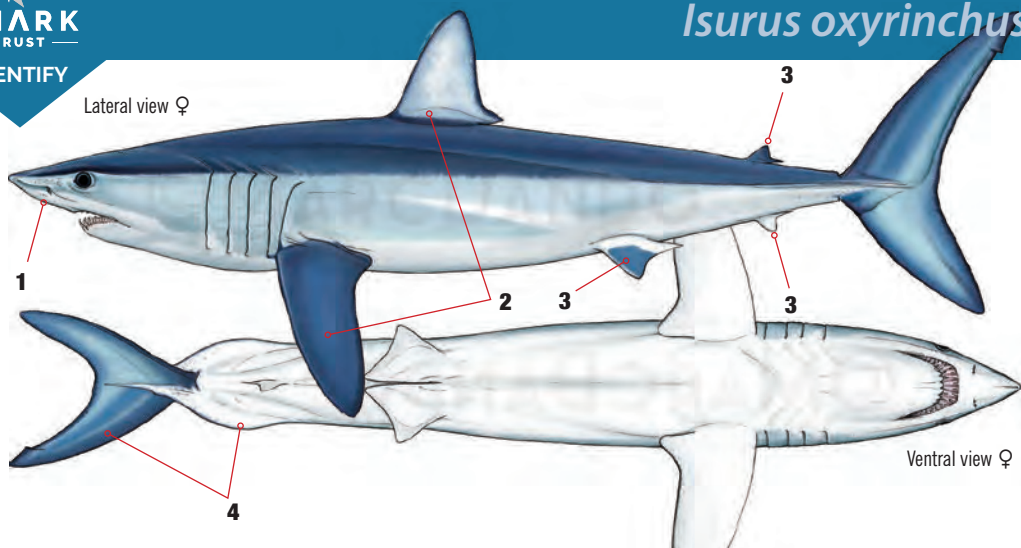


SHORTFIN MAKO

Isurus oxyrinchus



Lateral view ♀

Ventral view ♀

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Isurus oxyrinchus Rafinesque, 1810

DISTRIBUTION

Circumglobal in temperate and tropical seas. Found from 60°N in the Northern Atlantic to 50°S. Eastern Atlantic from British Isles to South Africa, incl. the Mediterranean Sea.¹⁻³

COMMON NAMES

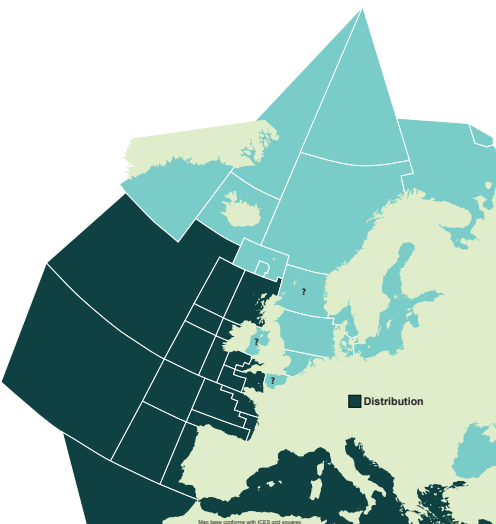
SHORTFIN MAKO, Mako, Blue Pointer, Mackerel Shark, Makrelenhai (DEU), Marrajo dientuso (ESP), Taupe Bleu (FRA), Kortvinmakreelhaai (NLD), Anequim (PRT).

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

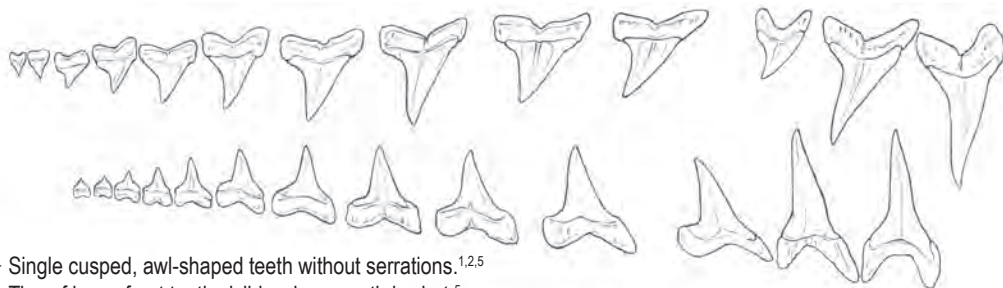
- 1 Streamlined with long pointed snout.^{1,2}
 - 2 Large first dorsal and pectoral fins.^{1,2}
 - 3 Small second dorsal, anal and pelvic fins.^{1,2}
 - 4 Crescent shaped caudal fin with single keel.^{1,2}
- Metallic blue or purple dorsally.^{1,2}
 - White ventrally, distinct demarcation line along flank.^{1,2}

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- Birth: 60–70cm.
- Matures (varies regionally): female 270–300cm (N Atl.); male 195cm(N Atl.)
- Max. TL: female 400cm; male 285cm (Northern Atlantic).²
- Age at maturity: female 18 years; male 8 years. Max. age est.: 28–32 years.¹⁻³
- Viviparous, litters of 4–25 pups (avg.10–18). Embryos feed on unfertilised eggs (oophagy).¹
- Gestation period 15–18 months followed by a resting period. Entire reproductive cycle ~3 years.²
- Endothermic, maintaining its body temperature above ambient water temperature.⁴
- Feeds on pelagic teleosts and cephalopods, known to feed on other elasmobranchs and may scavenge on marine mammals.^{1,2}
- Capable of swimming at speeds of 46 mph.⁴



TEETH



- ▶ Single cusped, awl-shaped teeth without serrations.^{1,2,5}
- ▶ Tips of lower front teeth visible when mouth is shut.⁵
- ▶ Large specimens (>300cm) have broader, triangular upper teeth.²
- ▶ Upper jaw: 24–26.¹ ▶ Lower jaw: 24–29.¹

SIMILAR SPECIES



Longfin Mako Shark *Isurus paucus*



Porbeagle Shark *Lamna nasus*



Blue Shark *Prionace glauca*



White Shark *Carcharodon carcharias*

HABITAT

- ▶ Pelagic, oceanic shark, found from surface to 888m.³
- ▶ Prefers water 17–20°C, can be found to 10°C.¹
- ▶ Migrates seasonally to follow warmer waters and known to make long distance journeys of > 3000km.⁴
- ▶ Primarily a solitary species, forms aggregations when food is abundant. Segregates by sex.^{1,2}

CONSERVATION STATUS*

- ▶ IUCN Red List: Global: Endangered (2019)
Europe: Data Deficient (2015)
Mediterranean: Critically Endangered (2016)
- ▶ An important bycatch species in high-seas fisheries, this species has undergone drastic declines. The life history characteristics of the Shortfin Mako make it particularly vulnerable to fishing pressure.³

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- ▶ Important secondary target species for pelagic longline fisheries targeting tuna and swordfish.^{1–3,6}
- ▶ Highly prized for its meat, fins, hides and liver oil.^{2,3}
- ▶ Extremely popular game fish due to its hard fight and habit of breaching when hooked.²

MANAGEMENT*

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

REFERENCES

- 1 Ebert *et al.* 2013.
- 2 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 3 Rigby *et al.* 2013.
- 4 CMS Species List. n.d.
- 5 French & Naylor. 2018.
- 6 ICES WGEF Report. 2017.