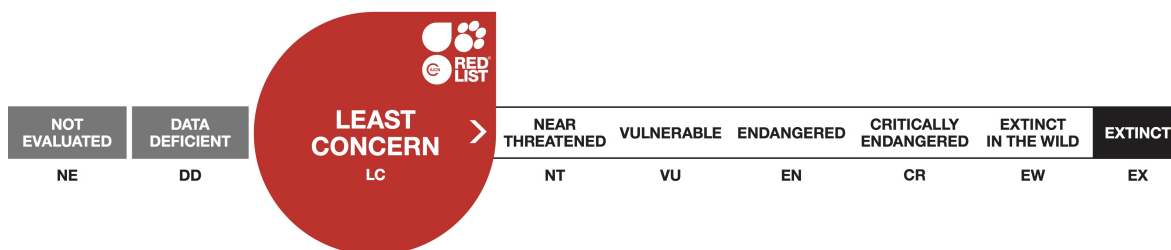


## *Euprotomicrus bispinatus*, Pygmy Shark

Assessment by: Burgess, G.H.



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

**Citation:** Burgess, G.H. 2015. *Euprotomicrus bispinatus*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* 2015: e.T60210A3093076. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2015-4.RLTS.T60210A3093076.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	Squaliformes	Dalatiidae

**Taxon Name:** *Euprotomicrus bispinatus* (Quoy & Gaimard, 1824)

### Common Name(s):

- English: Pygmy Shark
- French: Squale Pygmée
- Spanish: Tollo Pigmeo

## Assessment Information

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

**Year Published:** 2015

**Date Assessed:** May 13, 2015

### Justification:

The Pygmy Shark (*Euprotomicrus bispinatus*) is a widespread oceanic shark recorded from numerous locations in the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans. It is one of the smallest shark species in the world reaching 27 cm total length. Little is known of its biology, although it is reported to have a litter size of eight pups. Its small size and epipelagic/mesopelagic/bathypelagic nature precludes it from capture in most fisheries and as such there are no apparent threats to the species. Given this, and its widespread range, it is assessed as Least Concern.

### Previously Published Red List Assessments

2006 – Least Concern (LC) – <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2006.RLTS.T60210A12320696.en>

## Geographic Range

### Range Description:

The Pygmy Shark is widespread and circumglobal in the warm-temperate and subtropical Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans, including off Australia (presently known only off Western Australia), New Zealand, southern Africa, Madagascar, Brazil, the United States and several other oceanic locations (Last and Stevens 2009, Ebert *et al.* 2013).

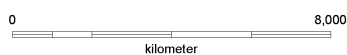
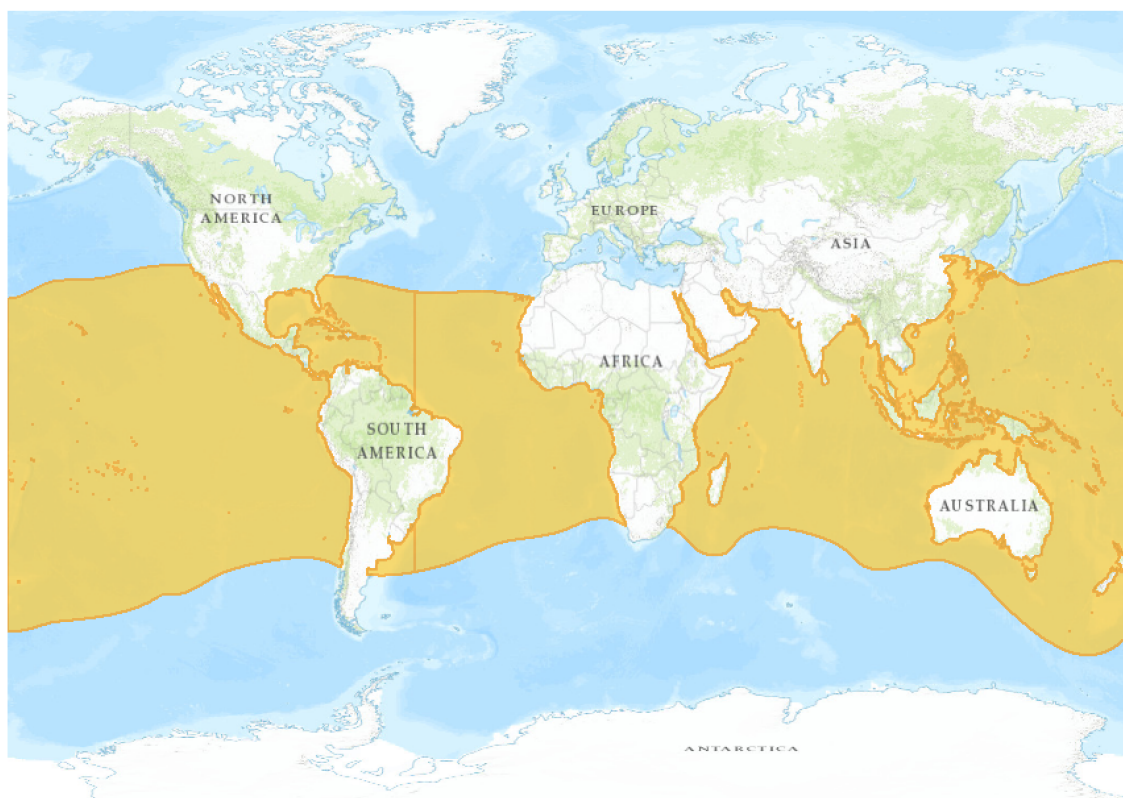
### Country Occurrence:

**Native:** Australia (Western Australia); Brazil; Indonesia; Madagascar; New Zealand; South Africa; United States

### FAO Marine Fishing Areas:

**Native:** Atlantic - southeast, Atlantic - southwest, Indian Ocean - western, Indian Ocean - eastern, Pacific - southeast, Pacific - southwest, Pacific - eastern central

## Distribution Map



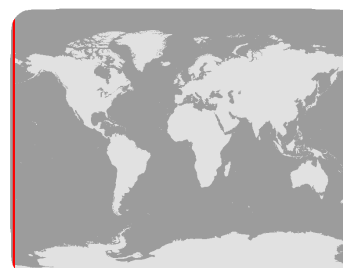
Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

### *Eprotomicrus bispinatus*

Range

■ Extant (resident)

Compiled by:  
IUCN 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 is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for this species.

**Current Population Trend:** Unknown

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

The Pygmy Shark is an epipelagic, mesopelagic and bathypelagic oceanic species found from the surface to deeper than 1,500 m over oceans 1,829 to 9,938 m deep. It is a bioluminescent vertical migrator that ascends to or near the surface by night, descending into midwater and possibly to the bottom by day (Hubbs *et al.* 1967, Last and Stevens 2009, Ebert *et al.* 2013). Reproduction is lecithotrophic viviparous, with a litter size of eight pups with a size at birth of 6–10 cm total length (TL). Size at maturity is 22–23 cm TL and 17–19 cm TL for females and males, respectively. Maximum size is 27 cm TL, making this one of the smallest known shark species (Last and Stevens 2009, Ebert *et al.* 2013).

**Systems:** Marine

## Use and Trade

This species is not likely to be utilized given its small size.

## Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

There are no apparent threats to this species at present. Its small size and epipelagic/mesopelagic/bathypelagic nature preclude it from capture in most fisheries, although incidental capture would occur sporadically. More information is required on the extent of any incidental captures in oceanic fisheries.

## Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

There are currently no species-specific conservation actions in place. As for many deepwater species, more information on biology, ecology, and catches in fisheries are required to further assess its status and any future conservation needs.

## Credits

**Assessor(s):** Burgess, G.H.

**Reviewer(s):** Walls, R.H.L. & Kyne, P.M.

**Contributor(s):** Walls, R.H.L. & Kyne, P.M.

**Facilitators(s) and Compiler(s):** Kyne, P.M. & Walls, R.H.L.

## Bibliography

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

Hubbs, C.L., Iwai, T. and Matsubara, K. 1967. External and internal characters, horizontal and vertical distribution, luminescence, and food of the dwarf pelagic shark, *Euprotomicros bispinatus*. *Bulletin of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography* 10.

IUCN. 2015. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2015-4. Available at: [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org). (Accessed: 19 November 2015).

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

## Citation

Burgess, G.H. 2015. *Euprotomicros bispinatus*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2015*: e.T60210A3093076. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2015-4.RLTS.T60210A3093076.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)	Resident	Suitable	Yes
10. Marine Oceanic -> 10.2. Marine Oceanic - Mesopelagic (200-1000m)	Resident	Suitable	Yes
10. Marine Oceanic -> 10.3. Marine Oceanic - Bathypelagic (1000-4000m)	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 -> 5.4.4. Unintentional effects: (large scale)	Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	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: No
Area based regional management plan: No
Invasive species control or prevention: Not Applicable
In-Place Species Management
Harvest management plan: No
Subject to ex-situ conservation: No
In-Place Education
Subject to recent education and awareness programmes: No

<b>Conservation Actions in Place</b>
Included in international legislation: No
Subject to any international management/trade controls: No

## Research Needed

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

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

## Additional Data Fields

<b>Distribution</b>
Lower depth limit (m): 1500
Upper depth limit (m): 0

## 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](#).