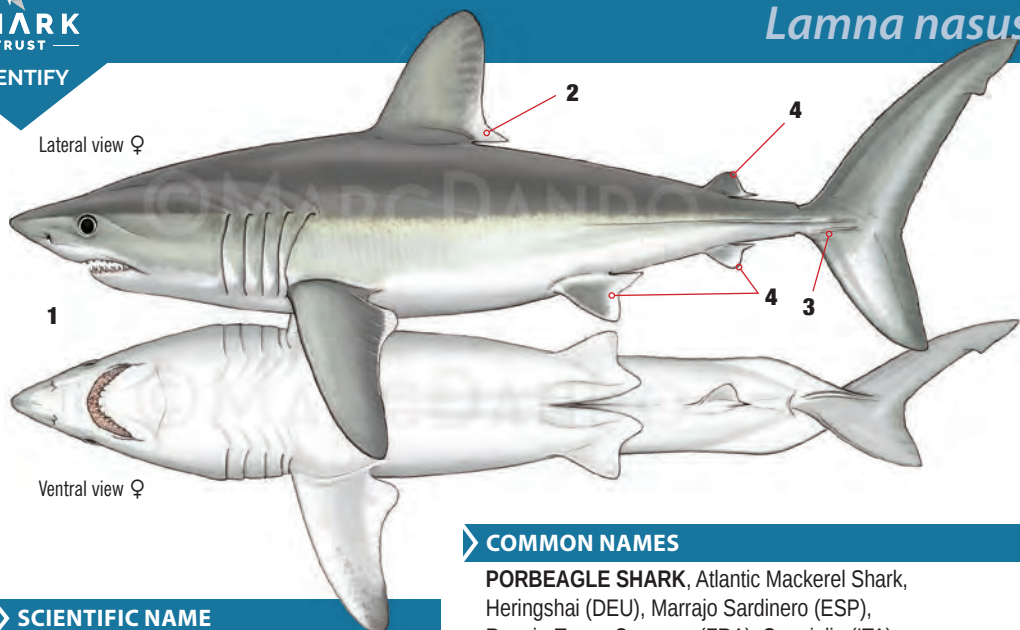




Lateral view ♀

Ventral view ♀

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Lamna nasus (Bonnaterre, 1788)

DISTRIBUTION

Wide-ranging in temperate waters (excl. North Pacific). Particularly in Northwest and Northeast Atlantic and a circumglobal band in the Southern Hemisphere (approx. 30–55°S). Recorded in the Northeast Atlantic from Iceland and Russia to Morocco, incl. the Mediterranean Sea.^{1–5}

COMMON NAMES

PORBEAGLE SHARK, Atlantic Mackerel Shark, Heringshai (DEU), Marrajo Sardinero (ESP), Requin-Taupe Commun (FRA), Smeriglio (ITA), Haringhaai (NLD), Tubarão-sardo (PRT).

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

- 1 Large, stocky fusiform-shaped body.^{1,2}
 - 2 Large first dorsal fin with white free rear tip.^{1,2}
 - 3 Secondary keel on caudal fin.²
 - 4 Very small pelvic, anal and second dorsal fins.²
- Dark blue to grey dorsally.^{1,2}
 - Pale to white ventrally.^{1,2,4}

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- Birth: 60–80cm.
- Matures (varies regionally): female 245cm (N Atl.); male 195cm (N Atl.).
- Max. TL: 355cm.^{1,2}
- Age at maturity (N Atl.): female: 12–16 years; male: 6–10 years. Max. age: 26 years, possibly to 46 years (N Atl.).^{1,2}
- Ovoviviparous, embryos feed on unfertilised eggs (oophagy). Birth occurs in spring/summer following 8–9 month gestation. 1–5 pups per litter (avg. 4).^{1,2}
- Endothermic; maintains body temperature above ambient water temperature.²
- Feeds on pelagic and demersal teleosts, cephalopods and occasionally small sharks.^{1,2}
- Migratory, moving inshore in the summer, and to deeper offshore waters in winter. Segregates by size and sex.^{1,2}



TEETH



- Moderately large, blade-like teeth with single lateral cusplet on each side, which may be obscured in young specimens.²
- Upper jaw: 22–31.¹ ► Lower jaw: 24–29.¹

SIMILAR SPECIES



White Shark *Carcharodon carcharias*



Shortfin Mako Shark *Isurus oxyrinchus*



Longfin Mako Shark *Isurus paucus*

HABITAT

- Most common over continental shelves, shelf edges and offshore banks. Found in the open ocean to 1,800m.^{1,2,5}
- Prefers water temperatures <18°C; adults show preference for 5–10°C. Able to tolerate waters -1–23°C.^{2,4}
- Known to make long distance movements; single record of a 3,300 km straight-line transatlantic movement by female shark.⁶
- Exhibits diel vertical migration, diving deeper during the day than night.⁵
- Possible nursery grounds identified in St Georges Channel and along the western Celtic Sea shelf edge and Bay of Biscay shelf break.^{7,8}

CONSERVATION STATUS*

- IUCN Red List: Global: Vulnerable (2019)
Europe: Critically Endangered (2015)
Mediterranean: Critically Endangered (2016)
- The Porbeagle is highly vulnerable to overexploitation and population decline due to low reproductive capacity and high commercial value in certain regions. Declines of >80% across three generations (75 years) is suspected in European populations.^{3,9}

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- Historically an extremely valuable shark taken in trawl, line and gillnet fisheries; utilised primarily for human consumption, including fins and high value meat.¹

MANAGEMENT*

- Subject to prohibitions under the CFP, RFMO and FNA regulations, and additional international regulations.

REFERENCES

- 1 Ebert *et al.* 2013.
- 2 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 3 Ellis *et al.* 2015.
- 4 FAO FishFinder. n.d.
- 5 Biais *et al.* 2017.
- 6 Cameron *et al.* 2018.
- 7 ICES WGEF Report. 2017.
- 8 ICES Stock Annex. 2015.
- 9 ICES Advice. 2015