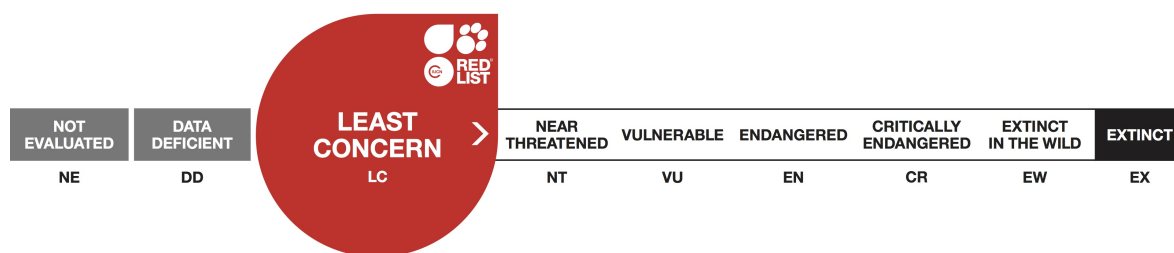


Haploblepharus pictus, Dark Shyshark

Assessment by: Pollom, R., Gledhill, K., Ebert, D.A., McCord, M.E., Van der Bank, M. & Winker, H.



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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Chondrichthyes	Carcharhiniformes	Scyliorhinidae

Taxon Name: *Haploblepharus pictus* (Müller & Henle, 1838)

Synonym(s):

- *Scyllium pictum* Müller & Henle, 1838

Common Name(s):

- English: Dark Shyshark, Pretty Happy

Taxonomic Source(s):

Fricke, R., Eschmeyer, W.N. and Van der Laan, R. (eds). 2019. Eschmeyer's Catalog of Fishes: genera, species, references. Updated 03 September 2019. Available at: <http://researcharchive.calacademy.org/research/ichthyology/catalog/fishcatmain.asp>.

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Least Concern [ver 3.1](#)

Year Published: 2019

Date Assessed: April 25, 2018

Justification:

The Dark Shyshark (*Haploblepharus pictus*) is a small (to 60 cm total length) demersal catshark that inhabits kelp forests, sandy areas, and rocky reefs on the continental shelf in the Southeast Atlantic and Western Indian Ocean off Namibia and South Africa down to a depth of 35 m. This species is caught as bycatch in demersal trawl fisheries, commercial and recreational line fisheries, demersal longline fisheries targeting sharks, and in beach seines, gillnets, and rock lobster traps. Much of the western portion of its range is remote where human population density and fishing pressure are low. There are no data to indicate declines, and the population is suspected to be stable given the continued abundance of this common species. Therefore, the Dark Shyshark is assessed as Least Concern.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

2009 – Least Concern (LC)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2009-2.RLTS.T161650A5472861.en>

Geographic Range

Range Description:

The Dark Shyshark occurs in the Southeast Atlantic and Western Indian Ocean from north of Lüderitz, Namibia to East London, South Africa (Ebert *et al.* 2013).

Country Occurrence:

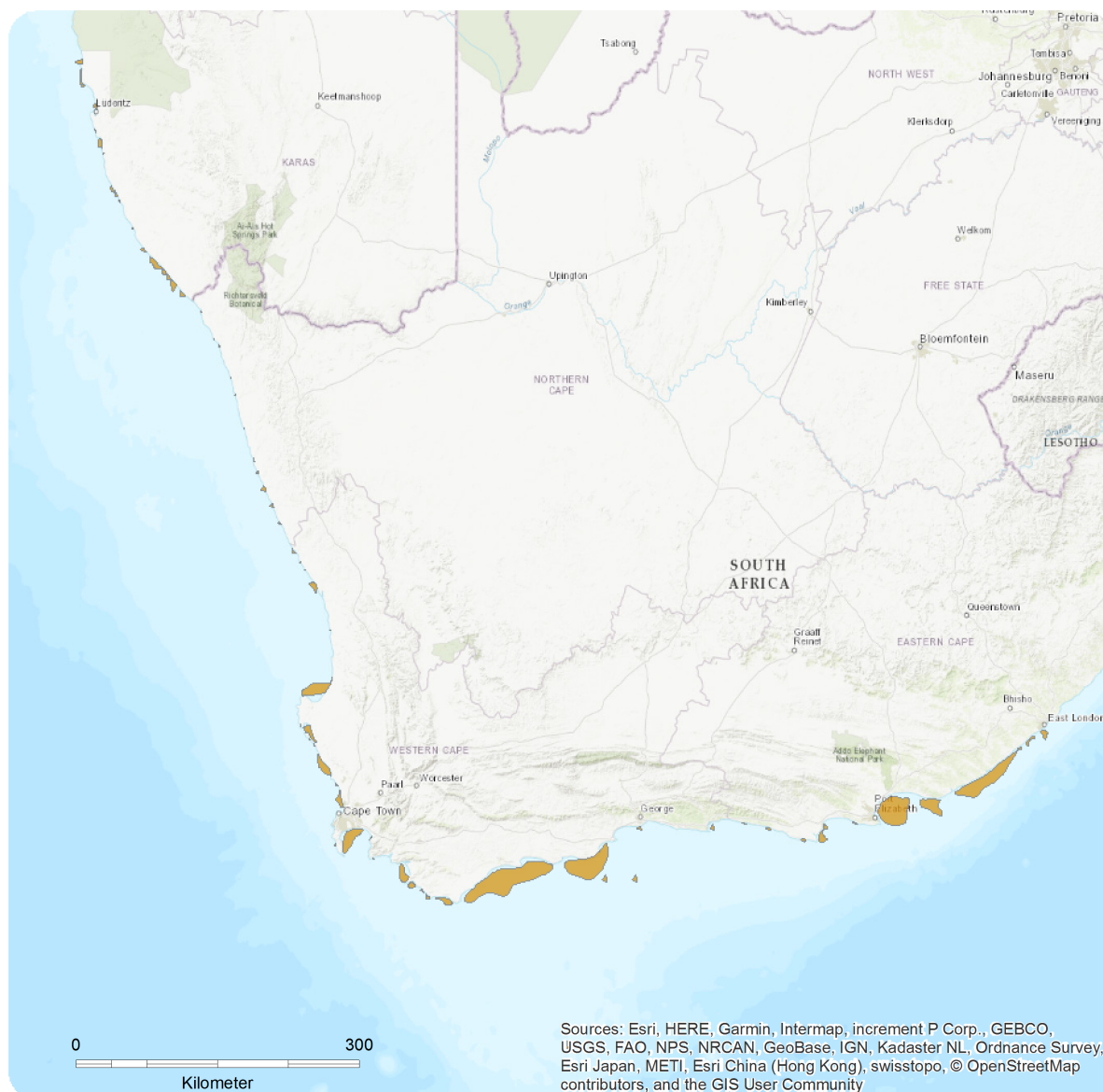
Native: Namibia; South Africa

FAO Marine Fishing Areas:

Native: Atlantic - southeast, Indian Ocean - western

Distribution Map

Haploblepharus pictus

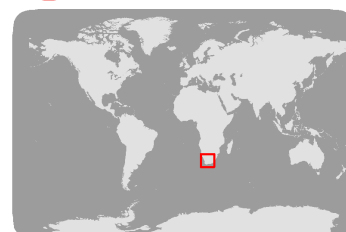


Range

■ Extant (resident)

Compiled by:

IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group



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

Population

There are no population size or trend estimates for this species. The Dark Shyshark was one of the most abundant species in baited remote underwater video (BRUV) surveys in False Bay, making up 12–20% of sightings depending on season (De Vos *et al.* 2015). This species is also one of the most common in Walker Bay (K. Gledhill, unpubl. data, 2018). The population trend is suspected to be stable given the continued abundance of this common species.

Current Population Trend: Stable

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

The Dark Shyshark inhabits kelp forests, sandy areas, and rocky reefs on the continental shelf down to a depth of 35 m. This species has a maximum size of 60 cm total length (TL); females are mature from 36 cm TL, and males from 40 cm TL (Ebert *et al.* 2013). Reproduction is oviparous, gestation is 6–10 months, and pups hatch at 10–12 cm TL. Age at 50% maturity for this species is 15 years and maximum age is 25 years (Dainty 2002).

Systems: Marine

Use and Trade

This species is not known to be utilized or traded.

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

The Dark Shyshark is caught as bycatch in demersal trawl fisheries, commercial and recreational line fisheries, demersal longline fisheries targeting sharks, and in beach seines, gillnets, and rock lobster traps (Ebert *et al.* 2013, da Silva *et al.* 2015). Fishers tend to discard them dead or in poor condition as they are considered a nuisance (Human 2007). Much of the western portion of this species' range is in remote areas where fishing pressure is low.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

There are no species-specific protections or conservation measures in place. Recreational anglers in South Africa are technically restricted to one shark per species per day (maximum of 10 individuals per day), although enforcement is an ongoing issue. Further research is needed on life history and population size and trends.

Credits

Assessor(s): Pollom, R., Gledhill, K., Ebert, D.A., McCord, M.E., Van der Bank, M. & Winker, H.

Reviewer(s): Dulvy, N.K. & Kyne, P.M.

Contributor(s): Herman, K. & Human, B.

Facilitators(s) and Compiler(s): Kyne, P.M., Pollom, R. & Dulvy, N.K.

Bibliography

Dainty, A.M. 2002. Biology and ecology of four catshark species in the Southwestern Cape, South Africa. M.Sc. thesis. Department of Zoology, University of Cape Town.

da Silva, C., Booth, A.J., Dudley, S.F.J., Kerwath, S.E., Lamberth, S.J., Leslie, R.W., McCord, M.E., Sauer, W.H.H. and Zweig, T. 2015. The current status and management of South Africa's chondrichthyan fisheries. *African Journal of Marine Science* 37(2): 233-248.

De Vos, L., Watson, R.G.A., Götz, A. and Attwood, C.G. 2015. Baited remote underwater video system (BRUVs) survey of chondrichthyan diversity in False Bay, South Africa. *African Journal of Marine Science* 37(2): 209-218.

Ebert, D.A., Fowler, S. and Compagno, L. 2013. *Sharks of the World*. Wild Nature Press, Plymouth.

Human, B.A. 2007. A taxonomic revision of the catshark genus *Haploblepharus* Garman 1913 (Chondrichthyes: Carcharhiniformes: Scyliorhinidae). *Zootaxa* 1451: 1-40.

IUCN. 2019. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2019-3. Available at: www.iucnredlist.org. (Accessed: 10 December 2019).

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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?
9. Marine Neritic -> 9.2. Marine Neritic - Subtidal Rock and Rocky Reefs	Resident	Suitable	Yes
9. Marine Neritic -> 9.4. Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy	Resident	Suitable	Yes
9. Marine Neritic -> 9.7. Marine Neritic - Macroalgal/Kelp	Resident	Suitable	Yes

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 -> 5.4.3. Unintentional effects: (subsistence/small scale) [harvest]	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	No decline	Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		
5. Biological resource use -> 5.4. Fishing & harvesting aquatic resources -> 5.4.4. Unintentional effects: (large scale) [harvest]	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	No decline	Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		

Conservation Actions in Place

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

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Research, Monitoring and Planning
Action Recovery plan: No
Systematic monitoring scheme: No
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Conservation sites identified: No
Occur in at least one PA: Yes
Area based regional management plan: No
Invasive species control or prevention: Not Applicable
In-Place Species Management
Harvest management plan: No

Conservation Actions in Place
Successfully reintroduced or introduced benignly: No
Subject to ex-situ conservation: No
In-Place Education
Subject to recent education and awareness programmes: No
Included in international legislation: No
Subject to any international management/trade controls: No

Conservation Actions Needed

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

Conservation Actions Needed
3. Species management -> 3.1. Species management -> 3.1.1. Harvest management

Research Needed

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

Research Needed
1. Research -> 1.2. Population size, distribution & trends
1. Research -> 1.3. Life history & ecology
3. Monitoring -> 3.1. Population trends

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Lower depth limit (m): 35
Upper depth limit (m): 0
Habitats and Ecology
Generation Length (years): 20

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