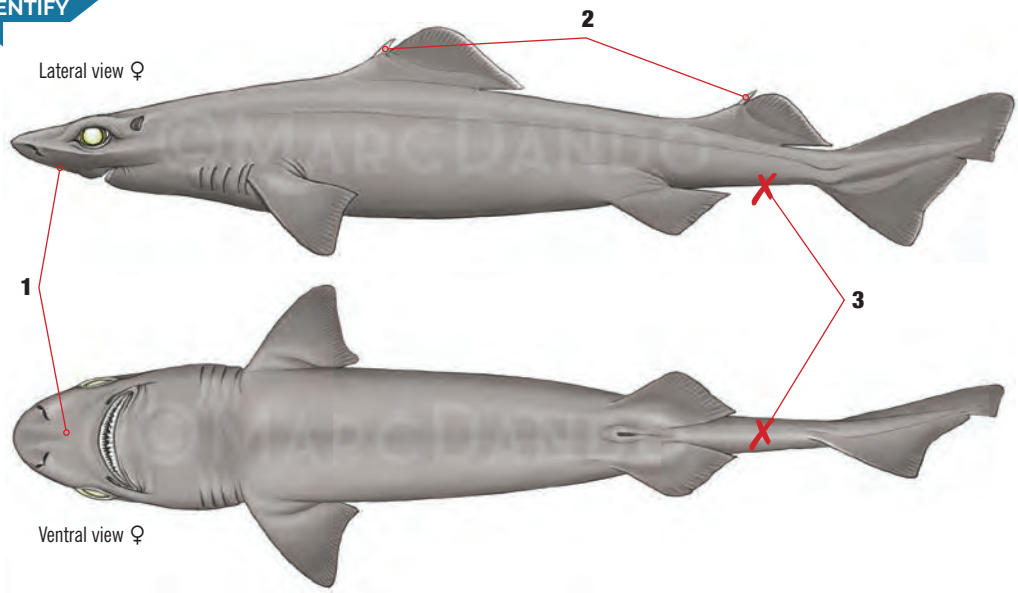
LEAFSCALE GULPER SHARK
Centrophorus squamosus

IDENTIFY

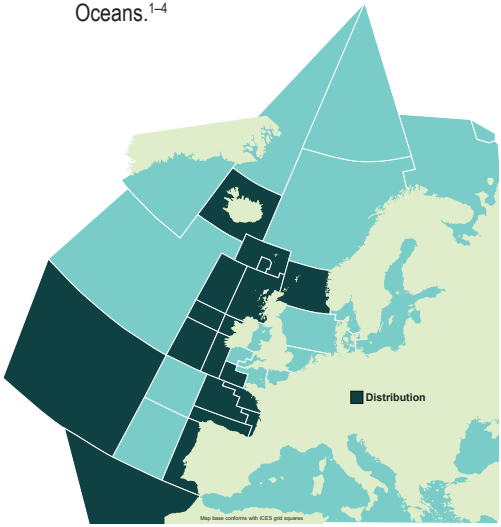


SCIENTIFIC NAME

Centrophorus squamosus (Bonnaterre, 1788)

DISTRIBUTION

Wide global distribution. Eastern Atlantic from Iceland to Norway and south to South Africa including Madeira, Azores and Canary Islands. Reported in the Indian and Western Pacific Oceans.[1–4]



COMMON NAMES

LEAFSCALE GULPER SHARK, Deepwater Spiny Dogfish, Nilson's Deepsea Dogfish, Tiefwasser-Dornhai (DEU), Quelvacho (ESP), Squale-chagrin de l'Atlantique (FRA), Sagrì (ITA), Schubzwelghaai (NLD), Lixa (PRT).

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

1 Short, thick, slightly flattened snout.[1,2]
2 First dorsal fin long and low, second dorsal shorter and higher; both with large dorsal spines.[1,2]
3 No anal fin.[1,2]
- Uniform grey, grey-brown to reddish-brown.[1,2]

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

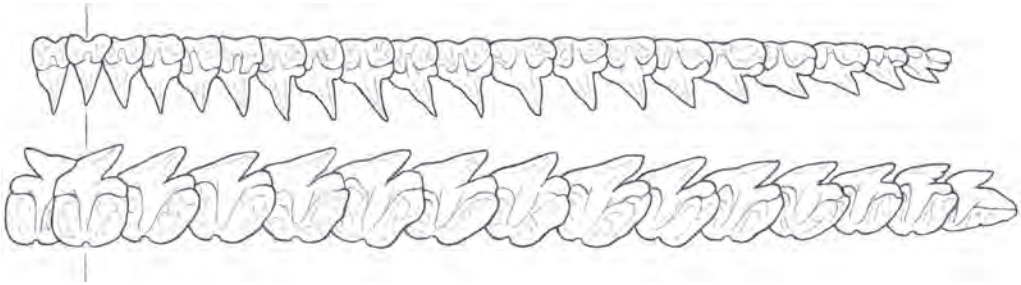
- Birth: 30–40cm.
- Matures: female 110–125cm; male 100–110cm.
- Max. TL: 164cm.[1,2]
- Age at maturity: female 35 years; male 30 years. Max. age est.: 70 years.[2]
- Ovoviviparous, litters of 5–8 pups.[1]
- Evidence of segregation by sex and size, likely linked to depth and water temperature.[5]
- Diet consists of teleost fishes, cephalopods, crustaceans; chimaera also reported.[1,2,6]

GUQ Global: VU Europe: EN Max. length: 164cm

Funded by European Maritime & Fisheries Fund

LEAFSCALE GULPER SHARK

TEETH



- Upper jaw: 30–38; blade-like, unicuspidate shape.[1,2]
- Lower jaw: 24–32; oblique cusps; much larger that upper teeth.[1,2]

SIMILAR SPECIES

Gulper Shark *Centrophorus granulosus*

Lowfin Gulper Shark *Centrophorus lusitanicus*

HABITAT

- Demersal on continental slopes from 230–2,400m; also found in the pelagic zone to 1,250m.[2,5]
- Migratory species capable of 20nm per day.[6]

CONSERVATION STATUS*

- IUCN Red List: Global: Vulnerable (2003)
  Europe: Endangered (2015)
- Leafscale Gulper Shark has highly conservative life history characteristics. The significant population declines observed in the Northeast Atlantic confirm that this deepwater shark is extremely vulnerable to fishing pressure.[3,4,7]
- Continued monitoring of this species is required to determine if the recent prohibitions on fishing for deepwater sharks are allowing the population to recover.[4]

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- Previously an important component of deepwater longline and trawl fisheries, primarily for human consumption and liver oil.[3]

MANAGEMENT*

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

REFERENCES

1 Ebert *et al.* 2013.
2 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
3 Guallart *et al.* 2015.
4 White, W.T. 2003.
5 ICES WGEF Report. 2017.
6 Rodríguez-Cabello *et al.* 2016.
7 Neat *et al.* 2015.

GUQ/NEA/2020 *Information correct at time of printing (2020).

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