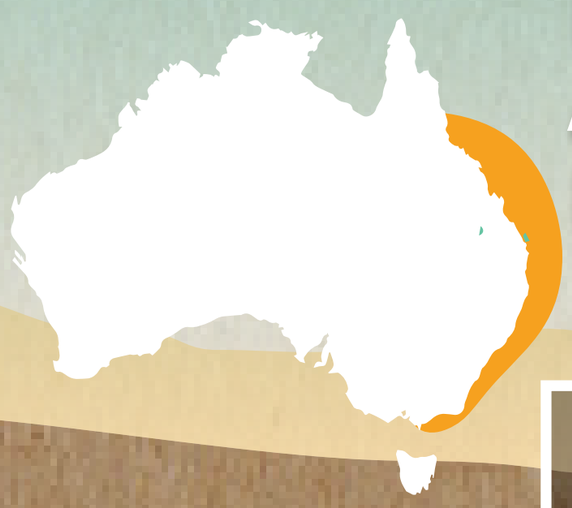
Eastern Angel Shark

THE AUSSIE ANGEL THAT NEEDS SAVING

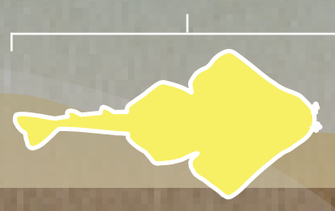
Eastern Angel Shark Distribution



Eastern Angel Shark Facts

These little sharks are found nowhere else in the world except in eastern Australia in the deep waters (35-415m) of the continental shelf.

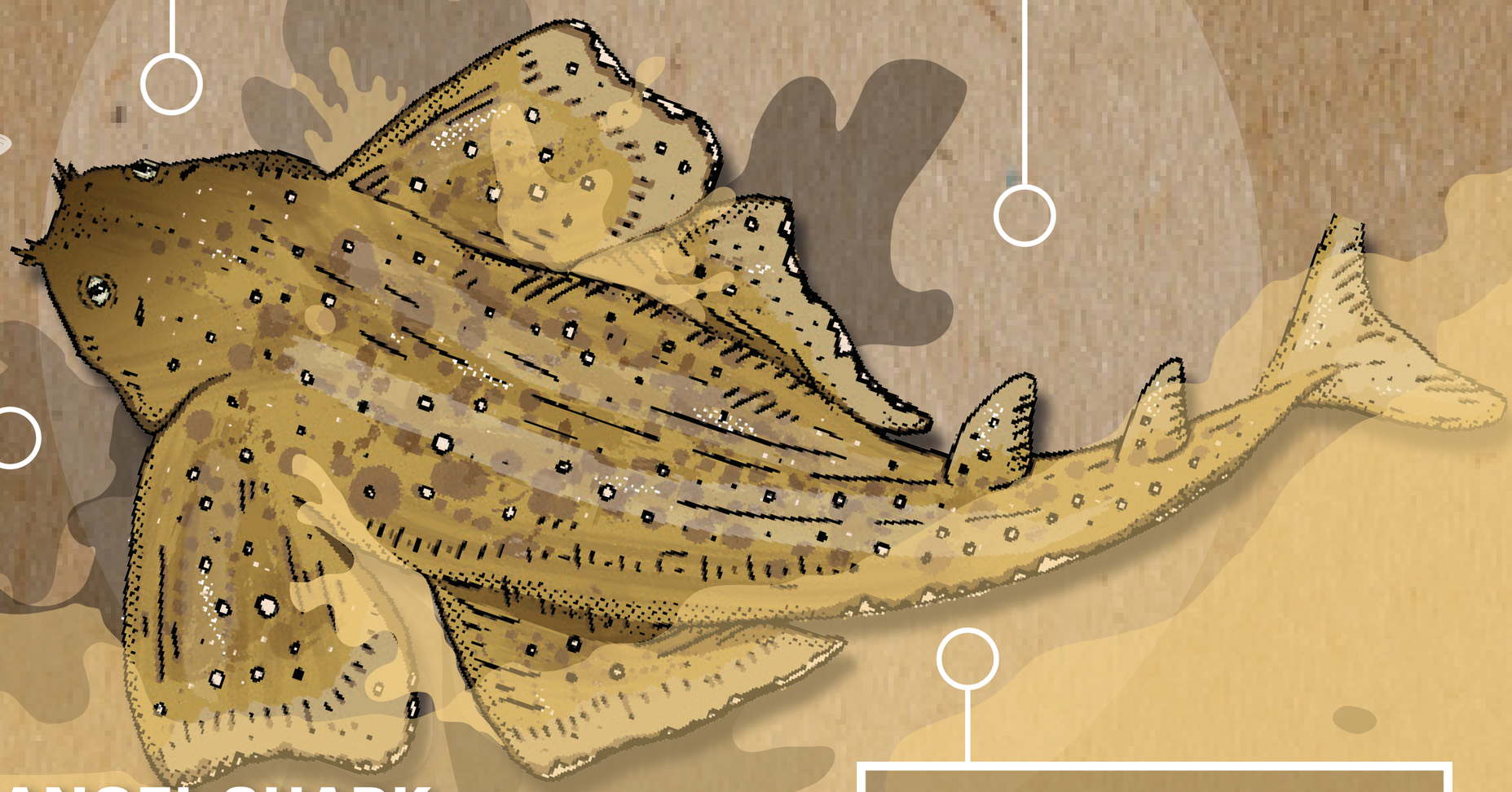
Max size of 130cm



The population has crashed by at least 30% in the last 69 years around south eastern Australia, where trawling is a major threat.

You might have mistakenly eaten one! Their meat is often mislabeled as 'boneless fillet' or 'monkfish'.

It buries itself in the sand to become 'invisible', waiting to ambush fish, crabs and other small prey that swim past.



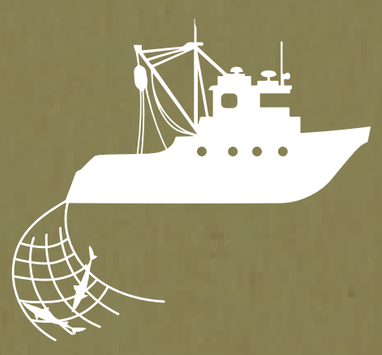
We know nothing about its reproduction. A similar species, the Pacific angel shark, gives birth to <20 after a pregnancy of 10 months.

EASTERN ANGEL SHARK

Squatina albipunctata

Vulnerable

Threats & Solutions



TRAWL FISHING: It lives mostly on and near the seafloor where it can be 'scooped' up. Eastern angel sharks killed by trawling are kept to sell their meat.

SOLUTION: Close off critical habitats to trawling to prevent their extinction.

NO LEGAL PROTECTION: There are no protections in place to stop it being fished or to help its population recover.

SOLUTION: Make it illegal to keep the shark and ensure trawl fisheries reduce the amount accidentally caught.

References:

1. Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. and Simpfendorfer, C.A. (2021). The Action Plan for Australian Sharks and Rays 2021. National Environmental Science Program, Marine Biodiversity Hub, Hobart.

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