

# 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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  - 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.
  - 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.

[marineconservation.org.au](http://marineconservation.org.au)



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