

Western Angelshark, *Squatina pseudocellata*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Kyne, P.M. & Cavanagh, R.D.		
Report Card Remarks	Poorly known but likely only a minor bycatch with refuge areas		

Summary

The Western Angel Shark is a poorly known shark, endemic to northwest Australia. Nothing is known of its biology, but all *Squatina* species for which biological data are available are known to be sensitive to fishing pressure because of their life history characteristics and demersal habitat. It is likely taken as bycatch of trawl fisheries operating at >200 m, but fishing effort at this depth within its range is currently low and not likely to be adversely affecting this species. Its range also overlaps with some areas closed to trawling, thus providing it with some refuge. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

The Western Angel Shark occurs from Cape Leveque south to waters off Shark Bay (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009). A specimen from the Arafura Sea north of the Tiwi Islands held in the Northern Territory museum may be this species, suggesting it ranges further northeast than presently recognised.

Stock structure and status

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

Fisheries

The Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery and North West Slope Trawl Fishery that operate within the range of this species at depths >200 m have low current effort and catch (Marton and Mazur 2014a, b).

Habitat and biology

The Western Angel Shark is demersal on the continental shelf and upper slope at depths of 150 to 312 m. Maximum size is at least 114 cm total length (TL), with males mature at about 75 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009). Little else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 114 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: ~75 cm TL Females: unknown

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/42728/0>

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

References

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