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Prickly Shark, *Echinorhinus cookei*

Report Card assessment	**Sustainable**		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Refer to Global Assessment	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Data deficient
Assessors	Paul, L.		
Report Card Remarks	Small fragmented populations with potential for reduction due to fishing, though little reported in Australia		

Summary

The Prickly Shark is a large, rare deepwater shark, known only from the Pacific Ocean. It is likely taken as bycatch in deepwater fisheries but little reported. The species appears to be vulnerable to deepwater trawling and line fishing and, as these fishing activities increase, there is potential for ongoing reduction of what may be a small fragmented population with low resilience to fisheries. Therefore, the species is assessed as Near Threatened (IUCN) and in Australia, Sustainable (SAFS).

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Distribution

The Prickly Shark occurs in tropical and temperate waters of the Pacific Ocean, in depths from 70 m to 1,100 m). In Australia, the species is known only from Victoria and north Queensland (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

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

Fisheries

The Prickly Shark is probably taken as bycatch in some deepwater line and trawl fisheries in southern Australia.

Habitat and biology

The Prickly Shark is demersal on the upper and middle continental slope at depths of 70 to 1,000 m (Last and Stevens 2009). The shallow records are from submarine canyons, in particular Monterey Canyon (California), where there is a notable, and possibly unique localised abundance (Crane 1992). Considered a sluggish shark, but probably capable of swift rushes to capture prey (fishes, crustaceans). Maximum size is approximately 400 cm total length (TL) with males mature at 180-200 cm TL and females at 250-300 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009). Little else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 400 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 180-200 cm TL Females: 250-300 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/41802/0

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

References

Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. Sharks and Rays of Australia. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood.

Crane, N.L. and Heine, J.N. 1992. Observations of the prickly shark (*Echinorhinus cookei*) in Monterey Bay, California. *California Fish and Game* 78(4): 166–168.