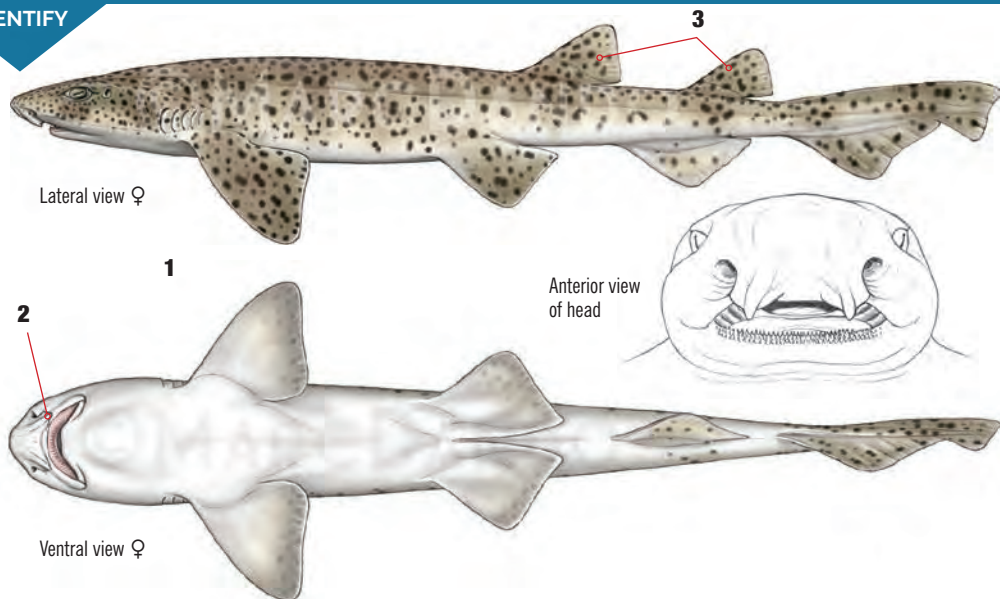


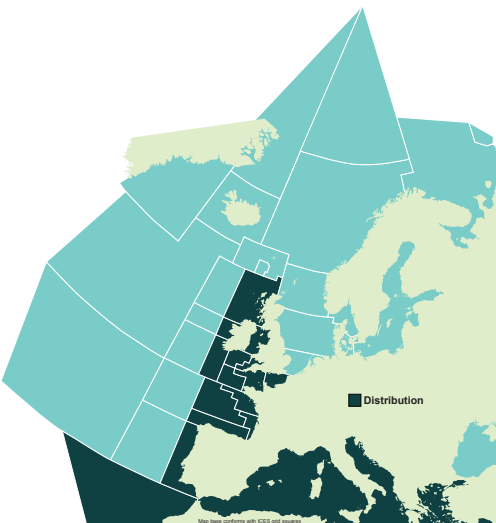


SCIENTIFIC NAME

Scyliorhinus stellaris (Linnaeus, 1758)

DISTRIBUTION

Northeast Atlantic from southern Scandinavia to the British Isles and south to Morocco including the Canary Islands. Found in the Mediterranean Sea.¹⁻⁴



COMMON NAMES

NURSEHOUND, Bull Huss, Greater Spotted Catshark, Greater Spotted Dogfish, Rock Salmon, Flake, Rigg, Großer Katzenhai (DEU), Alitán (ESP), Grande Roussette (FRA), Gata Nostrana (ITA), Kathaai (NLD), Pata-roxa-gata (PRT).

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

- 1 Relatively stocky catshark.^{1,2,5}
- 2 Nasal furrows do not reach mouth.^{1,2}
- 3 Second dorsal fin smaller than first; no dorsal spines.^{1,2}
- Creamy brown dorsally, numerous large and small dark brown spots, sometimes interspersed with white spots. 7-8 saddles sometimes visible.^{1,2,5}
- White ventrally.^{1,2}

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- Birth: 16cm.
- Max. TL: 162cm, most common to 130cm.^{2,4}
- Oviparous, females produce one egg per oviduct. Eggs more commonly laid in spring/summer; incubation period up to 9 months.^{2,4}
- Moves between different habitats within a home range during nocturnal and diurnal cycles.²
- Diet consists primarily of cephalopods, crustaceans, molluscs and small teleosts; other sharks (incl. Smallspotted Catshark *S. canicula*) also reported.^{1,2}

EGGCASE

- ▶ 33–37mm wide.⁶
- ▶ 89–125mm long (excl. tendrils).⁶
- ▶ Thick, curled tendrils extend from each corner.⁶
- ▶ Similar shaped eggcase to the Smallspotted Catshark.⁶



TEETH



- ▶ Front teeth single-cusped and erect; cusplets developing further back in jaw.⁷
- ▶ Upper jaw: 44–56 teeth.^{1,7}
- ▶ Lower jaw: 38–46 teeth.^{1,7}

SIMILAR SPECIES



Smallspotted Catshark *Scyliorhinus canicula*,
(history of misidentification with *S.canicula*;
attention should be paid to the nasal furrows
when differentiating between these species).



Blackmouth Catshark *Galeus melastomus*



Atlantic Sawtail Catshark *Galeus atlanticus*



Mouse Catshark *Galeus murinus*

HABITAT

- ▶ Inshore on continental shelf, intertidal from 20–125m (to 400m in Med.), most common <60m.^{1–4,8}
- ▶ Often found on rough or rocky substrate, or areas with heavy algal cover.^{1,2,8}
- ▶ Locally abundant in some regions and found to segregate spatially by sex.^{1,9}

CONSERVATION STATUS*

- ▶ IUCN Red List: Global: Near Threatened (2009)
Europe: Near Threatened (2015)
Mediterranean: Near Threatened (2016)
- ▶ While it can be locally abundant, limited connectivity between populations and a relatively low fecundity may make this species vulnerable to overexploitation. Declines have been recorded in the Mediterranean.⁴

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- ▶ Minimal commercial importance. Primarily taken as bycatch in demersal trawl, gillnet and longline fisheries; usually discarded in Northern Europe.^{1,2,4,10}
- ▶ Meat is utilised fresh or dried-salted for human consumption as well as for fishmeal.²

MANAGEMENT*

- ▶ No species-specific management in the Northeast Atlantic.
- ▶ Subject to FNA regulations.

REFERENCES

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- 7 Soldo *et al.* 2000.
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- 10 ICES WGEF Report. 2017.