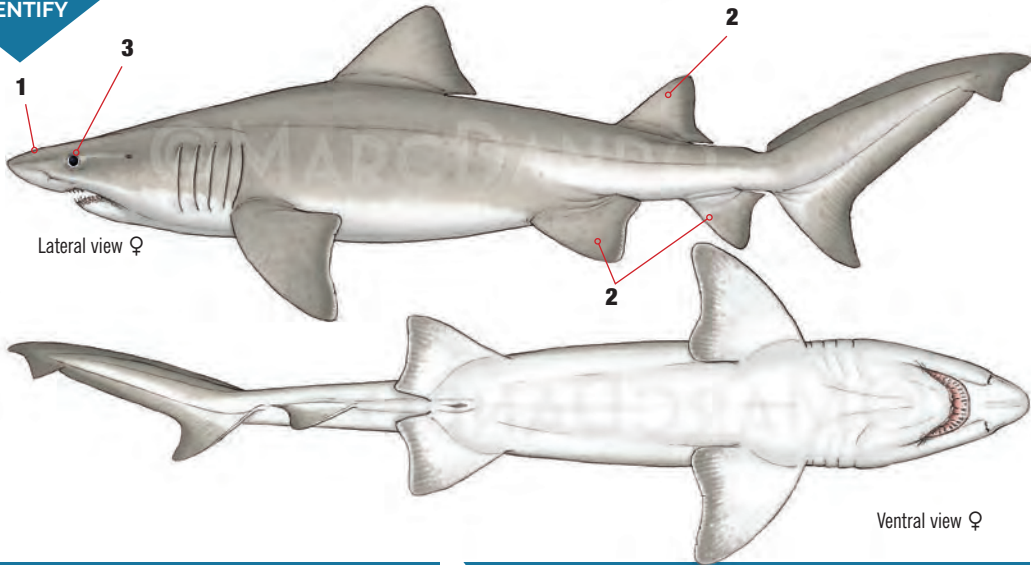


# SMALLTOOTH SANDTIGER

## *Odontaspis ferox*

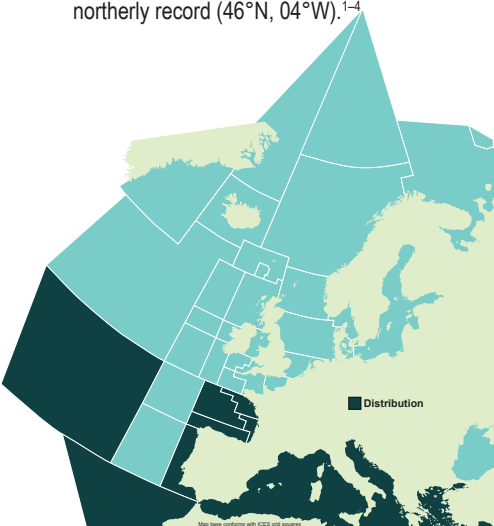


### SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Odontaspis ferox* (Risso, 1810)

### DISTRIBUTION

Circumglobal, patchy distribution in tropical and warm temperate waters. Reported from the Bay of Biscay to Morocco, including the Azores and Mediterranean Sea. Dead specimen found on beach in Western France verified as most northerly record (46°N, 04°W).<sup>1-4</sup>



### COMMON NAMES

**SMALLTOOTH SANDTIGER**, Herbst's Nurse Shark, Ragged-tooth Shark, Sand Shark, Bumpytail Raggedtooth, Schildzahnhai (DEU), Solrayo (ESP), Requin Feroce (FRA), Cagniacco (ITA), Tubarão-areia (PRT).

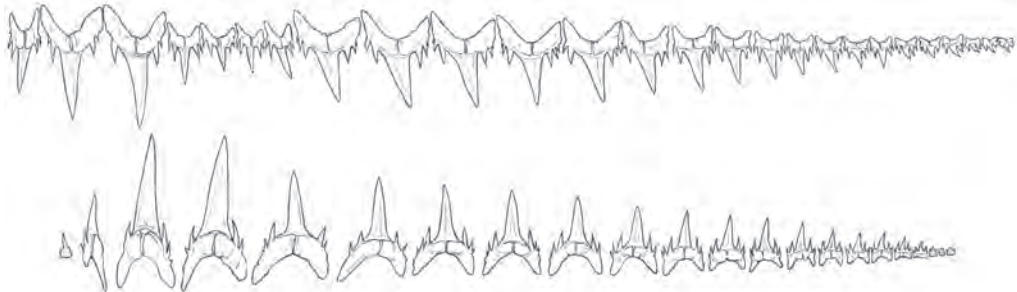
### IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

- 1 Slightly flattened head with a long, conical bulbous snout.<sup>1,2</sup>
  - 2 Second dorsal, pelvic and anal fins large.<sup>1,2</sup>
  - 3 Eyes moderately large.<sup>1,2</sup>
- Light grey to grey brown dorsally.<sup>1,2</sup>
  - Occasionally darker reddish/brown spots scattered over body.<sup>1,2</sup>
  - Lighter ventrally.<sup>1,2</sup>

### SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- Birth: 100cm.
- Matures: female 300–350cm; male 200–250cm.
- Max. TL: 450cm.<sup>1,2,5</sup>
- Reproductive biology is poorly understood but presumed to be viviparous, producing 1–2 pups per year.<sup>1,4</sup>
- Diet consists primarily of teleosts, cephalopods, crustaceans and other elasmobranchs.<sup>1,2</sup>

## TEETH



- ▶ Teeth with long, central cusp with 2-3 smaller cusplets either side.<sup>1,2</sup>
- ▶ Similar in both jaws.<sup>1,2</sup>
- ▶ Upper jaw: 46–56.<sup>1,2</sup>
- ▶ Lower jaw: 34–48.<sup>1,2</sup>

## SIMILAR SPECIES



Sandtiger Shark *Carcharias taurus*



Nurse Shark *Ginglymostoma cirratum*

## HABITAT

- ▶ Demersal to epipelagic from 10–880m, most commonly to <300m.<sup>1,2,5</sup>
- ▶ Found over rocky reefs, sandy and muddy bottoms and steeply shelving inclines over continental and insular shelves and upper slopes.<sup>1–5</sup>
- ▶ Size segregation appears to take place with juveniles and adults occupying depths of 300–600m whilst intermediate sized specimens occur <150m.<sup>2–5</sup>

## CONSERVATION STATUS\*

- ▶ IUCN Red List: Global: Vulnerable (2016)  
Europe: Critically Endangered (2015)  
Mediterranean: Critically Endangered (2016)
- ▶ Widespread but fragmented distribution. Thought to have a similarly low fecundity to that of the Sandtiger (*Carcharias taurus*). Occasionally taken in trawl and longline fisheries. Aggregations of Smalltooth Sandtiger Sharks witnessed in shallow waters may make it vulnerable to localised overexploitation. Suspected population declines in the Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.<sup>3–5</sup>

## COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- ▶ No target fisheries exist for this shark, but it is taken as bycatch in trawl, gillnet and longline fisheries.<sup>3,4</sup>
- ▶ When retained, this shark has been utilised for human consumption.<sup>3,4</sup>

## MANAGEMENT\*

- ▶ Subject to FNA regulations. No species-specific management in the Northeast Atlantic. Subject to prohibitions under RFMO elsewhere.

## REFERENCES

- 1 Ebert *et al.* 2013.
- 2 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 3 Graham *et al.* 2016.
- 4 Pollard *et al.* 2015.
- 5 Fergusson *et al.* 2008.