet shark fishery showed no decline in abundance between 1973–76 and 2007–08 (Walker et al. 2005, Braccini et al. 2009).

Fisheries

The Australian Swell Shark supported a mean annual catch of 220 tonnes (most of it discarded) in the South East Trawl Sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery during the 7-year period 2000–06. The catch was taken off southern NSW and eastern Victoria by demersal otter trawl (84%) and Danish seine (16%) of which 47% was retained for marketing and 53% discarded (Walker and Gason 2007). In addition, the Australian Swell Shark is one of the most commonly caught bycatch species in the shark gillnet fishery of southeastern Australia because of high gillnet selectivity (Walker et al. 2005, Braccini et al. 2009). The species is usually returned to the water alive and fishing mortality is low due to its resilience; it can survive for considerable time out of the water (Frick et al. 2009).

Habitat and biology

The Australian Swell Shark occurs inshore on the continental shelf to at least 60 m (Last and Stevens 2009). Maximum size is at least 100 cm total length (TL) (possibly 150 cm TL) with males mature at approximately 82 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009). Little else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 100 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 82 cm TL Females: unknown

Link to IUCN Page: http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/41753/0

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

References

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