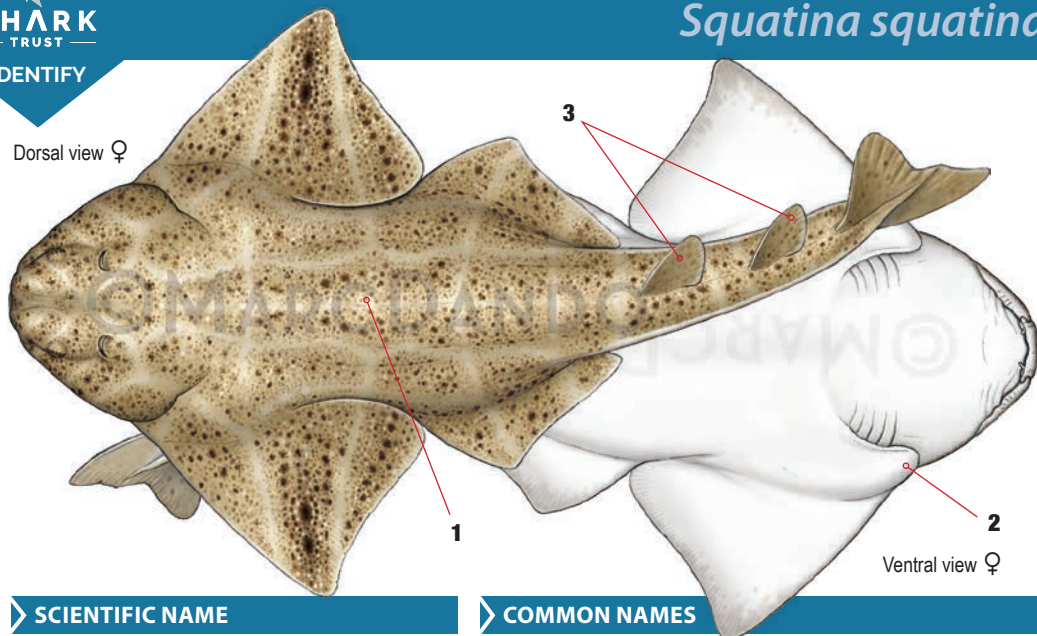


Dorsal view ♀



Ventral view ♀

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Squatina squatina (Linnaeus, 1758)

DISTRIBUTION

Reduced from much of its former range. Found in the Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. Regularly encountered in the Canary Islands, occasional records from Celtic and Irish Sea and records across the Mediterranean Sea.^{1,2,3,4}

COMMON NAMES

ANGELSHARK, Angel Shark, Monkfish, Engelhai (DEU), Angelote (ESP), Ange De Mer (FRA), Squadro (ITA), Zee-engel (NLD), Anjo (PRT).

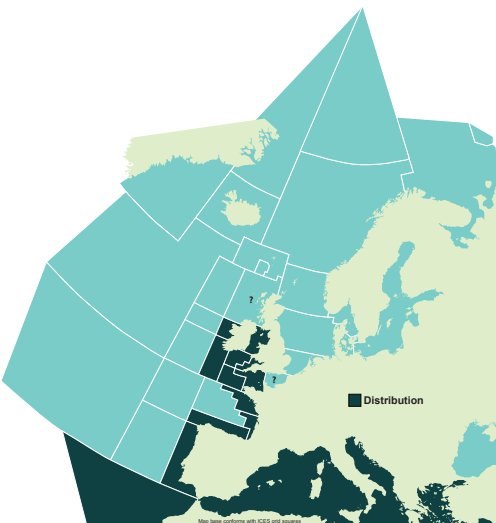
*angel shark (as two words) refers to the family Squatinidae while Angelshark (as one word) refers to species common names.

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

- 1 Broad, flattened body.^{1,5}
 - 2 Pectoral fins not fused to the head.^{1,5}
 - 3 Dorsal fins set back on tail.^{1,5}
- Grey to red-brown dorsally with small white spots and scattered dark blotches. Pattern of light lines sometimes visible.^{1,5}
 - White ventrally.^{1,5}

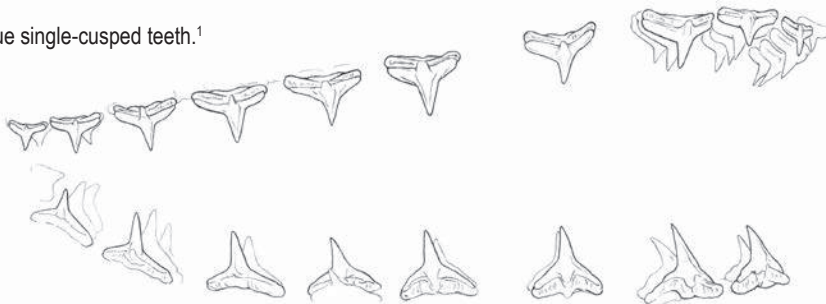
SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- Birth: 24–30cm.^{1,4}
- Matures: female 128–169cm; male 80–132cm.^{1,4}
- Max. TL: female ~244cm; male 183cm.^{1,4}
- Ovoviparous, gestation period 8–10 months. Litters of 7–25 pups recorded, litter size depends on size of female. Pups born Dec-Feb in Mediterranean.^{1,6}
- Ambush predator: predominantly feeds on teleosts, esp. flatfish. Eats other demersal fishes, skates, crustaceans, and molluscs.^{1,5}

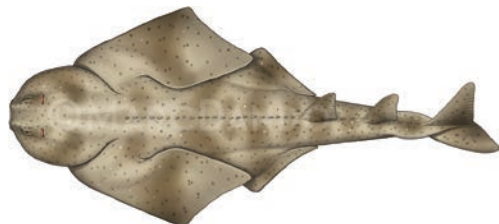


TEETH

- ▶ Large, sharp, oblique single-cusped teeth.¹
- ▶ Upper jaw: 18–22.¹
- ▶ Lower jaw: 18–22.¹



SIMILAR SPECIES



Sawback Angel Shark *Squatina aculeata*



Smoothback Angel Shark *Squatina oculata*

HABITAT

- ▶ Demersal predator found in temperate waters from shallows to 150m. Prefers muddy and sandy substrates in coastal waters and bays.^{1,3}
- ▶ Active nocturnal predator, rests during the day often with only eyes and spiracles showing above substrate.^{1,2}
- ▶ Limited tagging data indicate high site-fidelity; some longer-distance movements reported. In the northern parts of its range this species has been known to migrate seasonally, which may be offshore to inshore, or south to north migrations during summer.^{1,7}

CONSERVATION STATUS*

- ▶ IUCN Red List:
 - Global: Critically Endangered (2019)
 - Europe: Critically Endangered (2019)
 - Mediterranean: Critically Endangered (2016)
- ▶ Conservative life history traits and intense fishing activity throughout species range have led to significant decline in abundance. Conservation action is guided by the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Angel Shark Conservation Strategy, the Canary Islands Action Plan and the Mediterranean Regional Action Plan.^{4,6,8}

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- ▶ Historically landed for human consumption, liver oil, and fishmeal.⁷
- ▶ Occasionally reported as bycatch in trawl, longline and set-net fisheries.⁶

MANAGEMENT*

- ▶ Subject to prohibitions under the CFP, RFMO and FNA regulations. Additional international regulations apply.

REFERENCES

- 1 Ebert *et al.* 2013.
- 2 Kabasakal & Kabasakal. 2014.
- 3 Barker *et al.* 2016.
- 4 Gordon *et al.* 2017.
- 5 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 6 Morey *et al.* 2019.
- 7 ICES WGEF Report. 2017.
8. Gordon *et al.* 2019.