



FACT SHEET

Leopard Catshark

Poroderma pantherinum

Family: Scyliorhinidae

Other common names: Blackspotted catshark, Luiperd-kathaai

Description

A small, elongate shark with a flattened head and a blunt snout. A single barbel projects downwards in front of each nostril and the dorsal fins are situated far back on the body. They exhibit three different spot patterns and the previously recognised blackspotted catshark (*Poroderma marleyi*) is now considered to be the same species.

Distribution

Endemic to South Africa, found from Saldanha Bay to the Thukela River but rare in KwaZulu-Natal waters.

Habitat

Confined to the continental shelf in warm-temperate waters, from the intertidal zone to depths of 250 m. Usually found on rocky reefs and in kelp forests and tend to be more active nocturnally.

Feeding

Feeds on small fishes, octopus, crustaceans and polychaete worms.

Movement

A resident species that shows limited movement.

Reproduction

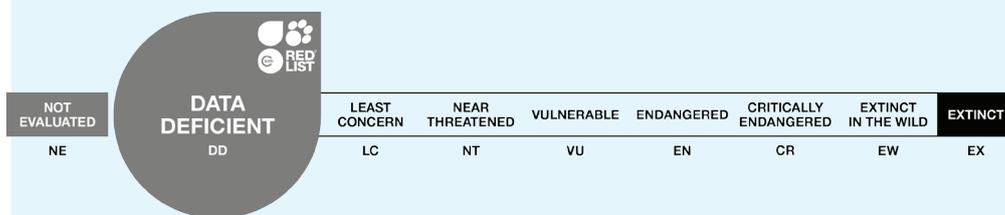
They reach maturity between 51-77 cm total length at an age of around 10 years. Peak reproductive activity occurs in autumn (March to May) and breeding mainly occurs in the southern part of their distribution based on the occurrence of egg cases. They are oviparous and produce two eggs (one egg per oviduct).

Age and growth

They can reach a maximum size of 84 cm total length and a weight of 3.4 kg. They have been aged to a maximum of 19 years.

Current status

The stock has not been assessed and little is known about their current status. They have been evaluated as Data Deficient on the IUCN Red List (2009).
South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List:
Not assessed.



Not Assessed

Capture

Commonly caught by shore anglers, but most often released. Sometimes regarded as a pest by recreational and commercial ski-boat fishers and killed. Also occasionally taken as bycatch by inshore trawlers.

Current recreational fishing regulations

Daily bag limit: 1 per person per day
Minimum size limit: None
Closed Season: None
Other regulations: No sale recreational species
Marine protected areas (MPAs): The resident behaviour of this species suggests that no-take MPAs in the Eastern and Western Cape will provide an important means of protection.

Reference

Information from the ORI Fish App. www.saambr.org.za



INCORPORATING

