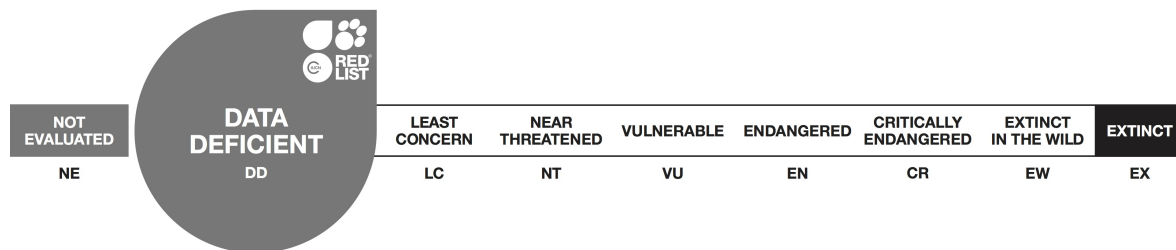


## *Scyliorhinus haeckelii*, Freckled Catshark

Assessment by: Rincon, G. (SSG South America Regional Workshop, June 2003)



View on [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)

**Citation:** Rincon, G. (SSG South America Regional Workshop, June 2003). 2004. *Scyliorhinus haeckelii*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2004: e.T44589A10909893.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2004.RLTS.T44589A10909893.en>

**Copyright:** © 2015 International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

Reproduction of this publication for educational or other non-commercial purposes is authorized without prior written permission from the copyright holder provided the source is fully acknowledged.

Reproduction of this publication for resale, reposting or other commercial purposes is prohibited without prior written permission from the copyright holder. For further details see [Terms of Use](#).

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is produced and managed by the [IUCN Global Species Programme](#), the [IUCN Species Survival Commission \(SSC\)](#) and [The IUCN Red List Partnership](#). The IUCN Red List Partners are: [BirdLife International](#); [Botanic Gardens Conservation International](#); [Conservation International](#); [Microsoft](#); [NatureServe](#); [Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew](#); [Sapienza University of Rome](#); [Texas A&M University](#); [Wildscreen](#); and [Zoological Society of London](#).

If you see any errors or have any questions or suggestions on what is shown in this document, please provide us with [feedback](#) so that we can correct or extend the information provided.

## Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Chondrichthyes	Carcharhiniformes	Scyliorhinidae

**Taxon Name:** *Scyliorhinus haeckelii* (Miranda Ribeiro, 1907)

**Synonym(s):**

- *Scyliorhinus fernandezi*

**Common Name(s):**

- English: Freckled Catshark

**Taxonomic Notes:**

This species has its northern reported distribution off Venezuela as *S. fernandezi* Weibezahn, 1953 was considered to be synonymous with *S. haeckelii*. However, *S. fernandezi* is definitely not *S. haeckelii* and is probably *S. boa* Goode & Bean, 1896. Recent surveys off the north and northeast of Brazil present evidence that *S. haeckelii* may not have such a wide distribution and in fact is not known north of Bahia State (Rincon, unpublished data). The genus *Scyliorhinus* in the Western Atlantic is a complex taxonomic problem since *S. haeckelii* was described based on an immature specimen and many specimens were recently found showing intermediate colour patterns between *S. haeckelii* and *S. besnardi*. The Brazilian northeastern specimens (*Scyliorhinus* sp. nov. [Rincon, Lessa, Gadig & Gomes]) have white and dark spots randomly distributed on dorsal surface, which distinguish them from the other three species, but these white spots disappear when the animal is fixed.

## Assessment Information

**Red List Category & Criteria:** Data Deficient [ver 3.1](#)

**Year Published:** 2004

**Date Assessed:** April 30, 2004

**Annotations:** Needs Updating

**Justification:**

*Scyliorhinus haeckelii* is a small deepwater catshark with only occasional records along its distribution (Bahia State, Brazil, south to Uruguay). Previous records north of Bahia State (to Venezuela) are erroneous and based on confusion with other similar species. Very little is known about this species and there is no available information to infer population size, geographical distribution (which needs to be better defined due to confusion with other *Scyliorhinus* spp.) and biology. The species is taken as bycatch in southern Brazil by demersal trawlers and longliners and since commercial interest is developing for catsharks in this area, and their value increasing, catch monitoring is a priority. The species is captured in low numbers by bottom trawl nets off Uruguay.

## Geographic Range

**Range Description:**

The species is only occasionally captured throughout its range.

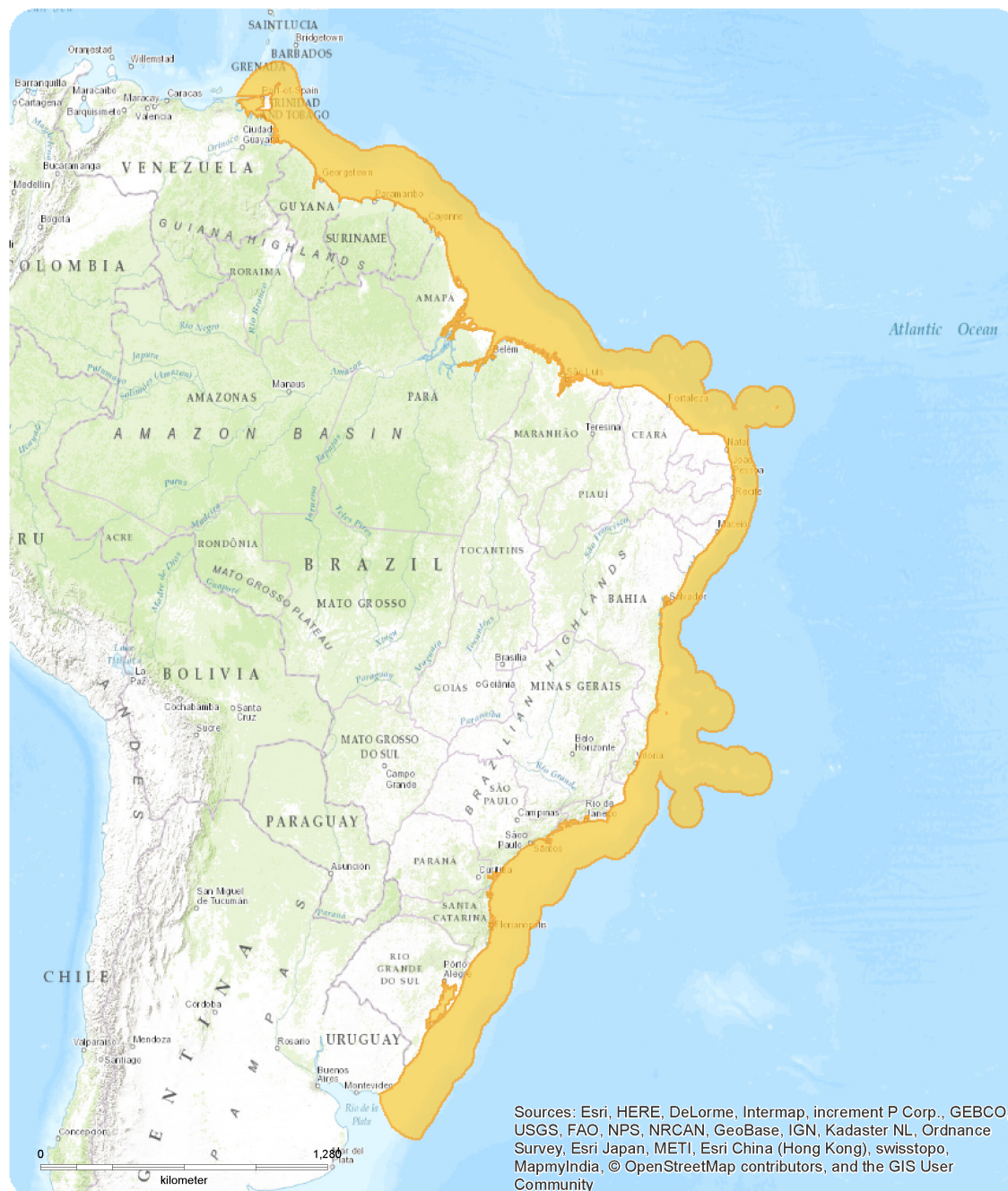
**Country Occurrence:**

**Native:** Brazil (Bahia); Uruguay

**FAO Marine Fishing Areas:**

**Native:** Atlantic - southwest

## Distribution Map

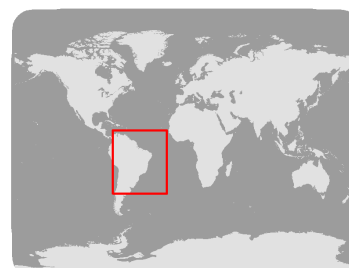
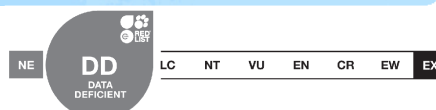


### *Scyliorhinus haeckelii*

#### Range

Extant (resident)

Compiled by:  
International Union for  
Conservation of Nature (IUCN)



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.



## Population

**Current Population Trend:** Unknown

## Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

Compagno (in prep. b) reports *Scyliorhinus haeckelii* on or near the bottom, on the continental shelf and upper slope, at depths of 37 to 402 m. It is associated with deep-reef habitats, mostly deeper than 250 m. Off southeastern and southern Brazil it is found on the upper continental slope. Oviparous with two eggcases deposited at a time (Compagno, in prep. b). Maximum size around 50 cm total length (TL), males mature at 35 cm TL, females at 40 cm TL and size at hatching 10 to 13 cm TL (Compagno, in prep. b), however, these sizes may need verification due to possible confusion with other *Scyliorhinus* species.

**Systems:** Marine

## Use and Trade

### UTILISATION

In some areas of southern Brazil, sharks of the genus *Scyliorhinus* (*S. haeckelii* and *S. besnardi*) are of increasing commercial interest (their value rose substantially during 2001 and 2002).

## Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

Taken as bycatch by otter trawlers for squid off Santa Catarina State, and by bottom longliners and deepwater trawlers off São Paulo State (Brazil). The most numerous captured specimens are usually adult males, followed by immature males and females. Detailed catch data are not available due to lack of species-specific recording, the problem further compounded by misidentification. The species is captured in low numbers by bottom trawl nets off Uruguay (Domingo, pers. comm.).

### UTILISATION

In some areas of southern Brazil, sharks of the genus *Scyliorhinus* (*S. haeckelii* and *S. besnardi*) are of increasing commercial interest (their value rose substantially during 2001 and 2002).

## Conservation Actions

No conservation measures are in place for this species.

## Credits

**Assessor(s):** Rincon, G. (SSG South America Regional Workshop, June 2003)

**Reviewer(s):** Kyne, P.M., Cavanagh, R.D. & Fowler, S.L. (Shark Red List Authority)

## Bibliography

Compagno, L.J.V. In prep. b. *Sharks of the World. An annotated and illustrated catalogue of the shark species known to date. Volume 3. (Carcharhiniformes)*. FAO Species Catalogue for Fisheries Purposes No. 1, Vol.3. FAO, Rome.

IUCN. 2004. *2004 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org). Downloaded on 23 November 2004.

IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group. Specialist Group website. Available at: <http://www.iucnssg.org/>.

## Citation

Rincon, G. (SSG South America Regional Workshop, June 2003). 2004. *Scyliorhinus haeckelii*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2004*: e.T44589A10909893.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2004.RLTS.T44589A10909893.en>

## Disclaimer

To make use of this information, please check the [Terms of Use](#).

## External Resources

For [Images and External Links to Additional Information](#), please see the Red List website.

# Appendix

## Habitats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
10. Marine Oceanic -> 10.1. Marine Oceanic - Epipelagic (0-200m)	-	Suitable	-

## Threats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
5. Biological resource use -> 5.4. Fishing & harvesting aquatic resources -> 5.4.4. Unintentional effects: (large scale)	Ongoing	-	-	-

## Research Needed

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Research Needed
1. Research -> 1.1. Taxonomy
1. Research -> 1.2. Population size, distribution & trends
1. Research -> 1.3. Life history & ecology
1. Research -> 1.5. Threats
1. Research -> 1.6. Actions
3. Monitoring -> 3.1. Population trends

## The IUCN Red List Partnership



The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is produced and managed by the [IUCN Global Species Programme](#), the [IUCN Species Survival Commission](#) (SSC) and [The IUCN Red List Partnership](#). The IUCN Red List Partners are: [BirdLife International](#); [Botanic Gardens Conservation International](#); [Conservation International](#); [Microsoft](#); [NatureServe](#); [Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew](#); [Sapienza University of Rome](#); [Texas A&M University](#); [Wildscreen](#); and [Zoological Society of London](#).