

Plunket's Dogfish, *Proscymnodon plunketi*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Refer to Global Assessment	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Vulnerable
Assessors	Paul, L.		
Report Card Remarks	Uncommon species; likely low productivity and range overlaps with deepwater teleost fisheries though no evidence of decline in Australia		

Summary

The Plunket's Dogfish is a relatively uncommon deepwater shark that occurs across the South Pacific. It may extend deeper than is currently recognised. The species is captured as bycatch in small but erratic quantities in some deepwater line and trawl fisheries, although presumably from only part of its known range. The aggregating behaviour of the species make it susceptible to capture. The Plunket's Dogfish appears to be of low productivity. In addition, its geographic and depth range coincide with that for some important teleost fisheries. There is no evidence of population decline in Australian waters. Therefore, the species is assessed as Near Threatened (IUCN) and in Australia, Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

The Plunket's Dogfish occurs in the western South Pacific, including Australia, New Zealand and some ridges of the southern Indian Ocean. In Australia, it is known from Port Macquarie (New South Wales) to Portland (Victoria), including Tasmania, the Norfolk Ridge and nearby seamounts (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

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

Fisheries

The primary threat to the Plunket's Dogfish is fishing. It is a minor bycatch in some deepwater line and trawl fisheries and its aggregating behaviour makes it susceptible to localised depletion. However, its occurrence to 1500 m provides a significant depth refuge in Australian waters since most trawling is limited to 700 m.

Habitat and biology

The Plunket's Dogfish is demersal on the upper and middle continental slope at 200 to 1,500 m, usually 500 to 1,000 m. The species has up to 36 pups per litter (Last and Stevens 2009). Little else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 170 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 100-120 cm TL Females: 130-145 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/46865/0>

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

References

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