

Greeneye Spurdog



Greeneye Spurdog Distribution

Greeneye Spurdog Facts

Is found nowhere else in the world except in the deep waters (216–1,360m) of southern Australia.

Max size of 99cm.



Estimated population decline of 50–75% in Australia. It is now rare in New South Wales, eastern Victoria and Tasmania.

Has a really long pregnancy of 2.5 to 3 years – one of the longest of all vertebrate animals!

Females give live birth to 4 to 15 pups.

Its green eye helps it see prey and other sharks in the near pitch-black depths.

In 2024, DNA from ‘flake’ at a fish and chip shop in Victoria was found to be a greeneye spurdog!

GREENEYE SPURDOG

Squalus chloroculus

Endangered



Threats & Solutions



TRAWL FISHING: It lives mostly on and near the seafloor where it can be ‘scooped’ up.

SOLUTION: Trawl closures from 700m deep are currently in place providing some protection, species is vulnerable at shallower depths. Protection under Australian nature laws needed.

References:
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2. Rochowski, B.E.A. et al. (2015) Reproductive biology of the greeneye spurdog *Squalus chloroculus* (Squaliformes, Squalidae). *Journal of Fish Biology* 86(2): 734–754.
3. Kielniasz, T.J.P., Stow, A.J., Armansin N.C. (2024) High levels of mislabelling of shark flesh in Australian fish markets and seafood shops. *Marine and Freshwater Research* 75.