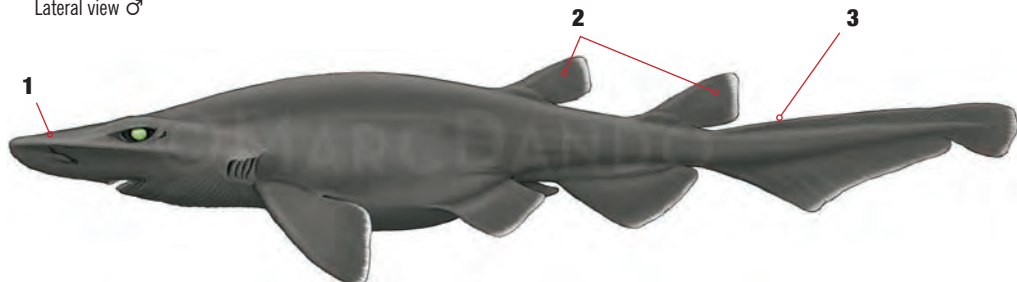


Lateral view ♂



SCIENTIFIC NAME

Apristurus manis (Springer, 1979)

DISTRIBUTION

Reported in Rockall Trough and the Porcupine Bank in Northeast Atlantic. Also off South Africa, in Eastern Atlantic and the coast of Massachusetts, USA, in Northwest Atlantic.^{2-5,7}

COMMON NAMES

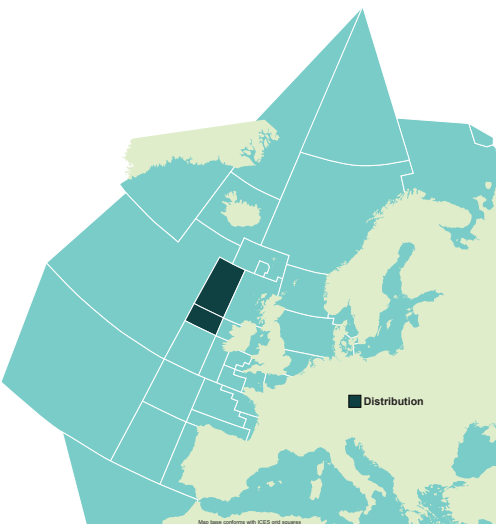
GHOST CATSHARK, Geister-Tiefwasserkatzenhai (DEU), Pejegato Fantasma (ESP), Holbiche Fantôme (FRA).

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

- 1 Stout body strongly tapering into a broad, flattened head and elongated snout.^{2,3}
- 2 Equal sized dorsal fins, first fin originating over midbase of pelvic fin. Interdorsal space greater than base of first dorsal fin.^{2,3}
- 3 Long, narrow caudal fin with a visible crest of large denticles.²
 - Uniform grey or blackish.^{2,3}
 - Dorsal and pectoral fin-tips sometimes lighter, especially juveniles.^{2,3}

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- Birth: smallest free-swimming specimen recorded was 20cm.
- Matures: female 70–76cm; male 85cm.
- Max. TL: 88cm.^{2,3,7}
- Oviparous. Little else is known about the biology or diet of this shark.^{2,3,7}
- Other *Apristurus* sp. feed on crustaceans, cephalopods and small teleosts.^{2-4,7}



EGGCASE



Eggcase © Dr. Brooke Flammang

- ▶ 63–71mm long.^{2,6}
- ▶ Vase shaped with short ~2mm anterior horns.⁶
- ▶ Lacking any tendrils.⁶

SIMILAR SPECIES



White Ghost Catshark *Apristurus aphyodes*



Iceland Catshark *Apristurus laurussonii*



Smalleye Catshark *Apristurus microps*



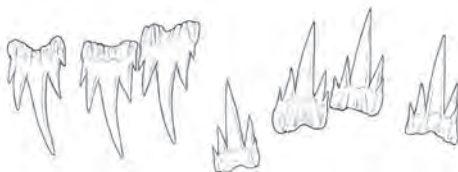
Mouse Catshark *Galeus murinus*

Black Roughscale Catshark *Apristurus melanoasper*
(no illus.)

HABITAT

- ▶ Deepwater shark found on continental slopes from 600–1,900m; primarily deeper than 1,500m.^{2–4,6,7}

TEETH



- ▶ Teeth enlarged in adult males.²
- ▶ Upper jaw: 59.^{2,3}
- ▶ Lower jaw: 52.^{2,3}

CONSERVATION STATUS*

- ▶ IUCN Red List: Global: Least Concern (2019)
Europe: Least Concern (2015)
- ▶ Much of this species range lies below the depth of current fisheries, offering it some protection from overexploitation. Future expansion of deepwater fisheries, could pose a threat to this little-known shark.^{4,7}

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- ▶ No target fisheries exist for the Ghost Catshark; possibly taken as bycatch and discarded in deepwater trawl fisheries.^{4,7}

MANAGEMENT*

- ▶ Subject to prohibitions under the CFP and FNA regulations.

REFERENCES

- 1 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 2 Ebert *et al.* 2013.
- 3 Pollom *et al.* 2019.
- 4 Johnston *et al.* 2010.
- 5 Walls, R. 2015.
- 6 Flammang *et al.* 2007.