

# GREEK CHONDRICHTHYANS CHECKLIST







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## Definitions

**Bycatch:** The part of the catch that is unintentionally captured during a fishing operation in addition to the target species. It may refer to the catch of other commercial species that are landed, commercial species that cannot be landed (e.g. undersized, damaged individuals), non-commercial species as well as to the incidental catch of endangered, vulnerable or rare species (e.g. sea turtles, sharks, marine mammals).

**Catch:** The amount of marine biological resources that are caught by the fishing gear and reach the deck of the fishing vessel. This includes individuals of the target species, which are usually kept on board and retained, as well as bycatch, which refers to species with or without commercial value that are not targeted by the fishery.

**First maturity length:** First maturity length, defined as the length at which 50% of the population investigated is near to spawning.

**Generation length:** Generation length is the mean lapse of time between a female's date of birth and the mean date of birth of her offspring.

**Maximum length:** Size of longest individual recorded from a species, in sharks measured total length (TL) in batoids measured in total width (TW).

## Abbreviations

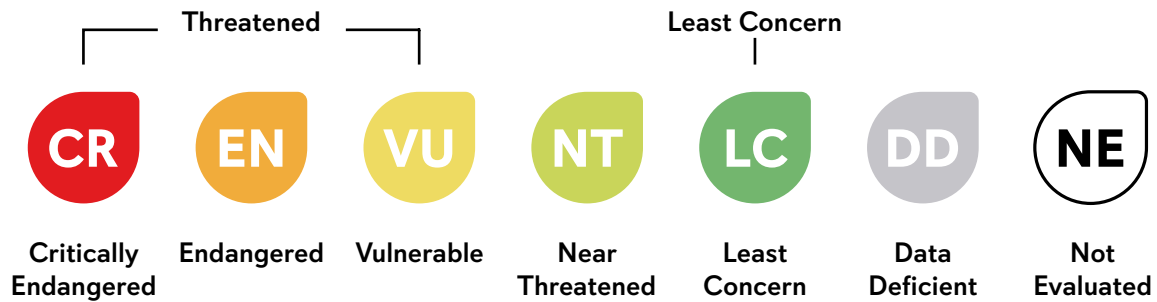
**AFSIS 3-alpha code:** The AFSIS 3-alpha code is a three-letter code used by FAO Statistics Team (NFISS) for species related to fisheries and agriculture, the same code is used to indicate the species in Fisheries sector in Greece.

**FAO:** Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations

**GSA:** Geographical Subarea



# Conservation status according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species



## Symbols



This symbol means that the species is under protection and therefore must be released alive, it cannot be attained on board, landed, transported, and sold in the market.

## Presence in the Greek seas



Rare



Occasional



Common



Abundant



Questionable  
Not Confirmed

**Rare:** Few records over a longer period of time (decades)

**Occasional:** Recorded every few years

**Common:** Few records recorded on a yearly basis

**Abundant:** Often recorded in catches (or seen) on a yearly basis

**Questionable / Not Confirmed:** Record needs confirmation



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# Introduction

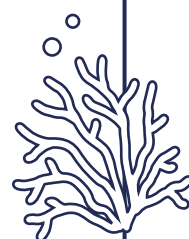
Chondrichthyans are a taxonomic group that contains about 1,296 species worldwide (Fricke et al. 2021). The chondrichthyans, belong to two subclasses, Holocephali (Chimaeras) and Elasmobranchii (sharks and batoids). These organisms have been living on earth for about 400 million years. In their majority, they are apex predators of marine ecosystems and are cornerstones of their structure and balance. The Mediterranean Sea, despite its small acreage, is one of the most important seas for chondrichthyans, as it is characterised by high biodiversity, with 88 species already recorded in total. Unfortunately, at the same time, it is probably the most dangerous area for chondrichthyans, as they are the most threatened fish group. Particularly, from the 73 species populations in the Mediterranean Sea which are assessed by the Red List of Threatened Species of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), a percentage of 53.4% has been classified as threatened and more than 1/3 as Data Deficient or Not Evaluated due to lack of relevant data (Dulvy et al., 2016).



## The project

According to the existing literature, the Greek seas are rich in chondrichthyans biodiversity, as at least 36 species of sharks, 30 species of batoids and 1 species of chimaera have confirmed presence. The Greek Red Book, published in 2009, includes 63 species of chondrichthyans of which 50 are listed as “Not Assessed”, while all the rest belong to one of the threatened categories. In recent years, considerable efforts have been made to study the ecology and biology of these species. However, knowledge of chondrichthyans in Greece is still limited. Hence, more effort is needed to collect data to support actions for their conservation.

As part of the project “Updating of the Greek National Chondrichthyans Checklist”, this book was produced by iSea in collaboration with the IUCN Species Survival Commission Shark Specialist Group Mediterranean Regional Group members and other Greek researchers to publish the new updated national list of Chondrichthyans. This text is technical and includes all the chondrichthyan species that have confirmed presence in the Hellenic seas.





## Methodology

We conducted a systematic literature review (up to September 2021), applying the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses approach (Page et al., 2020). We collected chondrichthyan records from peer-reviewed publications archived in Google Scholar using the keyword "Greece" plus the search terms "chondrichthyan(s)", "elasmobranch(s)", "shark(s)", "batoid(s)", "ray(s)", "skate(s)", "chimaera" and "rabbitfish" to identify items with relevant titles, keywords, or abstracts. We selected "anytime" for the publication date.

We furthermore searched for chondrichthyan records in:

- **Government reports and policy documents:** in particular, the GR EU Data Collection Framework (DCF) reports, published between 2005–2019 and available at the following webpage: <https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ars>; accessed on 1 June 2021). The grey literature was also explored through the online database HEAL-Link (Hellenic Academic Libraries Link; <https://www.heal-link.gr/en/home-2/>);).
- **Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF):** The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) is the largest open-access primary biodiversity database and contains over 1.5 billion species occurrence records.
- **Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS):** The Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS), a global open-access database on marine biodiversity for science, conservation, and sustainable development, is focused on marine species and contains more than 6.5 million records for 137,215 species.
- **The Mediterranean Elasmobranchs Citizen Observations (MECO) Project:** The MECO project was launched in 2014 in response to enthusiastic scuba divers uploading pictures of sharks and rays from their dives [33]. It aims to collate knowledge on chondrichthyan occurrence, seasonality, and distribution using citizen science and social media. The project involves the collaboration of local scientists, which gradually expanded operation to eleven countries and ten Facebook groups ([www.facebook.com/pg/theMECOproject](http://www.facebook.com/pg/theMECOproject); accessed on 1 May 2020). In MECO, participants report their sightings with photographic evidence. Scientific experts request further information, when needed, such as date, location, specimen length and weight, number of individuals observed, and depth of the observation (if applicable). The experts then check pictures for authenticity by using a Google automatic image recognition tool, and identify all original pictures to the lowest possible taxonomic level. Whenever possible, experts also record data such as maturity, gestation, and sex. Finally, there is also a two-way dialogue between citizen participants and scientific experts to retrieve historical records based on old pictures and social media posts.
- **ByElasmoCatch:** The ByElasmoCatch project was launched in 2019 by iSea to assess the impact of fisheries on elasmobranchs in the North Aegean and collect information on species biology and ecology. Observations, measurements, and samples are gathered during monthly visits to fishing vessels. The project is ongoing (2021) and is funded by Ocean Care.

• **MEDLEM:** The main aims of the MEDLEM programme are collecting information on bycatch, sighting, and stranding events throughout the Mediterranean and Black seas, following a common protocol, and recording their spatial occurrence. As an additional goal, MEDLEM stores scientific papers related to elasmobranchs as well as any reliable information from newspapers and social media. The MEDLEM programme directly links up with the FAO IPOA-Sharks and has been endorsed by the SAC Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE) of the GFCM, Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC).

Last the expert opinion was used of the researchers invited to participate in the preparation of the list. All researchers were asked to provide additional publications that contained original data regarding the presence of chondrichthyans in Greece that were not included in the database after the search in the abovementioned sources.

All publications were organised in a database including information regarding the species, the year of sighting, the location, and the year of publication and the link of the publication. Species names and families follow Eschmeyer's Catalog of Fishes (Fricke et al., 2020; Van Der Laan et al., 2020) and the Red List of Threatened Species of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

In total, 302 publications were included resulting in 1556 number of species observations.

The technical text provides information about; the full species name; the AFSIS 3 alpha code provided by FAO; the regional conservation status (Mediterranean Sea) according to the Red List of Threatened Species of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); the Greek Red Book (Legakis and Maragkou, 2009) conservation status\*; the protection status including regional legislations, national legislations, and European legislation. Furthermore the text provides information about the main threats faced by the species regionally according to the Red List of Threatened Species of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) regional assessments; the biology and the ecology of the species.

\* For the development of the Greek Red Book the assessment criteria 3.1 of the IUCN were used (IUCN 2001), and were adjusted in a regional/national level (IUCN 2003).

# Hexanchiformes

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## Hexanchidae



### HEXANCHIDAE

#### *Heptranchias perlo*, (HXT) Sharpnose Sevengill Shark



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in bottom trawls and longlines.

**Biology:** Yolk-sac viviparous species, with 9 to 20 pups in each litter. The first maturity length is estimated at 75-85 cm for males and 90-105 cm for females.

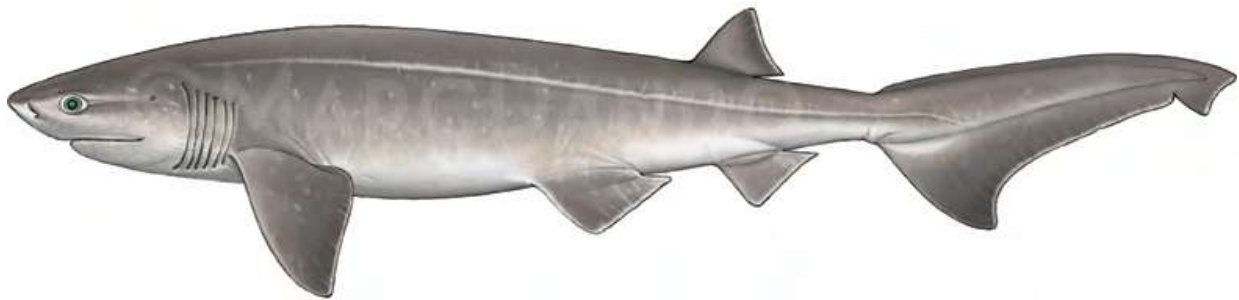
**Maximum Length:** 1.4 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Tropical and temperate waters, except for the North-Eastern Pacific.

**Habitat:** Benthic Oceanic Zone.

**Depth:** 1 - 1000 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on small sharks, skates, fish, shrimps, crabs, lobsters, squids and cuttlefish.



**HEXANCHIDAE**

***Hexanchus griseus*, (SBL) Bluntnose Sixgill Shark**



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in trawlers and longlines operating in the area of its distribution.

**Biology:** Yolk-sac viviparous species, with 22 to 108 in each litter, size at birth 60-75 cm. The first maturity length is estimated at 309-330 cm for males and 350-420 cm for females. The generation length is estimated at 53 years.

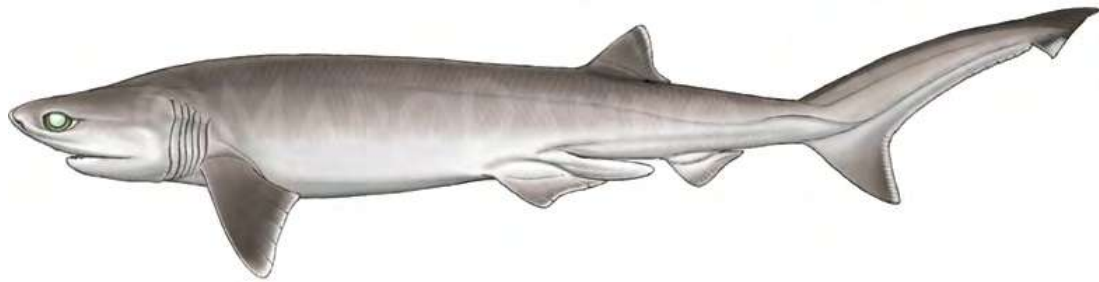
**Maximum Length:** 5 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Temperate and tropical waters.

**Habitat:** Oceanic and Marine Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 1 - 2500 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on a wide range of marine organisms including other sharks, fish, squids, crabs, shrimps and even seals.



## HEXANCHIDAE

### *Hexanchus nakamourai*, (HXN) Bigeyed Sixgill Shark



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in trawlers and longlines operating in the area of its spread.

**Biology:** Yolk-sac viviparous species, with up to 13 pups in a litter, Size at birth ~40 cm. The first maturity length is estimated at 123-157 cm for males and 142 cm for females. The generation length is estimated at 53 years.

**Maximum Length:** 1.8 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Temperate and tropical waters.

**Habitat:** Benthic Oceanic Zone.

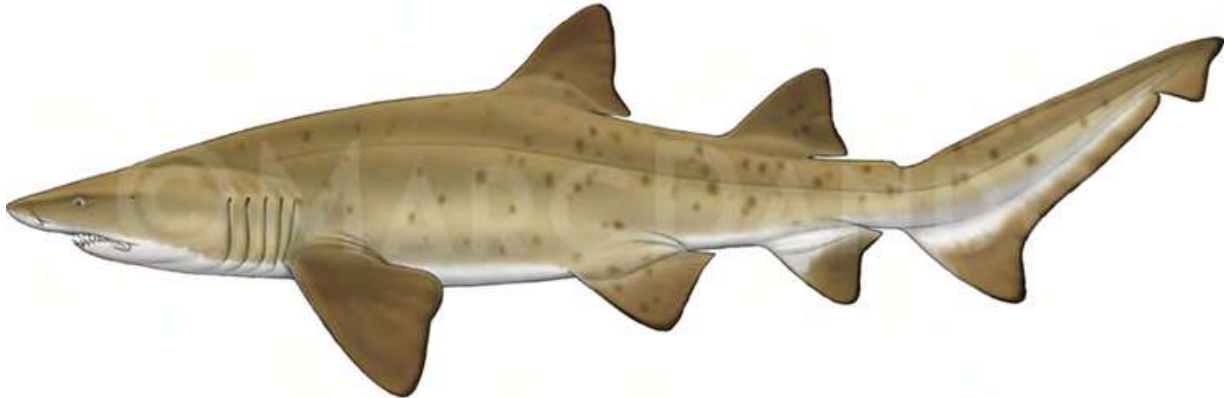
**Depth:** 1 - 2500 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on a wide range of marine organisms including other sharks, fish, squids, crabs, shrimps and even seals.





## Carchariidae



### CARCHARIIDAE

### *Carcharias taurus*, (CCT) Sand Tiger Shark



**Main Threats:** Bycatch.

**Biology:** Oophagous species (aplacental viviparity), with embryos feeding on other ova produced by the mother (oophagy) after the yolk sac is absorbed, then cannibalize siblings (adelphophagy). Only two pups out of 16 to 23 fertilised eggs make it to birth. Size at birth ~100 cm. The gestation period lasts from 8 to 9 months. The first maturity length is estimated at 190-195 cm for males and 220-230 cm for females. The generation length is estimated at 12 months.

**Maximum Length:** 3.2 m.

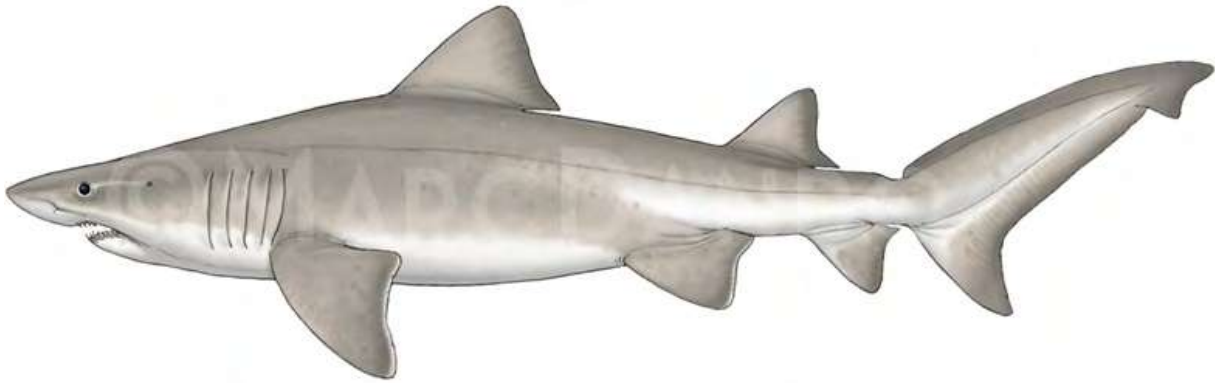
**Geographical Distribution:** Cosmopolitan species, mainly in temperate and tropical waters.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 1 - 191 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on crustaceans, cephalopods, fish, skates and smaller sharks.

## Odontaspidae



### ODONTASPIDIDAE

#### *Odontaspis ferox*, (LOO) Smalltooth Sand Tiger



**Main Threats:** Often taken as bycatch in various gears. This shark may be sensitive to human interference, including coastal development and directed fisheries, particularly in inshore areas used for reproduction.

**Biology:** Oophagous species (aplacental viviparity), with embryos feeding on other ova produced by the mother (oophagy) after the yolk sac is absorbed. Gives birth to two pups, at 103 cm or larger. The first maturity length is estimated at 200-250 cm for males and 300-350 cm for females. The generation length is estimated at 12 months.

**Maximum Length:** 4.5 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Cosmopolitan species.

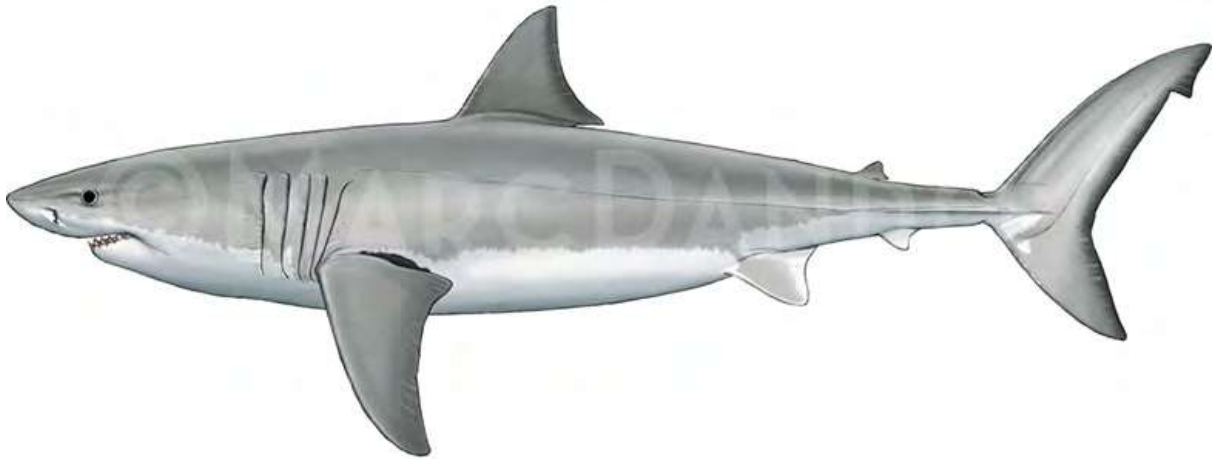
**Habitat:** Oceanic and Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 10 - 2000 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish, crustaceans and molluscs.



## Lamnidae



### LAMNIDAE

### *Carcharodon carcharias*, (GWS) Great White Shark



**Main Threats:** Taken as bycatch in pelagic longlines, trawls and purse seines.

**Biology:** Oophagous species (aplacental viviparity), with embryos feeding on other ova produced by the mother (oophagy) after the yolk sac is absorbed. Gives birth to up to 14 pups, ranging from 120 to 150 cm. The first maturity length is estimated at 360-400 cm for males and 450-500 cm for females. The generation length is yet unknown, but it's suspected to be 2 years.

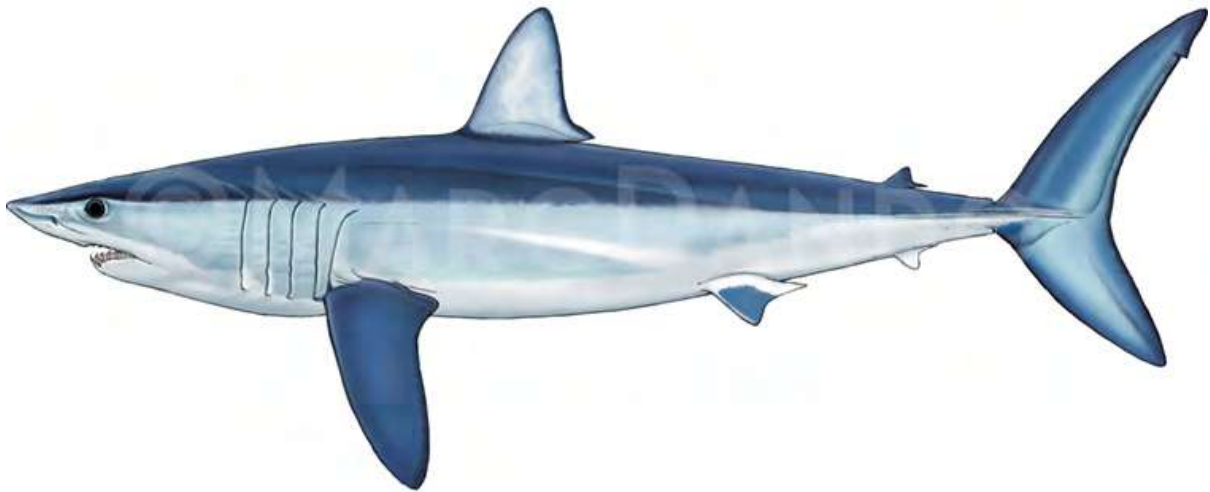
**Maximum Length:** 6.5 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Cosmopolitan species in temperate and tropical waters.

**Habitat:** Oceanic and Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 0 - 1280 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish, sharks, skates, marine mammals and birds, cephalopods, crustaceans, as well as carcasses.



## LAMNIDAE

### *Isurus oxyrinchus*, (SMA) Shortfin Mako



**Main Threats:** Often taken as bycatch in longlines targeting pelagic fish such as tuna.

**Biology:** Oophagous species (aplacental viviparity), with embryos feeding on other ova, after the yolk sac is absorbed. Litter consists of 4 to 18 pups, ranging from 60-70 cm. The gestation period last for 15-18 months, with a three-year reproductive cycle. The first maturity length is estimated at 203-215 cm for males and 275-293 cm for females. The generation length is estimated at 25 years.

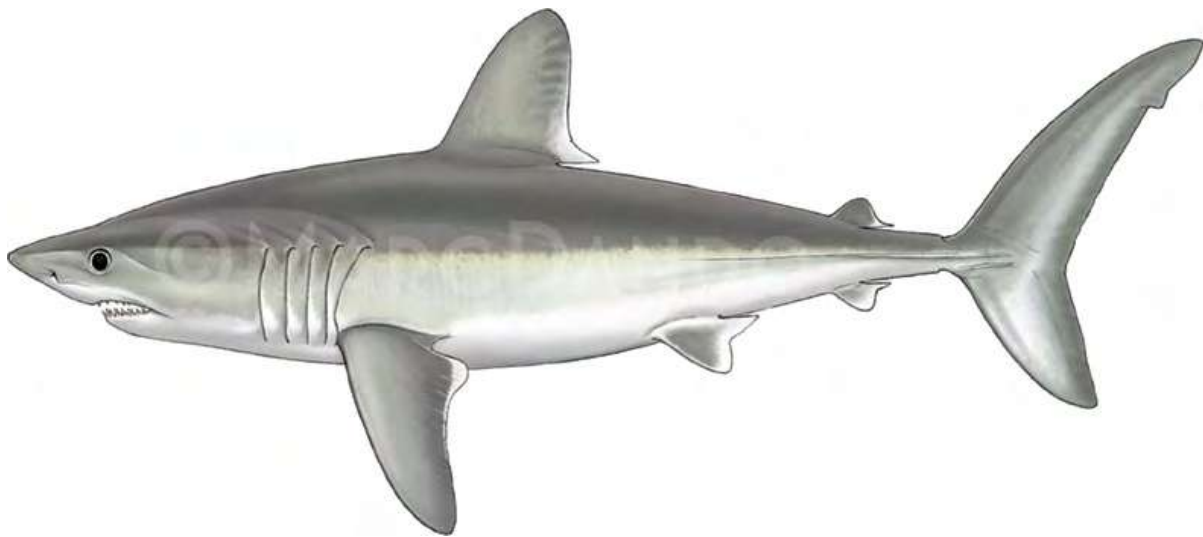
**Maximum Length:** 4.5 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Temperate and tropical waters.

**Habitat:** Oceanic Zone.

**Depth:** 0 - 750 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on cephalopods, fish, other sharks and small marine mammals.



**LAMNIDAE**

***Lamna nasus*, (POR) Porbeagle**



**Main Threats:** Often taken as bycatch in pelagic gears (i.e. Longlines)

**Biology:** Oophagous species (aplacental viviparity), with embryos feeding on other ova, after the yolk sac is absorbed. Litter consists of 1 to 5 pups, ranging from 70-80 cm. The gestation period last for 8-9 months. The first maturity length is estimated at 166 cm for males and 208 cm for females. The generation length is estimated at 25 years.

**Maximum Length:** 3.5 m.

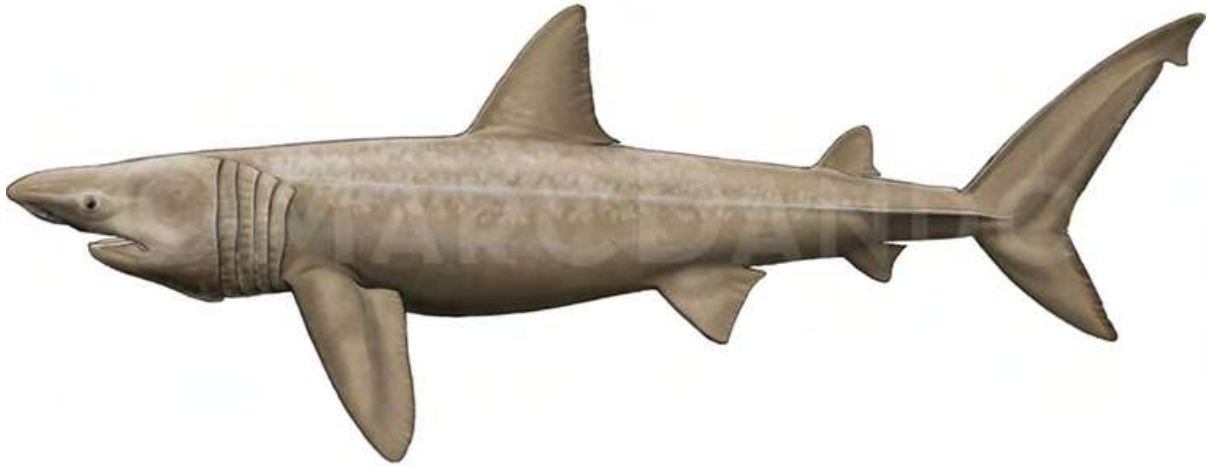
**Geographical Distribution:** At varying temperatures with main points in the North Atlantic and temperate waters of the Southern Hemisphere, except for the waters of Ecuador.

**Habitat:** Oceanic and Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 0 - 715 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on small and medium-sized pelagic fish species.

## Cetorhinidae



### CETORHINIDAE

#### *Cetorhinus maximus*, (BSK) Basking Shark



**Main Threats:** Bycatch.

**Biology:** Oophagous species (aplacental viviparity), with embryos feeding on other ova, after the yolk sac is absorbed. Litter consists of pups, ranging from 150-200 cm. The gestation period ranges from 1 to 3 years and the reproduction cycle ranges from 2 to 4 years. The first maturity length is estimated at 5-7 m for males and 8.1-9.8 m for females. The generation length is estimated at 12-36 months.

**Maximum Length:** 10 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Cosmopolitan species, often in northern and temperate waters.

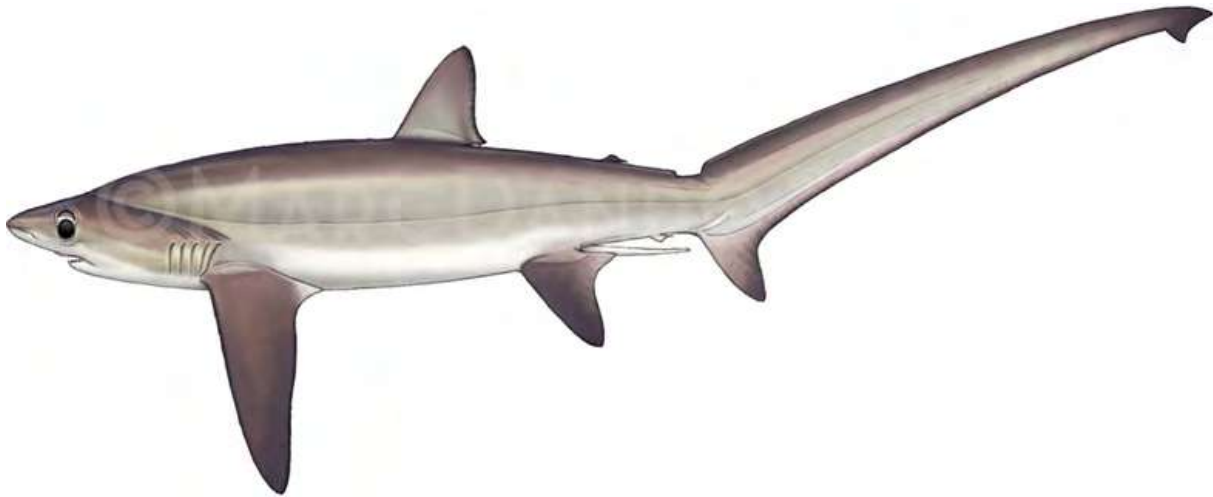
**Habitat:** Oceanic Zone.

**Depth:** 0 - 2000 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on phytoplankton and zooplankton.



## **Alopiidae**



### **ALOPIIDAE**

#### ***Alopias superciliosus*, (BTH) Bigeye Thresher**



**Main Threats:** Taken as bycatch mainly in nets.

**Biology:** Oophagous species (aplacental viviparity), with embryos feeding on other ova, after the yolk sac is absorbed. Litter consists of 2- 4 pups, ranging from 64 -140 cm. The gestation period lasts 12 months. The first maturity length is estimated at 159.74 cm for males and 206.09 cm for females. The generation length is estimated at 8-14 years.

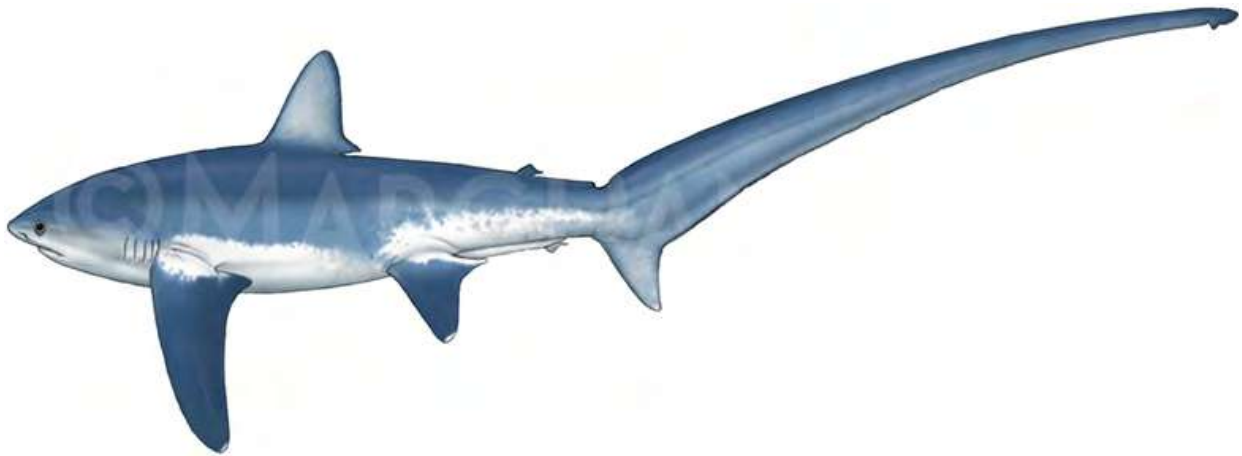
**Maximum Length:** 4.8 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Tropical and subtropical regions.

**Habitat:** Oceanic Zone.

**Depth:** 0 - 723 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on pelagic and benthic fish.



## ALOPIIDAE

### *Alopias vulpinus*, (ALV) Common Thresher



**Main Threats:** Caught as bycatch mainly in nets but also in longlines targeting tuna, drifting nets, and gill nets.

**Biology:** Oophagous species (aplacental viviparity), with embryos feeding on other ova, after the yolk sac is absorbed. Litter consists of 2-7 pups, ranging from 100-158 cm. The gestation period lasts 9 months. Its reproductive period varies from region to region, whilst in the Mediterranean Sea it's observed during mid to late summer months. The first maturity length is estimated at 260-426.7 cm for males and 260-465 cm for females. The generation length is estimated at 15 years.

**Maximum Length:** 6 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Cosmopolitan species, Mediterranean and Black Sea.

**Habitat:** Oceanic and Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 0 - 366 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish, squid, octopuses, pelagic crustaceans and sometimes seabirds.





## Pentanchidae



### PENTANCHIDAE

#### *Galeus melastomus*, (SHO) Blackmouth Catshark



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in trawlers and longlines operating in the area of its spread.

**Biology:** Oviparous species and each litter contains 2-8 capsules; there is no specific breeding season, however eggs hatch from the capsules mainly during spring and summer. Annually, female individuals produce 40 to 93 capsules. The first maturity length is estimated at 34-45 cm for males and 38-51 cm for females. The generation length is estimated at 5.7 years.

**Maximum Length:** 90 cm.

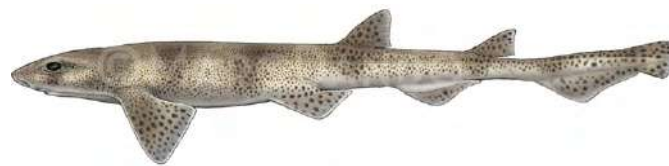
**Geographical Distribution:** North-East Atlantic, Mediterranean Sea.

**Habitat:** Benthic Zone.

**Depth:** 55 - 1873 m.

**Diet:** Benthic invertebrates, shrimps, cephalopods, fish and small elasmobranchs.

## Scyliorhinidae



### SCYLIORHINIDAE

#### *Scyliorhinus canicula*, (SYC) Smallspotted Catshark



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in benthic gears, mainly in bottom trawls, but often in nets and longlines. In Greece, it is a commercial species that very often ends up in fish markets and restaurants.

**Biology:** Oviparous species and each litter contains between 2-8 capsules; there is no specific breeding season and egg deposition is observed throughout the year. Annually, female individuals produce 40 to 240 capsules. Gestation lasts 8 to 9 months on average. Hatchlings have a total length of 7-11 cm. The first maturity length is estimated at 30-44 cm for males and 35-47 cm for females. The generation length is estimated at 8 to 9 months.

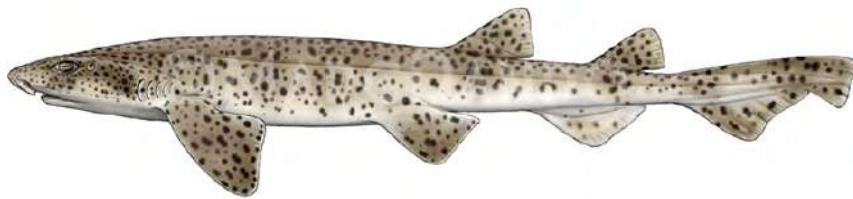
**Maximum Length:** 100 cm.

**Geographical Distribution:** North-East and Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 10 - 780 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on small fish, polychaetes, molluscs, crustaceans and cephalopods.



**SCYLORHINIDAE**

***Scyliorhinus stellaris*, (SYT) Nursehound**



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in benthic gears, mainly in bottom trawls, but often in nets and longlines. In Greece, it is a commercial species that very often ends up in fish markets and restaurants.

**Biology:** Oviparous species species that give birth to capsules between 10-13 cm. The gestation of eggs lasts up to nine months and the size of hatchlings is between 10-16 cm. The first maturity length for males is 77 cm, while for females is 79 cm. The generation length is estimated at 15-20 years, according to other species of the same genus.

**Maximum Length:** 1.7 m.

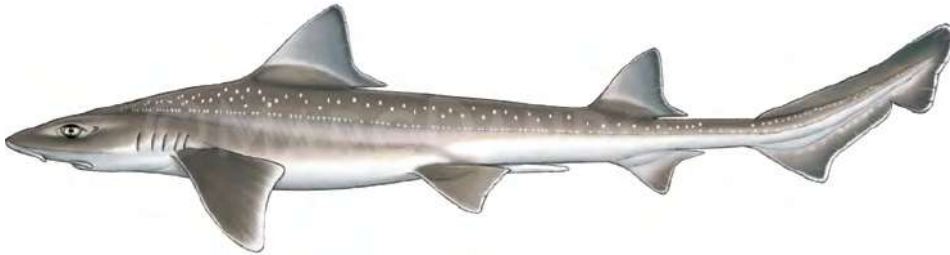
**Geographical Distribution:** North-East and Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 1 - 400 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on benthic fish and invertebrates such as molluscs and crustaceans.

## Triakidae



### TRIAKIDAE

#### *Mustelus asterias*, (SDS) Starry Smoothhound



**Main Threats:** Bycatch and targeted fishing by trawls, trammel nets, gill nets and longlines.

**Biology:** Yolk-sac viviparous species; each birth can yield from 4 to 18 pups, with approximate size from 30 to 38.1 cm. It has a two-year reproductive cycle and the pregnancy lasts about 12 months. The first maturity length for males is 75-85 cm, whilst for females it is 85-96 cm. The generation length is estimated at 13 years.

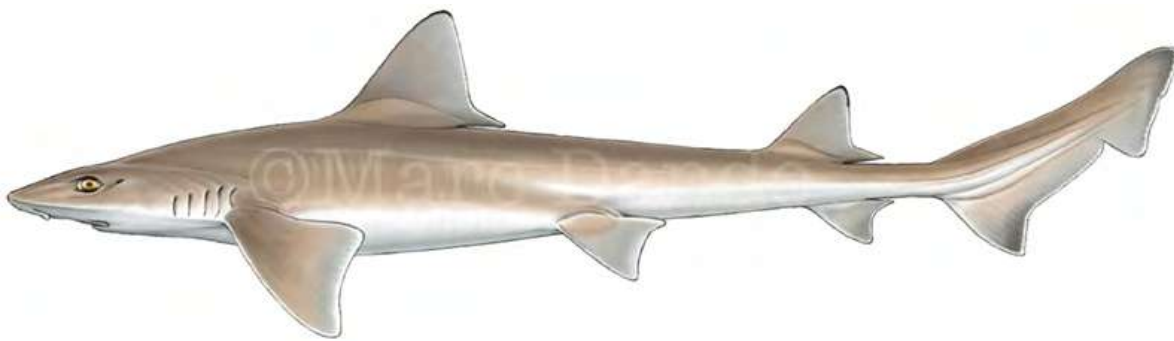
**Maximum Length:** 1.4 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** North-East Atlantic to Mauritania, including Mediterranean.

**Habitat:** Oceanic and Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 0 - 350 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on crustaceans and molluscs.



**TRIAKIDAE**

***Mustelus mustelus*, (SMD) Common Smoothhound**



**Main Threats:** Bycatch and targeted fishing by trawls, trammel nets, gill nets and longlines.

**Biology:** Yolk-sac viviparous species; each birth can yield from 4 to 21 pups, with approximate size from 34 to 42 cm. It has a one-year reproductive cycle and the pregnancy lasts about 9-11 months. The first maturity length for males is 97 cm, whilst for females is 117 cm. The generation length is estimated at 18 years.

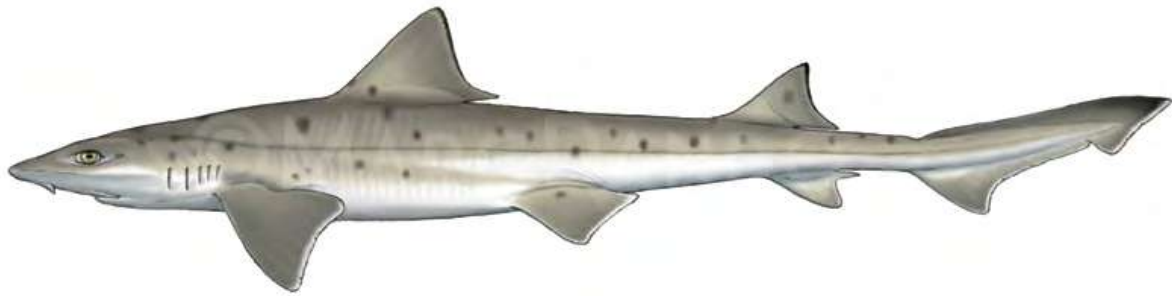
**Maximum Length:** 2 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** North-east and south-east Atlantic Ocean, West Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and Black Sea.

**Habitat:** Oceanic and Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 5 - 624 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on crustaceans, cephalopods and fish.



## TRIAKIDAE

### *Mustelus punctulatus*, (MPT) Blackspotted Smoothhound



**Main Threats:** Bycatch and targeted fishing by trawls, trammel nets, gill nets and longlines.

**Biology:**Yolk-sac viviparous species; each birth can yield from 9 to 35 pups, with approximate size ranging from 24 to 31 cm. It has a one-year reproductive cycle. Mating occurs from late May to June. Ovulation occurs from early July to mid-August with childbirth occurring from mid-May to early June, after an 11-month gestation period. The first maturity length is estimated at 76.0-88.5 cm for males and 88.0-100.0 cm for females. The generation length is estimated at 17.8 years.

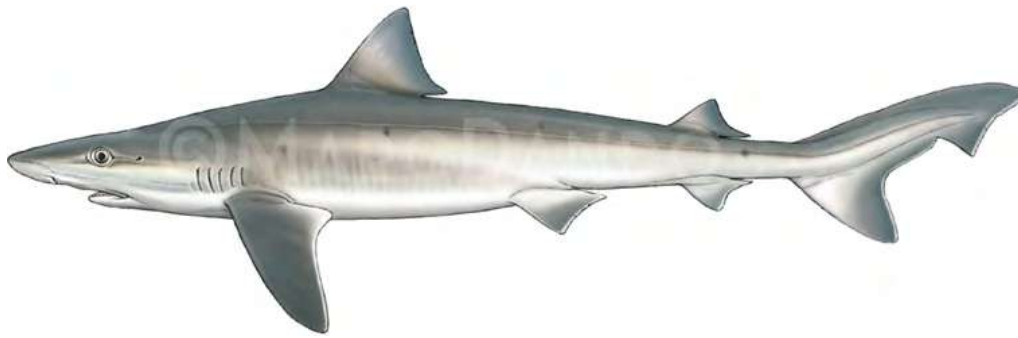
**Maximum Length:** 1.9 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 0 - 300 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on crustaceans, molluscs and small fish.



**TRIAKIDAE**

***Galeorhinus galeus*, (GAG) Tope**



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in recreational fishing methods, bottom nets, longlines and drifting longlines. Intensification of fisheries and habitat degradation must be considered as possible reasons for its declining population.

**Biology:** Yolk-sac viviparous species with an average of 20-35 pups per litter; gestation period lasts about 12 months and the length at birth varies from 26 to 40 cm, depending on the region. The first maturity length also varies from region to region, but in the Mediterranean and Europe has been calculated 155 cm for females and 121 cm for males. The generation length is estimated at 12 months.

**Maximum Length:** 1.6 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Global in temperate seas, Mediterranean and Black Sea.

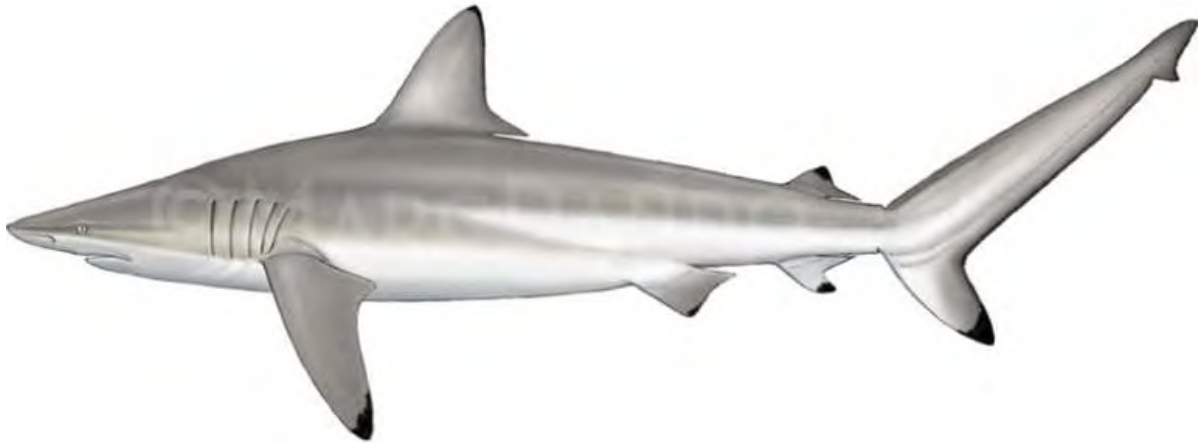
**Habitat:** Neritic and Oceanic Zone.

**Depth:** 0 - 400 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish (pelagic and benthic), crustaceans, cephalopods, echinoderms and polychaetas.

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## Carcharhinidae



### CARCHARHINIDAE

#### *Carcharhinus brevipinna*, (CCB) Sharpnose Spinner Shark



**Main Threats:** Bycatch and targeted fishing in industrial, small-scale, and recreational fisheries using various gears, including trawls, longlines and gill nets.

**Biology:** Placental viviparous species; each birth can yield from 3 to 20 pups, with approximate size from 60 to 80 cm. The first maturity length for males is approximately 130 cm, whilst for females is 150 - 155 cm. The generation length is estimated at 12.6 years.

**Maximum Length:** 2.8 m.

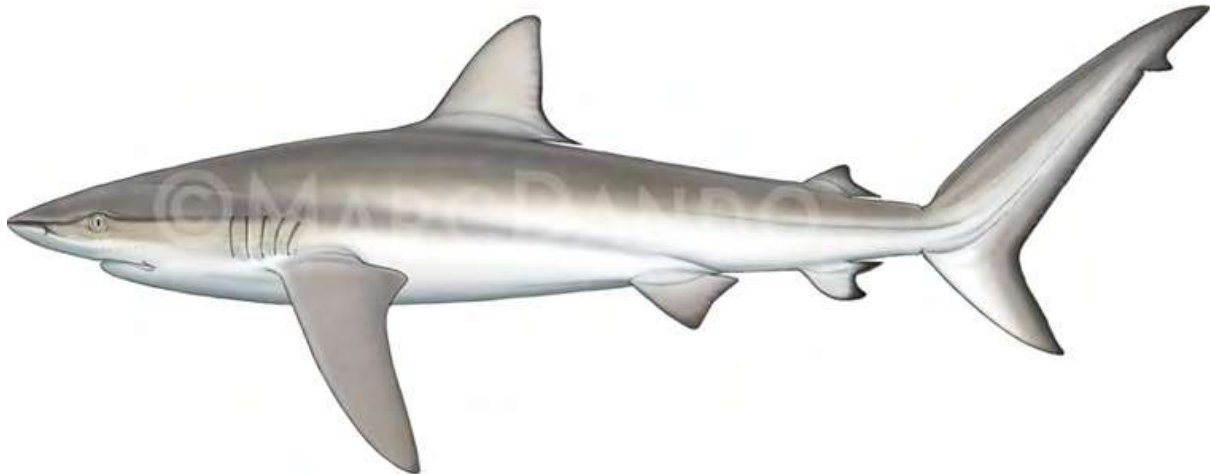
**Geographical Distribution:** Coastal and temperate areas.

**Habitat:** Oceanic and Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 1 - 100 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish, molluscs and smaller sharks.





**CARCHARHINIDAE**

***Carcharhinus obscurus*, (DUS), Dusky Shark**



**Main Threats:** Commercial fisheries are likely to be the main threat. This species is caught sporadically in longline, setline, gillnet and less often in surface longlines, with recreational gears and possibly trawlers in the central Mediterranean.

**Biology:** Placental viviparous species; each birth can yield from 3 to 16 pups, with approximate size ranging from 70 to 100 cm. The first maturity length for males is 270 cm (FL), whilst for females is 214 cm (FL). Its reproductive cycle is estimated at three years, as the pregnancy lasts up to 22 months and the cessation time at 12 months. The generation length is estimated at 36 years.

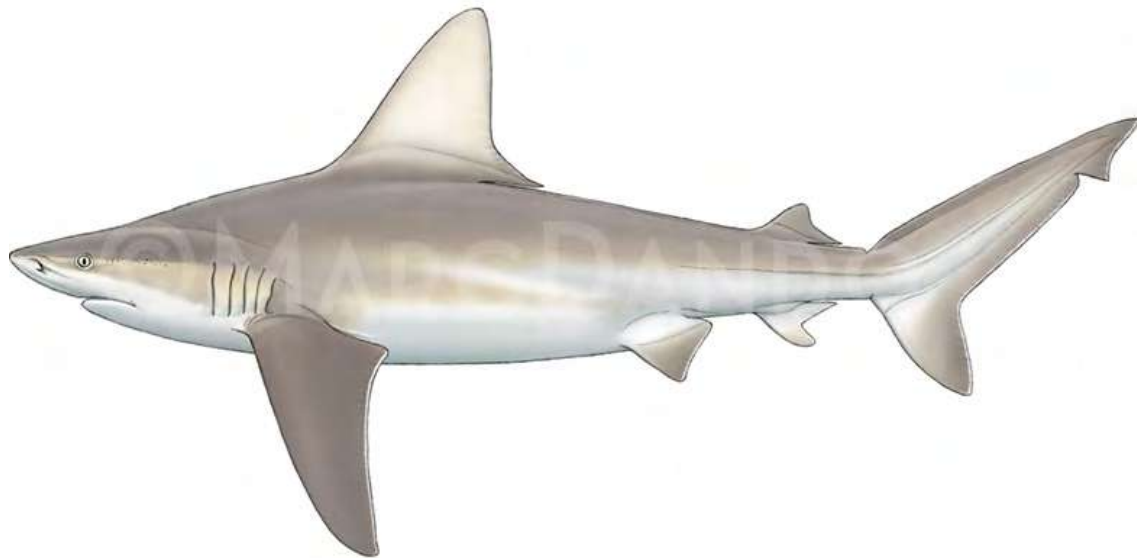
**Maximum Length:** 4.2 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Global.

**Habitat:** Oceanic and Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 0 - 400 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish, molluscs and crustaceans.



## CARCHARHINIDAE

### *Carcharhinus plumbeus*, (CCP) Sandbar Shark



**Main Threats:** Main threat for the species is fishing pressure as it's often caught as bycatch to various gears both active and passive. Moreover, it's often caught by recreational fishers with rods and lines. Habitat degradation in coastal areas should also be listed in the main threats for the species, as coastal areas are where parturition takes place.

**Biology:** Placental viviparous species with an average of 4-10 pups per litter; gestation period lasts about 12 months and the length at birth varies from 45 to 65 cm. Parturition in the Western Mediterranean Sea is observed during late spring to early summer, and its reproductive cycle is biannual. The first maturity length has been calculated at 166-172 cm for females and 154.5-160 cm for males. The generation length is estimated at 23 years.

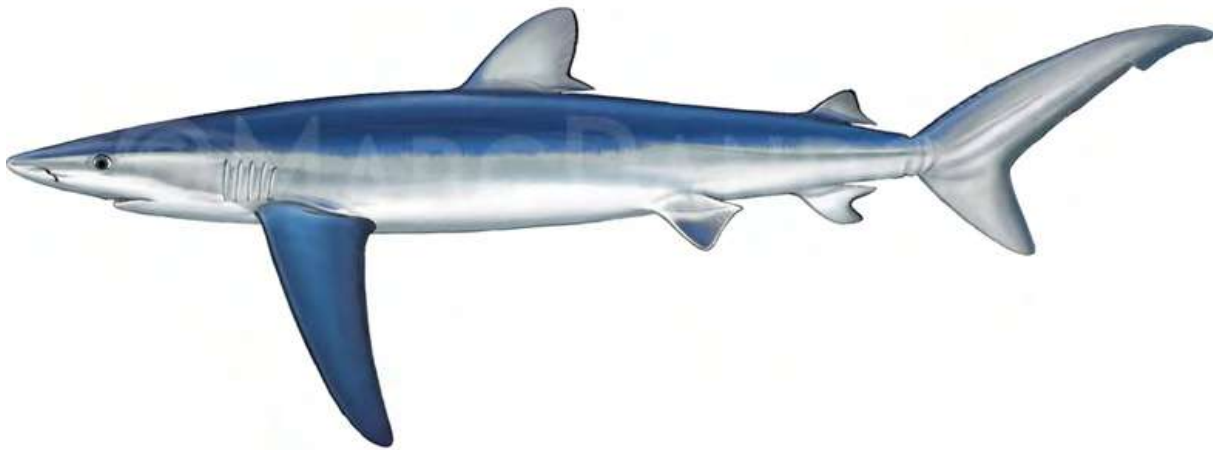
**Maximum Length:** 3 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Cosmopolitan species in temperate and tropical waters.

**Habitat:** Oceanic and Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 0 - 280 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on crustaceans, cephalopods, fish and smaller sharks.



**CARCHARHINIDAE**

***Prionace glauca*, (BSH) Blue Shark**



**Main Threats:** The main threat to the species is the bycatch by pelagic longlines.

**Biology:** Placental viviparous species with an average of 35 pups per litter; gestation period lasts up to 12 months and the length at birth varies from 35 to 50 cm. The species has been shown to have seasonality in its reproduction in spring and summer in some areas. The first maturity length has been calculated at up to 218 cm for males and from 221 cm for females. The generation length is estimated at 10 years.

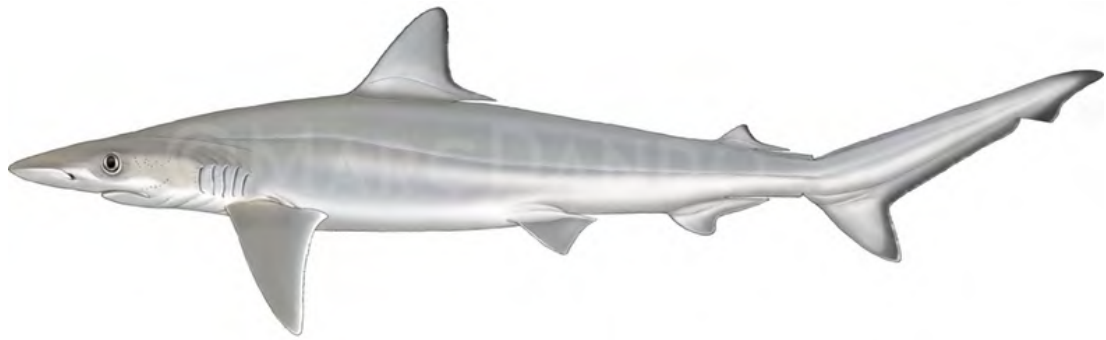
**Maximum Length:** 4 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Cosmopolitan species, prefers temperate and tropical waters.

**Habitat:** Oceanic and Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 1 - 1000 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish, cephalopods, crustaceans, carcasses from marine mammals and seabirds.



## CARCHARHINIDAE

### *Rhizoprionodon acutus*, (RHA) Milk Shark



**Main Threats:** Globally, the species is threatened by fisheries, as it gets caught by multiple gears. In the Mediterranean Sea, due to its scarcity and lack of data, no specific threats can be attributed.

**Biology:** Placental viviparous species with 1-8 pups per litter, ranging from 25 to 45 cm. First maturity length has been calculated from 54-82 cm for males and 62-92 cm for females. The generation length is estimated from 5-7.5 years. The aforementioned biological traits are global since no representative data are available in the Mediterranean Sea.

**Maximum Length:** 1.75 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** NE. Atlantic Ocean, Eastern & Central Indian Ocean, NW Pacific Ocean.

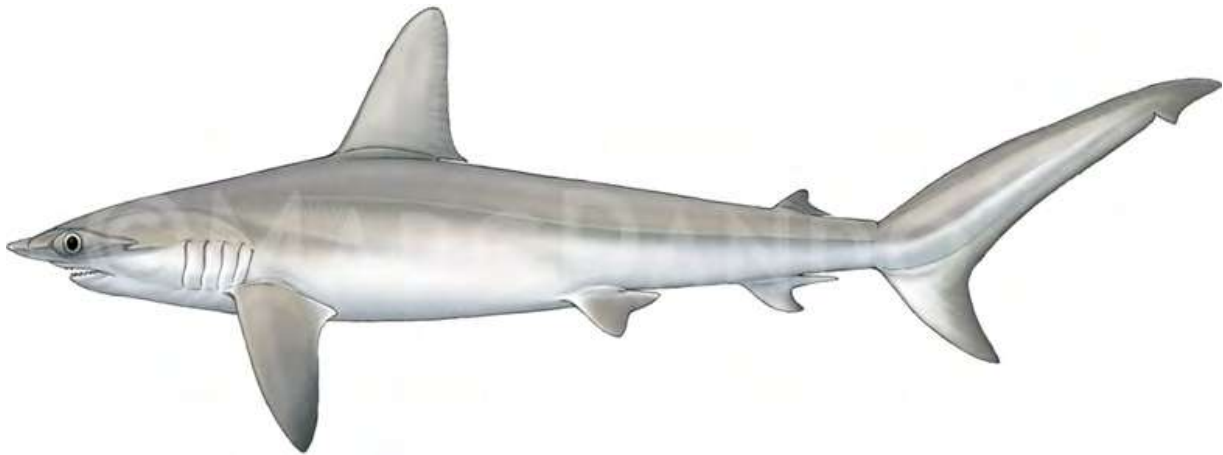
**Habitat:** Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 1 - 200 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on small pelagic and benthic fish, cephalopods and other invertebrates.



## Sphyrnidae



### SPHYRNIDAE

#### *Sphyrna zygaena*, (SPZ) Smooth Hammerhead



**Main Threats:** The main threat to the species is the bycatch and targeted fishing in a range of passive and dynamic gears at the Mediterranean level. From the available fishing data throughout the Mediterranean, there has been a great reduction in the kilos caught, a fact indicative of the reduction of its population.

**Biology:** Placental viviparous species, but its biology, despite its extensive distribution, is mainly unknown. The gestation period lasts from 11 to 12 months, with each litter yield from 20 to 50 pups, ranging from 50 to 60 cm. The generation length is estimated at 22 years.

**Maximum Length:** 5 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Tropical and temperate waters.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone and Brackish Waters.

**Depth:** 0 - 200 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on skates, fish, shrimps, crabs and cephalopods.

# Squaliformes

## Dalatiidae



### DALATIIDAE

#### *Dalatias licha*, (SCK) Kitefin Shark



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in benthic gears such as trawlers and gillnets.

**Biology:** Yolk-sac viviparous species with 3-16 pups in litter at 30 cm. No seasonality is observed in parturition, with summer and autumn to seem more favourable by the species. First maturity length has been calculated from 77-121 cm for males and 117-159 cm for females. The generation length is estimated to be at 30 years.

**Maximum Length:** 1.8 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean and Black Sea.

**Habitat:** Oceanic Zone, Deep Benthic Zone.

**Depth:** 37 - 1800 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on benthic fish, other sharks, skates, cephalopods and crustaceans.



## Etmopteridae



### ETMOPTERIDAE

#### *Etmopterus spinax*, (ETX) Velvet Belly Lanternshark



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in benthic gears such as trawlers.

**Biology:** Yolk-sac viviparous species with 6-20 pups in a litter (~7 on av). The reproductive cycle is 2-3 years. First maturity length has been calculated from 35 cm for males and 38-40 cm for females. The generation length is estimated to be at 30 years.

**Maximum Length:** 60 cm.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean and Black Sea.

**Habitat:** Oceanic Zone.

**Depth:** 300 - 2490 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on smaller fish, squid and crustaceans.

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## Somniosidae



### SOMNIOSIDAE

#### *Centroscymnus coelolepis*, (CYO) Portuguese Dogfish



**Main Threats:** There are very limited data to pinpoint the threats the species is facing in the Mediterranean Sea.

**Biology:** Yolk-sac viviparous species, number of pups from 8 to 21 in a litter. The first maturity length has been calculated from 86 cm for males and 102 cm for females. The generation length is estimated at 37.5 years.

**Maximum Length:** 1.2 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** B.A. & A. Atlantic Ocean and Western Mediterranean Sea and Cretan Sea.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 400 - 2700 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish.





**SOMNIOSIDAE**

***Somniosus rostratus*, (SOR), Little Sleeper Shark**



**Main Threats:** Taken as bycatch in benthic gears, such as bottom trawls targeting shrimps and prawns. More recently it has been recorded as bycatch in longlines, in the central Mediterranean Sea.

**Biology:** Yolk-sac viviparous species, with 5 to 18 pups in a litter. First maturity length has been calculated from 71 cm for males and 80 cm for females.

**Maximum Length:** 1.4 m.

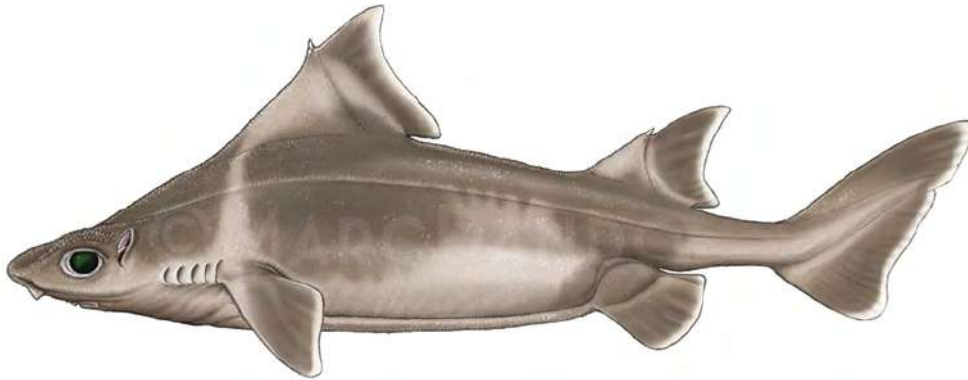
**Geographical Distribution:** B.A. & N.D. Atlantic Ocean & Western Mediterranean Sea.

**Habitat:** Oceanic Zone.

**Depth:** 200 - 1330 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on deep-sea benthic fish and invertebrates.

## Oxynotidae



### OXYNOTIDAE

#### *Oxynotus centrina*, (OXY) Angular Roughshark



**Main Threats:** Taken as bycatch in benthic gears, such as bottom trawls.

**Biology:** Yolk-sac viviparous species, with 10 to 12 pups in a litter. The first maturity length has been calculated from 66 cm for females and 60 cm for males. The generation length is estimated at 20 years.

**Maximum Length:** 1.5 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean, Eastern Atlantic and South Africa.

**Habitat:** Oceanic and Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 40 - 777 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on small and medium-sized pelagic fish species.



## Centrophoridae



### CENTROPHORIDAE

#### *Centrophorus cf. uyato*, (CPU) Little Gulper Shark



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in bottom trawls and longlines, and more rarely caught in nets.

**Biology:** It is a Yolk-sac viviparous species with a particularly low reproduction rate, as each litter yields 1 pup with a gestation period of 2 years. The first maturity length for females has been estimated at 89 to 102 cm, and for males at 79 to 85 cm. The generation length is estimated at 16-20 years.

**Maximum Length:** 1.1 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Tropical and subtropical regions.

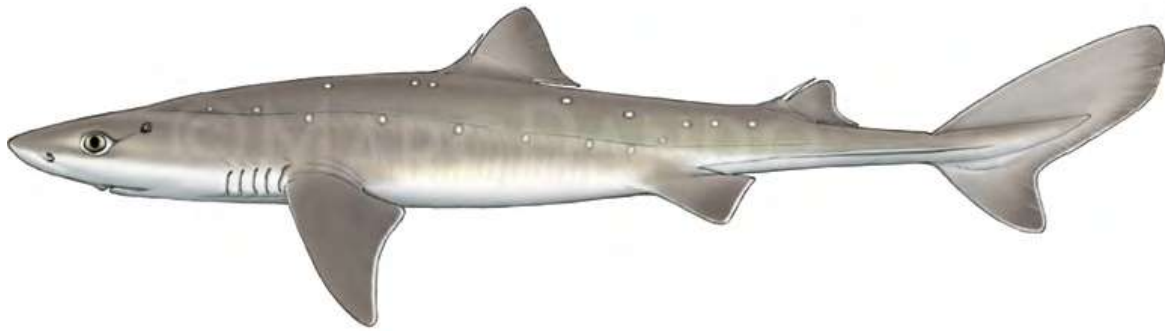
**Habitat:** Neric and Ocean Zone.

**Depth:** 50 – 1400 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish and squids.

*The Centrophoridae family is represented in the Mediterranean Sea by a genus, Centrophorus sp. and probably only by one species, Centrophorus uyato. However, further studies related to the genetics of the species is needed in order to confirm this, as in previous years the species of Centrophorus sp. were recorded as Centrophorus granulatus, which has been genetically proven to be different from that of the Atlantic.*

## Squalidae



### SQUALIDAE

#### *Squalus acanthias*, (DGS) Spiny Dogfish



**Main Threats:** Overexploitation by targeted and incidental fishing, in gears like bottom trawls and longlines, as the species is commercial in many areas.

**Biology:** Yolk-sac viviparous species, with 1 to 21 pups in a litter. The first maturity length has been calculated from 57.5 to 64 cm for males and from 74 to 92.5 cm for females. The generation length is estimated at 25-35 years.

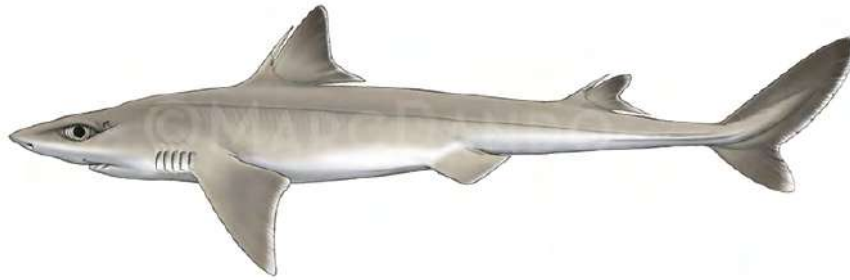
**Maximum Length:** 2 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Western and Eastern Atlantic Ocean, Indo-Pacific Ocean, Mediterranean and Black Sea.

**Habitat:** Oceanic and Benthic Zone.

**Depth:** 0 - 1460 m

**Diet:** Feeds on jellyfish, squid and a wide variety of benthic fish, shrimps, crabs and even holothurians.



**SQUALIDAE**

***Squalus blainville*, (QUB) Longnose Spurdog**



**Main Threats:** The difficulty in identification of the species from *Squalus acanthias*, limits the information, concerning the main threats received by the species. Yet, they are probably identical to those of *Squalus acanthias*.

**Biology:** Yolk-sac viviparous species, with 3 to 9 pups in a litter. The first maturity length has been calculated from 49 cm for males and 52 cm for females. The generation length is estimated at 19.5 years.

**Maximum Length:** 90 cm.

**Geographical Distribution:** Eastern Atlantic and Western Pacific Ocean.

**Habitat:** Oceanic and Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 16 - 780 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish, crabs, lobsters and octopuses.

# Echinorhiniformes

## Echinorhinidae



### ECHINORHINIDAE

#### *Echinorhinus brucus*, (SHB) Bramble Shark



**Main Threats:** It is a data-limited species, due to its rarity, and it is likely to be a bycatch in trawls and benthic longlines.

**Biology:** There is very little known information about the species. It is Yolk-sac viviparous species, with 15 to 26 pups per litter. The first maturity length is estimated at 310 cm. The generation length is estimated at 30 years.

**Maximum Length:** 3.1 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean and Black Sea.

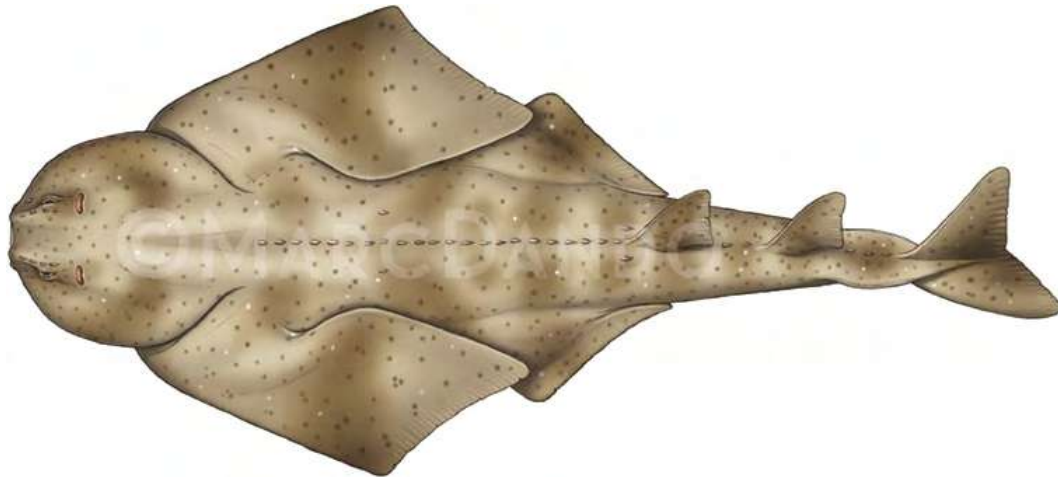
**Habitat:** Neritic and Oceanic Zone.

**Depth:** 0 - 350 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on benthic fish, crustaceans and smaller sharks.



## Squantinidae



### SQUATINIDAE

#### *Squatina aculeata*, (SUA) Sawback Angelshark



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in bottom trawls, nets and bathypelagic longlines.

**Biology:** It is a Yolk-sac viviparous species with an estimated first maturity length of 124 cm. The generation length is estimated at 15 years.

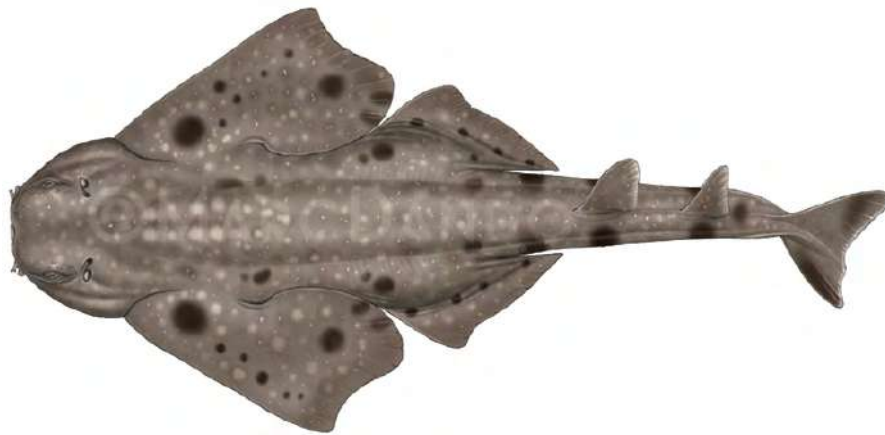
**Maximum Length:** 1.9 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea.

**Habitat:** Benthic Zone.

**Depth:** 30 - 500 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on other sharks and benthic fish.



## SQUATINIDAE

### *Squatina oculata*, (SUT) Smoothback Angelshark



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in bottom trawls, nets and benthopelagic longlines.

**Biology:** Yolk-sac viviparous species with an estimated first maturity length at 89 cm for females and 71 cm for males. The generation length is estimated at 12 years.

**Maximum Length:** 1.6 m.

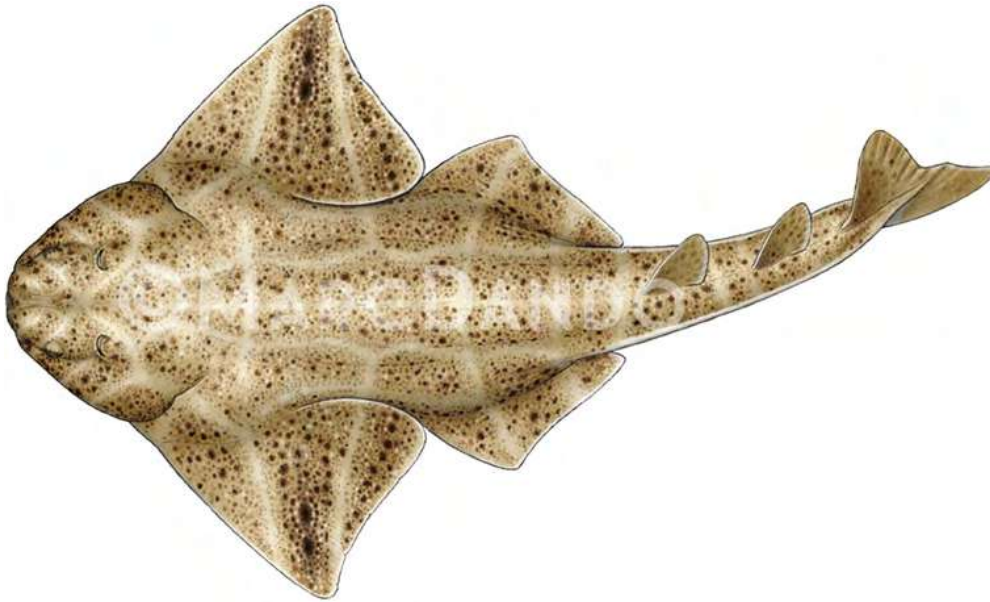
**Geographical Distribution:** Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea.

**Habitat:** Benthic Zone.

**Depth:** 5 - 500 m

**Diet:** Feeds on small benthic fish.





**SQUATINIDAE**

***Squatina squatina*, (ANG) Angelshark**



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in bottom trawls, nets and benthopelagic longlines.

**Biology:** Yolk-sac viviparous species, with 7-25 pups in each litter. The first maturity length for females is estimated at 128–169 cm and 80–132 cm for males. The generation length is estimated at 11 years.

**Maximum Length:** 2.5 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea.

**Habitat:** Marine neritic.

**Depth:** 5 - 150 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on other sharks and benthic fish.

# Torpediniformes

## Torpedinidae



### TORPEDINIDAE

#### *Tetronarce nobiliana*, (TTO) Great Torpedo Ray



**Main Threats:** Occasionally taken as bycatch by bottom trawls and line gear in recreational fishing.

**Biology:** Ovoviviparous species, with up to 60 pups in each litter of 20 to 25 cm. The gestation period last up to 12 months. The first maturity for females is 90 cm and for males is 55 cm. The generation length is unknown.

**Maximum Length:** 1.8 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea, Eastern Atlantic Ocean, Southwest Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone, Deep Benthic Zone.

**Depth:** 10 - 800 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish.



**TORPEDINIDAE**

***Torpedo marmorata*, (TTR) Marbled Torpedo Ray**



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in bottom trawls, trammel nets and benthopelagic longlines.

**Biology:** Yolk-sac viviparous species with 3 to 18 pups, measuring 10-14 cm TL at birth. The first maturity length for females has been estimated at 70 cm and for males at 79 cm. The generation length is estimated at ~16 years.

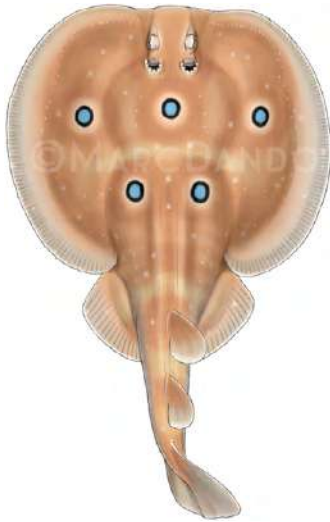
**Maximum Length:** 100 cm.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Eastern Atlantic Ocean.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone, Deep Benthic Zone.

**Depth:** 10 - 800 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish.



## TORPEDINIDAE

### *Torpedo torpedo*, (TTV) Ocellate Torpedo



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in bottom trawls, trammel nets and benthopelagic longlines.

**Biology:** Yolk-sac viviparous species with 3-21 pups in each litter of 8-10 cm TL. First maturity for females has been estimated at 22 cm and for males at 18 cm. Generation length is estimated at 12.5 years.

**Maximum Length:** 60 cm.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Eastern Atlantic Ocean.

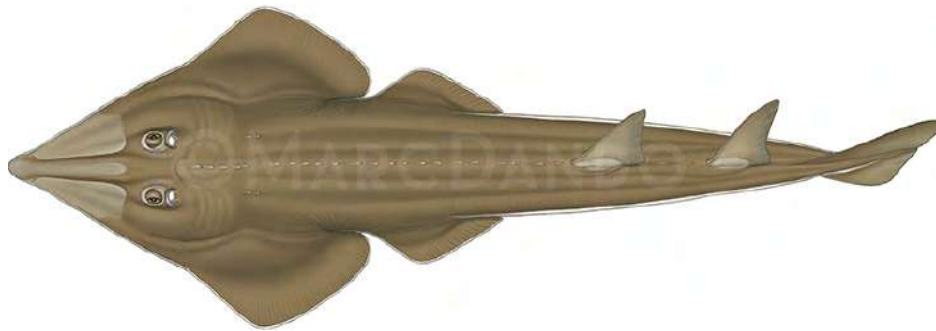
**Habitat:** Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 2 - 400 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish, crustaceans and cephalopods.



## Rhinobatidae



### RHINOBATIDAE

#### *Rhinobatos rhinobatos*, (RBX) Common Guitarfish



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in bottom trawls, trammel nets and benthopelagic longlines.

**Biology:** Yolk-sac viviparous species with embryos feeding initially on yolk, then receiving additional nourishment from the mother specialised structures. It produces one or two litters per year, with 4-10 embryos, of ~30 cm. The first maturity length for females is 79 cm and for males is 70 cm. The generation length is estimated at 13.5 years.

**Maximum Length:** 1.5 m.

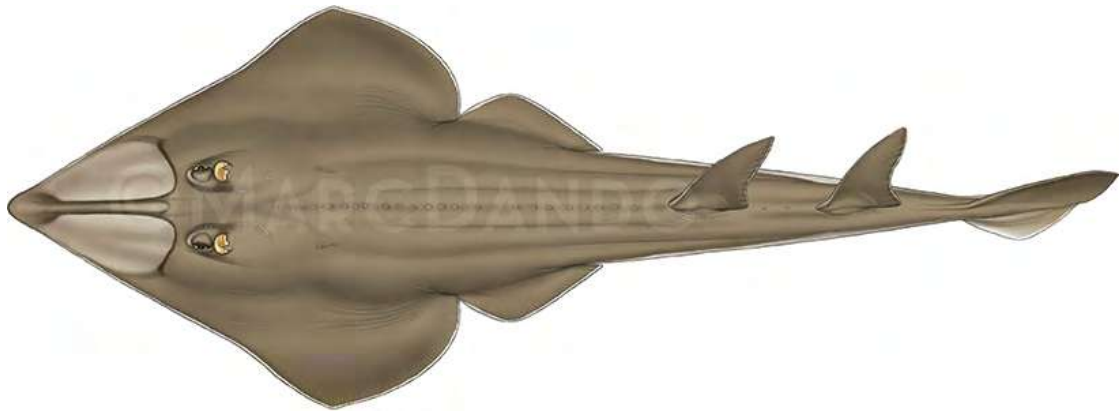
**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea and Eastern Atlantic Ocean.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 0 - 180 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish, crustaceans and cephalopods.

## Glaucostegidae



### GLAUCOSTEGIDAE

#### *Glaucostegus cemiculus*, (RBC) Blackchin Guitarfish



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in bottom trawls, nets and lines.

**Biology:** Yolk-sac viviparous species with embryos feeding initially on yolk, then receiving additional nourishment from the mother specialised structures. Each litter contains from 5 to 12 pups of ~ 34 cm. The first maturity length for females is 163 cm and for males is 155 cm. The generation length is estimated at 15 years.

**Maximum Length:** 242 cm.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Eastern Atlantic Ocean.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 9 - 100 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish and crustaceans.



## Rajidae



### RAJIDAE

#### *Dipturus cf. batis*, (RJB) Common Blue Skate



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in bottom trawls, nets and benthopelagic longlines.

**Biology:** Oviparous species with large egg cases. It is estimated that in the Mediterranean, the species lays ~40 egg cases. The hatchlings have a size up to 21.2-22.3 cm. The first maturity length for females is estimated at ~150 cm and for males is 125 cm. The generation length is estimated at 7.5 years.

**Maximum Length:** 285 cm.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Eastern Atlantic Ocean.

**Habitat:** Ocean Zone.

**Depth:** 5 - 600 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish, crustaceans and other benthic invertebrates.



## RAJIDAE

### *Dipturus oxyrinchus*, (RJO) Longnosed Skate



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in bottom trawls and benthopelagic longlines.

**Biology:** Oviparous species with large egg cases. The hatchlings have a size up to 17 cm. The first maturity length for females is estimated at 104.4 cm and for males is 83.2 cm. The generation length is estimated at 10-14 years.

**Maximum Length:** 150 cm.

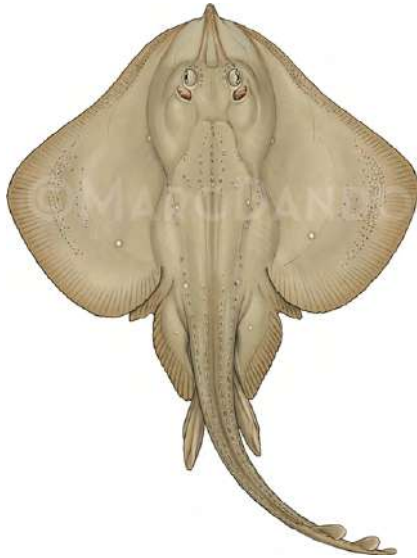
**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Eastern Atlantic Ocean.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone and Deep Benthic Zone.

**Depth:** 70 - 1230 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish, crustaceans and other invertebrates.





**RAJIDAE**

***Leucoraja circularis*, (RJI) Sandy Skate**



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in bottom trawls and benthopelagic longlines.

**Biology:** Oviparous species with embryos feeding exclusively on yolk. Life history traits for the species are mostly unknown. The generation length is estimated at 9.7 years.

**Maximum Length:** 120 cm.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Eastern Atlantic Ocean.

**Habitat:** Neritic and Deep Benthic Zone.

**Depth:** 50 - 800 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish and invertebrates.



## RAJIDAE

### *Leucoraja fullonica*, (RJF) Shagreen Skate



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in bottom trawls and benthopelagic longlines.

**Biology:** Oviparous species, with embryos feeding exclusively on yolk. Life history traits for the species are mostly unknown. The generation length is estimated at 9.7 years.

**Maximum Length:** 120 cm.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Eastern Atlantic Ocean.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone and Deep Benthic Zone.

**Depth:** 30 - 800 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish and various benthic invertebrates.



**RAJIDAE**

***Leucoraja melitensis*, (JAM) Maltese Skate**



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in bottom trawls, gillnets and bottom longline fisheries.

**Biology:** Oviparous species. Mature females are observed in spring and autumn. Breeds throughout the year. First maturity length is estimated at 40 cm. Generation length is estimated at 4-5 years.

**Maximum Length:** 50 cm.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean.

**Habitat:** Neritic and Deep Benthic Zone.

**Depth:** 60 - 800 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on amphipods (carcinoids).



## RAJIDAE

### *Leucoraja naevus*, (RJN) Cuckoo Skate



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in bottom trawls.

**Biology:** Oviparous species with embryos feeding exclusively on yolk. Spawning occurs all year round, but maximum activity has been observed during the winter months. Maximum fecundity is up to 63 eggs. Encapsulated eggs are released in batches, 9 in total, with a mean number of seven extruded eggs in each batch. Maturity length is estimated at 55 cm (TL). The generation length is estimated at 8 years.

**Maximum Length:** 81 cm.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Eastern Atlantic Ocean.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone and Deep Benthic Zone.

**Depth:** 20 - 500 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish, polychaetas, benthic crustaceans, cephalopods and mysids.



**RAJIDAE**

***Raja asterias*, (JRS) Starry Skate**



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in bottom trawls.

**Biology:** Oviparous species with embryos feeding exclusively on yolk. Spawning takes place in summer to early autumn, with 30 to more than 100 egg-cases per year, depending on the size of the female. The first maturity length is estimated at 51.7 cm for males and 56.1 cm for females. The generation length is estimated at 4.36 years.

**Maximum Length:** 80 cm.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Eastern Atlantic Ocean.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 2 - 343 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on benthic invertebrates.



## RAJIDAE

### *Raja brachyura*, (RJH) Blonde Skate



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in bottom trawls, gillnets and longlines.

**Biology:** Oviparous species, with embryos feeding exclusively on yolk. Spawning mainly from February to August, with at least 30 egg-cases laid. The first maturity length is estimated at 92 cm. The generation length is estimated at 10 years.

**Maximum Length:** 120 cm.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Eastern Atlantic Ocean.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone and Deep Benthic Zone.

**Depth:** 10 - 380 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on crustaceans, polychaetas, molluscs and fish.



**RAJIDAE**

***Raja clavata*, (RJC) Thornback Skate**



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in bottom trawls.

**Biology:** Oviparous species, with embryos feeding exclusively on yolk. In winter and spring most births are observed, each yielding 150 egg-cases. The first maturity length is estimated at 66 cm for males and 78 cm for females. The generation length is estimated at 11.5 years.

**Maximum Length:** 139 cm.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Indian Ocean.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone, Deep Benthic Zone, Oceanic Zone and Subtidal Zone.

**Depth:** 10 - 300 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish, crustaceans, molluscs and polychaetas.



## RAJIDAE

### *Raja miraletus*, (JAI) Brown Skate



**Main Threats:** Bycatch nets and hooks.

**Biology:** Oviparous species, with embryos feeding exclusively on yolk. Egg cases laid throughout the year, peaking in spring. The first maturity length is estimated at 41.8 cm for males and 34.3 cm for females. The generation length is estimated at 4.36 years.

**Maximum Length:** 70 cm.

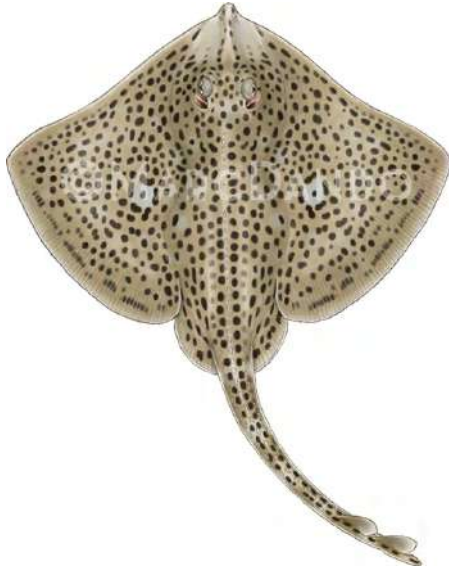
**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Eastern Atlantic Ocean.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 10 - 530 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish, crustaceans, cephalopods, polychaete, stomatopods and mysids.





**RAJIDAE**

***Raja montagui*, (RJM) Spotted Skate**



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in bottom trawls.

**Biology:** Oviparous species, with embryos feeding exclusively on yolk. In summer, most births are observed. The species is estimated to lay from 24 up to 70 egg cases per year. 50% maturity length is estimated at 50.3 cm for males and 64.0 cm for females. The generation length is estimated at 6-7 years.

**Maximum Length:** 83.5 cm.

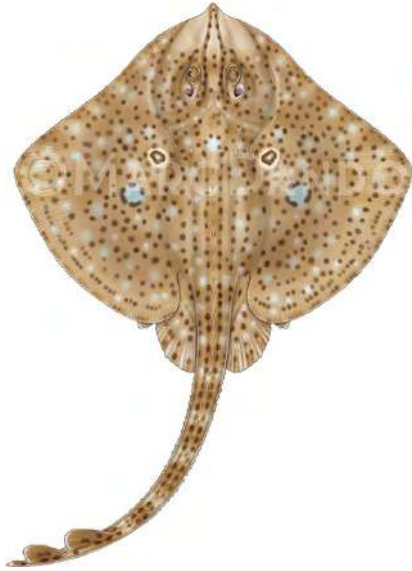
**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Eastern Atlantic Ocean.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone and Deep Benthic Zone.

**Depth:** 50 - 600 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish, crustaceans, molluscs, gastropods, isopods, bivalve, amphipods, polychaete, and cephalopods.

*R. montagui* is cited in the old papers. Surely, the species is present along the North African coasts, but its presence in the Aegean Sea is problematic due to the difficulty to identify the specimens at a species specific level compared with *R. polystigma*. Thus, the suggestion for the Aegean Sea is "Questionable".



## RAJIDAE

### *Raja polystigma*, (JAY) Speckled Skate



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in bottom trawls.

**Biology:** Oviparous species, with embryos feeding exclusively on yolk. Reproduction takes place during winter and results in 20 up to 62 eggs. The first maturity length is estimated at 40-53 cm. The generation length is unknown.

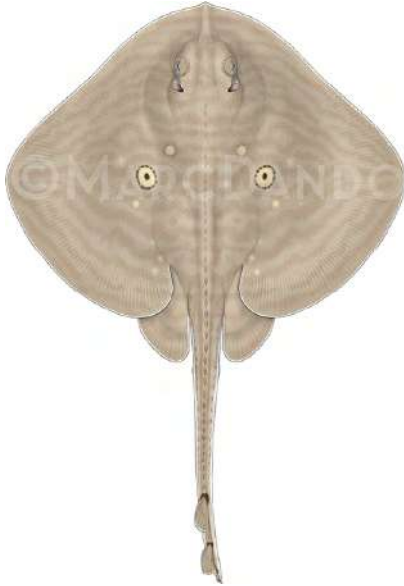
**Maximum Length:** 60 cm.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone and Deep Benthic Zone.

**Depth:** 20 - 633 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish and crustaceans.



**RAJIDAE**

***Raja radula*, (JAR) Rough Skate**



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in bottom trawls, gillnets, trammel nets, bottom longlines and purse seines.

**Biology:** Oviparous species, with embryos feeding exclusively on yolk. At the end of spring and the summer, most births are observed, where the embryos develop within 4 months. First maturity length is estimated at 47.05 cm for males and 56.48 cm for females. Generation length is estimated at 9 years.

**Maximum Length:** 70 cm.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone and Deep Benthic Zone.

**Depth:** 0 - 300 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish, molluscs, crustaceans and other benthic invertebrates.



## RAJIDAE

### *Raja undulata*, (RJU) Undulate Skate



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in demersal gears such as trawlers, beam trawlers, and trammel nets.

**Biology:** Oviparous species, with embryos feeding exclusively on yolk. An annual reproductive cycle has been observed, but differences occur between the different populations. The generation length is estimated at 14.9-15.9 years.

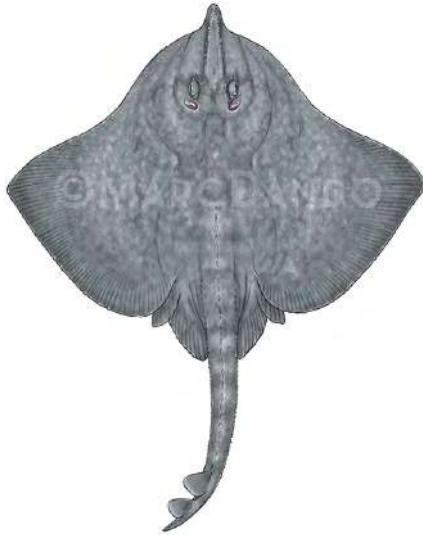
**Maximum Length:** 100 cm.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Eastern Atlantic Ocean.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone, Subtidal Zone and Coastal Zone.

**Depth:** 50 - 200 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish.



**RAJIDAE**

***Rostroraja alba*, (RJA) White Skate**



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in bottom trawls and nets.

**Biology:** Oviparous species with embryos feeding exclusively on yolk. Little is known of this skate's life history and ecology. The hatching of embryos takes up to 18 months. The first maturity length is estimated at 120-130 cm. The generation length is estimated at 25-30 years.

**Maximum Length:** 2.4 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Indian Ocean.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone and Deep Benthic Zone.

**Depth:** 30 - 600 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish, cephalopods, molluscs and crustaceans.

# Myliobatiformes

## Dasyatidae



### DASYATIDAE

#### *Bathytoshia lata*, Brown Stingray



**Main Threats:** There are no known threats.

**Biology:** Lipid histotrophic species, with embryos feeding initially on yolk, and then receiving nourishment from the mother by the indirect absorption of uterine fluid. No life history traits are known for this species.

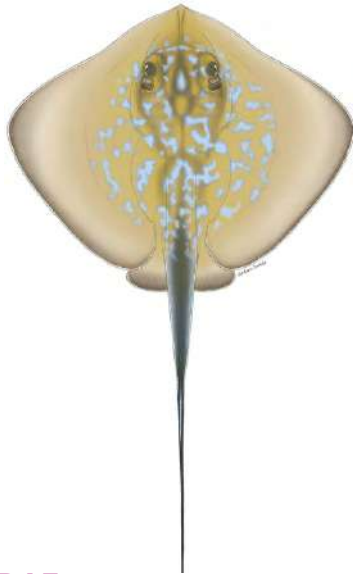
**Maximum Length:** 2.1 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Eastern Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean and Western Pacific Ocean.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 40 - 357 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish, molluscs, bivalves, crustaceans and polychaetes.



**DASYATIDAE**

***Dasyatis marmorata*, (RDQ) Marbled Stingray**



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in bottom trawls.

**Biology:** Lipid histotrophic species, with embryos feeding initially on yolk, and then receiving nourishment from the mother by the indirect absorption of uterine fluid. It produces four litter per year, with each containing from 1 to 9 pups. The gestation period lasts ~3 months. The first maturity length is estimated at 30 cm for males and 32-34 cm for females. The generation length is not known.

**Maximum Length:** 60 cm.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Eastern Atlantic Ocean.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 12 - 65 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish, crustaceans, polychaete, gastropods, cephalopods and mussels.



## DASYATIDAE

### *Dasyatis pastinaca*, (JDP) Common Stingray



**Main Threats:** Targeted and incidental fishing in industrial, small-scale fisheries using various gears, such as bottom trawls, gillnets, benthic longlines and trammel nets.

**Biology:** Lipid histotrophic species, with embryos feeding initially on yolk, and then receiving nourishment from the mother by the indirect absorption of uterine fluid. The gestation period lasts ~4 months and each litter contains from 4 to 7 pups. The first maturity length is estimated at 50 cm for males and 60 cm for females. The generation length is estimated at 7.5 years.

**Maximum Length:** 68 cm.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Eastern Atlantic Ocean.

**Habitat:** Neritic - Oceanic Zone, Subtidal Zone, Coastal Zone.

**Depth:** 5 - 200 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish and various benthic invertebrates.





**DASYATIDAE**

***Dasyatis tortonesei*, (JDP) Tortonese's Stingray**



**Main Threats:** Targeted and incidental fishing in industrial, small-scale fisheries using various gears, such as bottom trawls, gillnets, benthic longlines and trammel nets.

**Biology:** Lipid histotrophic species, with embryos feeding initially on yolk, and then receiving nourishment from the mother by the indirect absorption of uterine fluid. The first maturity is estimated at 136.0 cm.

**Maximum Length:** 84 cm.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea.

**Habitat:** Neritic - Oceanic Zone, Subtidal Zone, Coastal Zone.

**Depth:** 100 - 200 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish and benthic invertebrates.



## DASYATIDAE

### *Pteroplatytrygon violacea*, (PLS) Pelagic Stingray



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in longlines targeting tuna and swordfish and in recreational fishing.

**Biology:** Lipid histotrophic species, with embryos feeding initially on yolk, and then receiving nourishment from the mother by the indirect absorption of uterine fluid. The gestation period lasts up to 4 months and each litter yields 4 to 13 pups, of 15-25 cm. Copulation occurs during spring, and parturition during summer. The first maturity length is estimated at 37-50 cm (DW) for males and 39-50 cm (DW) for females. The generation length is estimated at 6.5 years

**Maximum Length:** 80 cm.

**Geographical Distribution:** Global.

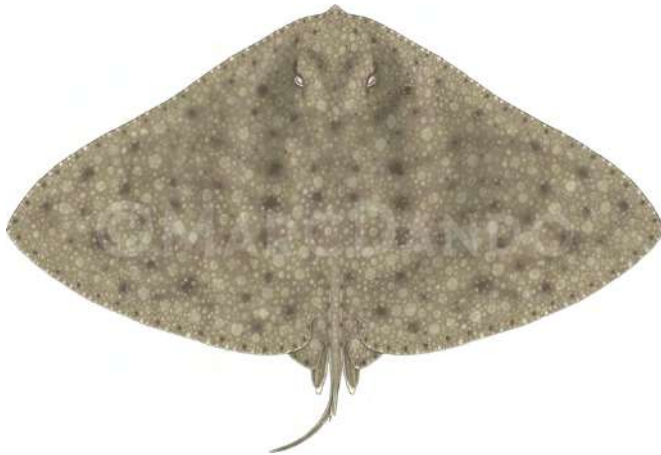
**Habitat:** Neritic Zone and Oceanic Zone.

**Depth:** 0 - 381 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on jellyfish, fish, cephalopods and molluscs.



## Gymnuridae



### GYMNURIDAE

#### *Gymnura altavela*, (RGL) Spiny Butterfly Ray



**Main Threats:** Bycatch of benthic gears.

**Biology:** Lipid histotrophic species, with embryos feeding initially on yolk, and then receiving nourishment from the mother by the indirect absorption of uterine fluid. The species has an annual reproductive cycle and each litter yields from 1 to 4 pups. Size at birth ranges from 38 to 44 cm DW. The first maturity length is estimated at 155 cm (DW) for males and 102 cm (DW) for females. The generation length is estimated at 6-7 years.

**Maximum Length:** 4 m. (Disc Width)

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Atlantic Ocean.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 10 - 100 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish, crustaceans and molluscs.

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## Myliobatidae



### MYLIOBATIDAE

## *Aetomylaeus bovinus*, (MPO) Duckbill Eagle Ray



**Main Threats:** Bycatch of coastal artisanal fisheries.

**Biology:** Lipid histotrophic species, with embryos feeding initially on yolk, and then receiving nourishment from the mother by the indirect absorption of uterine fluid. The gestation period is estimated to 6 months and each litter yields from 3-7 pups of ~45 cm (WD). First maturity length is estimated at 154-222 cm (DW) for females. There is limited information on the species' life history traits. The generation length is estimated at 15 years.

**Maximum Length:** 250 cm.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Indian Ocean.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 10 - 100 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish, crustaceans and molluscs.



**MYLIOBATIDAE**

***Myliobatis aquila*, (MYL) Common Eagle Ray**



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in bottom trawls, purse seines, gillnets, longlines and line gear.

**Biology:** Lipid histotrophic species, with embryos feeding initially on yolk, and then receiving nourishment from the mother by the indirect absorption of uterine fluid. Reproduction takes place during September. The gestation period last from 6 to 8 months, with 3-7 pups in each litter. The first maturity length is estimated at 40 cm (DW) for males and 60 cm (DW) for females. The generation length is estimated at 11 years.

**Maximum Length:** 80 cm. (Disc Width)

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Indian Ocean.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone and Coastal Zone.

**Depth:** 0 - 300 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on gastropods, molluscs, crustaceans, polychaete and fish.

## Rhinopteridae



### RHINOPTERIDAE

#### *Rhinoptera marginata*, (MRM) Lusitanian Cownose Ray



**Main Threats:** Data are very limited to pinpoint the main threat the species face, yet the specie's main threat is likely incidental catch in fisheries that operate within its range.

**Biology:** Lipid histotrophic species, with embryos feeding initially on yolk, and then receiving nourishment from the mother by the indirect absorption of uterine fluid. The gestation period lasts almost a year and each litter yields a pup. The first maturity length is estimated at 150-200 cm (DW). The generation length is estimated at 11 years.

**Maximum Length:** 100 cm.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea, and Eastern Atlantic Ocean.

**Habitat:** Neritic Zone.

**Depth:** 10 - 100 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on fish, crustaceans and molluscs.



## Mobulidae



### MOBULIDAE

#### *Mobula mobular*, (RMM) Spinetail Devil Ray



**Main Threats:** Bycatch in various gears.

**Biology:** Lipid histotrophic species, with embryos feeding initially on yolk, and then receiving nourishment from the mother by the indirect absorption of uterine fluid. The species has a conservative life history, as the reproduction cycle is from 1-3 years and after a 12-month gestation period, every litter yields one pup. The first maturity length is estimated at 200-220 cm (DW) for males and 215-240 cm (DW) for females. The generation length is estimated at 12.8 years.

**Maximum Length:** 5.2 m. (Disc Width)

**Geographical Distribution:** Global.

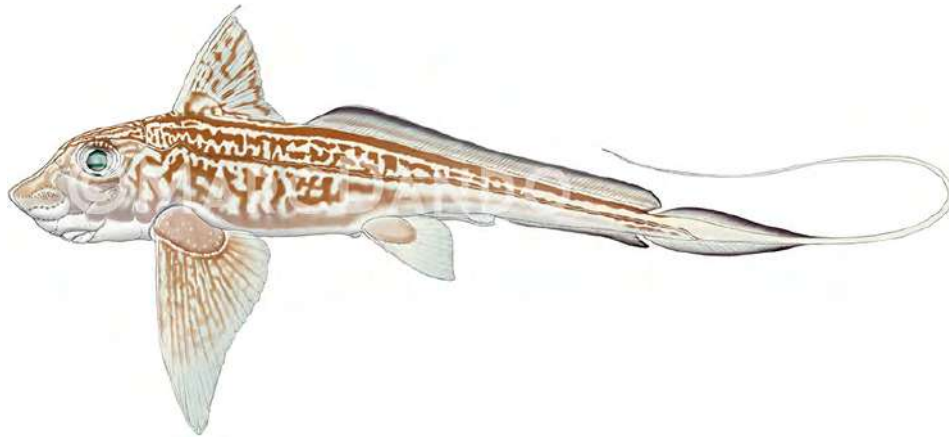
**Habitat:** Neritic Zone and Oceanic Zone.

**Depth:** 0 - 1112 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on crustaceans and fish.



## Chimaeridae



### CHIMAERIDAE

#### *Chimaera monstrosa*, (CMO) Rabbitfish



**Main Threats:** Taken as bycatch in gears such as bottom trawls.

**Biology:** Oviparous species, with large egg cases of 17 cm in length. Apparently, spawning season in spring and summer. The hatching period lasts from 9 to 12 months and the size at birth is ~10 cm. The estimated age at first maturity is ~13.4 years for males and ~11.2 years for females. The generation length is estimated at 21.7 years.

**Maximum Length:** 150 cm.

**Geographical Distribution:** Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Eastern Atlantic Ocean.

**Habitat:** Ocean Deep-sea Zone.

**Depth:** 40 - 1663 m.

**Diet:** Feeds on benthic invertebrates and fish.





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