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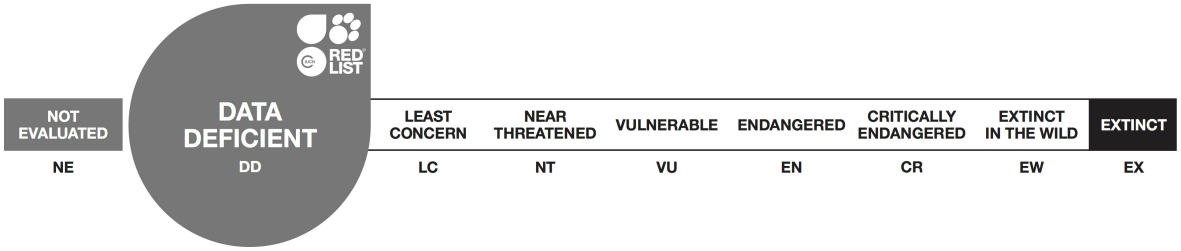
Scope: Global
Language: English

Bythaelurus alcockii, Arabian Catshark

Assessment by: White, W.T., Ebert, D.A., Grandcourt, E., Khan, M. & Akhilesh, K.V.



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Citation: White, W.T., Ebert, D.A., Grandcourt, E., Khan, M. & Akhilesh, K.V. 2017. *Bythaelurus alcockii. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2017*: e.T44227A109895118. http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2017-2.RLTS.T44227A109895118.en

Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Chondrichthyes	Carcharhiniformes	Scyliorhinidae

Taxon Name: *Bythaelurus alcockii* (Garman, 1913)

Synonym(s):

- *Bythaelurus alcocki* (Garman, 1913)
- *Halaelurus alcocki* Garman, 1913
- *Halaelurus alcockii* Garman, 1913

Common Name(s):

- English: Arabian Catshark, Arabian Catshark, Arabian Catshark

Taxonomic Source(s):

Eschmeyer, W.N., Fricke, R. and Van der Laan, R. (eds). 2017. Catalog of Fishes: genera, species, references. Updated 28 April 2017. Available at: http://researcharchive.calacademy.org/research/ichthyology/catalog/fishcatmain.asp. (Accessed: 03 May 2017).

Taxonomic Notes:

The taxonomic status and validity of this species is uncertain. The only known specimen (which may be lost) may have actually been an *Apristurus* species.

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Data Deficient ver 3.1

Year Published: 2017

Date Assessed: February 9, 2017

Justification:

The holotype, and only known specimen of the Arabian Catshark (*Bythaelurus alcockii*), from the Indian Museum in Calcutta may be lost. It was presumably small (<30 cm total length) and was captured in the Arabian Sea, off Pakistan, at a depth of between 1,134 to 1,262 m. All aspects of the biology (including maximum size) and levels of threats are unknown. The taxonomic status and validity of this species is uncertain. The only known specimen may have actually been an *Apristurus* species. Given the uncertain taxonomic status of this species, and the fact that the only known specimen may be lost, it is assessed as Data Deficient at present. This assessment should be revisited as further information becomes available.

Geographic Range

Range Description:

The Arabian Catshark is endemic to the Arabian Seas region, and is known only from a single specimen

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from the Arabian Sea, off Pakistan, which is possibly lost (Compagno 1984).

Country Occurrence:

FAO Marine Fishing Areas:

Native: Indian Ocean - western

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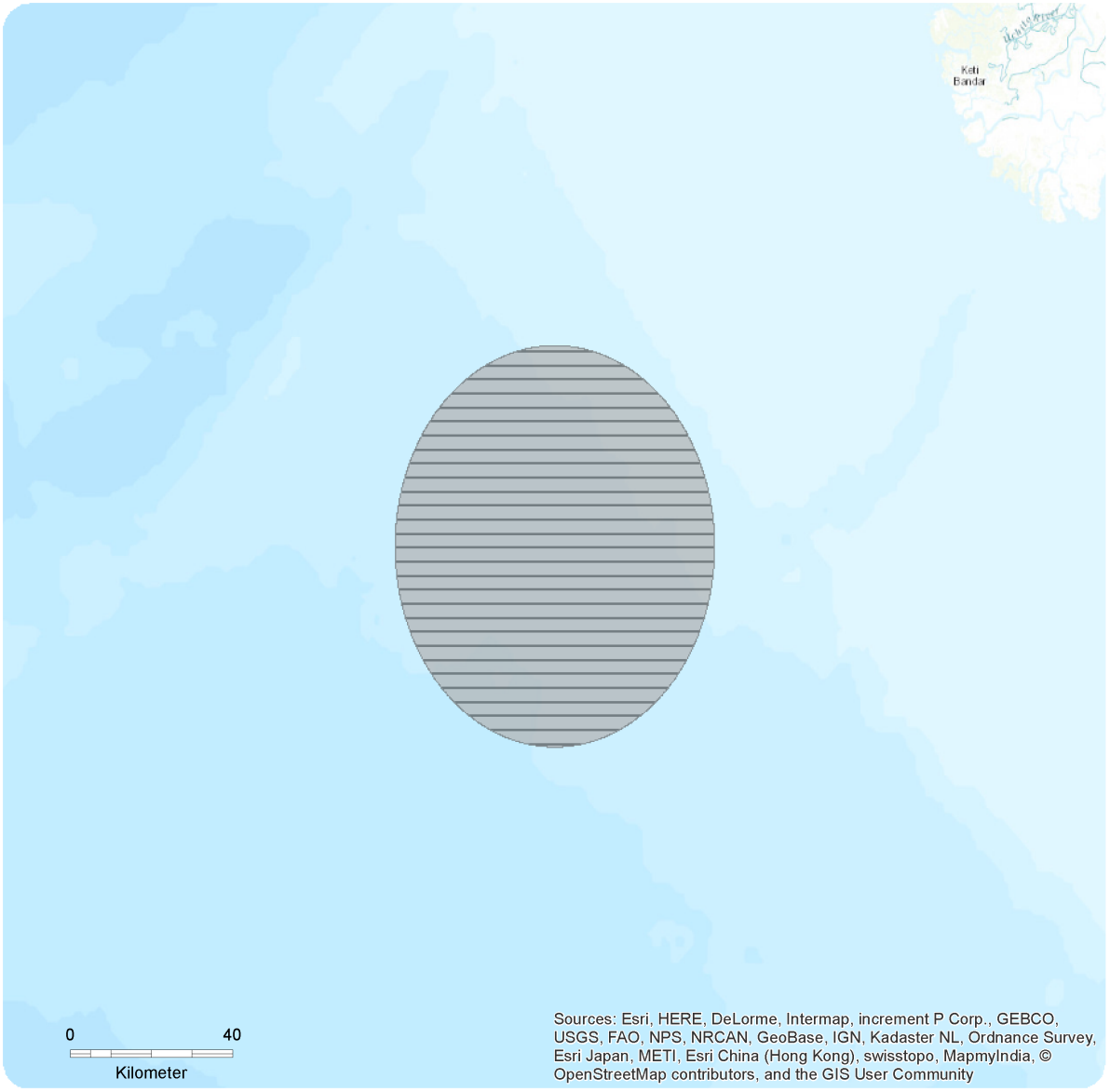
Distribution Map

Bythaelurus alcockii



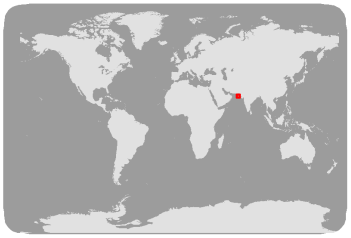
Range

Presence Uncertain & Origin Uncertain

Compiled by:

IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group

NE | DD DATA DEFICIENT | LC | NT | VU | EN | CR | EW | EX



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

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Population

Population size and trends are unknown for this species, but it appears to be rare; it is known only from the holotype. Further research is needed to determine taxonomic status, population size and trends in abundance.

Current Population Trend: Unknown

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

The only known specimen of the Arabian Catshark was caught on or near the bottom in water 1,134 to 1,262 m deep (Compagno 1984). The one specimen measured less than 30 cm total length (TL). Nothing else is known of its biology.

Systems: Marine

Use and Trade

No utilization or commercial trade of this species is currently known to exist.

Threats

There are no known threats to this species. Its known depth distribution is beyond the depth of current fishing pressure.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

There are currently no conservation actions in place that might benefit this species in the waters in which it occurs. Research is required on this species' biology, abundance and distribution to further assess status and any future conservation needs.

Credits

Assessor(s): White, W.T., Ebert, D.A., Grandcourt, E., Khan, M. & Akhilesh, K.V.

Reviewer(s): Jabado, R. & Kyne, P.M.

Facilitators(s) and Compiler(s): Jabado, R., Kyne, P.M.

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Compagno, L.J.V. 1984. *FAO Species Catalogue. Sharks of the World: an annotated and illustrated catalogue of the shark species known to date. Part 2 - Carcharhiniformes*. FAO Fisheries Synopsis No. 125, Vol. 4(2). FAO, Rome.

IUCN. 2017. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2017-2. Available at: www.iucnredlist.org. (Accessed: 14 September 2017).

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

Springer, S. 1979 A revision of the catsharks, family Scyliorhinidae. NOAA Technical Report. *National Marine Fisheries Service Circular* 422:1-152.

Citation

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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?
11. Marine Deep Benthic -> 11.1. Marine Deep Benthic - Continental Slope/Bathyl Zone (200-4,000m) -> 11.1.1. Hard Substrate	Resident	Suitable	Yes
11. Marine Deep Benthic -> 11.1. Marine Deep Benthic - Continental Slope/Bathyl Zone (200-4,000m) -> 11.1.2. Soft Substrate	Resident	Suitable	Yes

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: Unknown
Area based regional management plan: No
Invasive species control or prevention: Not Applicable
In-Place Species Management
Harvest management plan: No
Successfully reintroduced or introduced beningly: 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)

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Conservation Actions Needed
4. Education & awareness -> 4.2. Training
4. Education & awareness -> 4.3. Awareness & communications
5. Law & policy -> 5.2. Policies and regulations
5. Law & policy -> 5.4. Compliance and enforcement -> 5.4.2. National level

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

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Lower depth limit (m): 1262
Upper depth limit (m): 1134
Population
Continuing decline of mature individuals: Unknown
Extreme fluctuations: Unknown
Population severely fragmented: Unknown

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