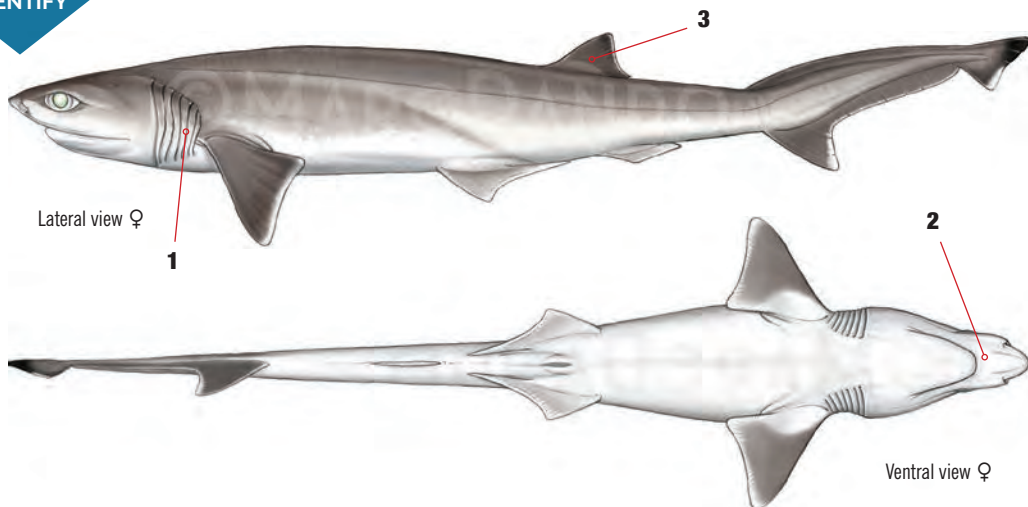


SHARPNOSE SEVENGILL SHARK

Heptranchias perlo



SCIENTIFIC NAME

Heptranchias perlo (Bonnaterre, 1788)

DISTRIBUTION

Widespread but patchy distribution. Northeast Atlantic from western British Isles to Bay of Biscay, including the Mediterranean Sea. Also, found from Morocco to Namibia. Occurs in the Western Atlantic from New England to the Gulf of Mexico.¹⁻⁶

COMMON NAMES

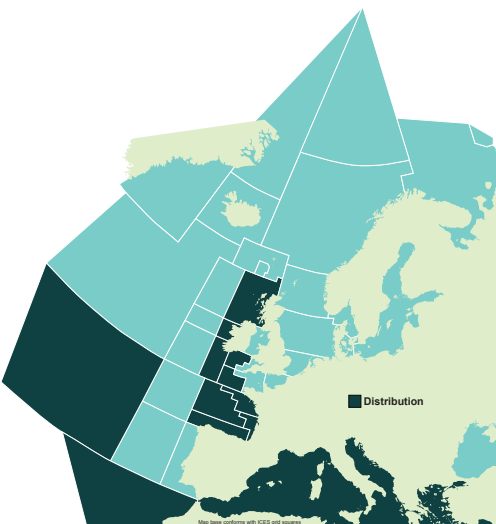
SHARPNOSE SEVENGILL SHARK, One-Finned Shark, Perlon Shark, Sevengill Cow Shark, Cañabota Bocadulce (ESP), Requin Perlon (FRA), Boca Doce (PRT).

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

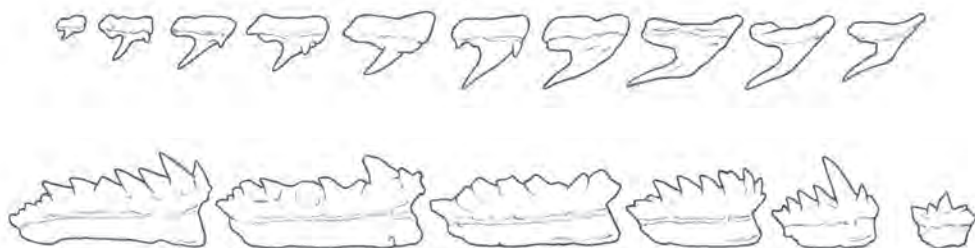
- 1 Seven pairs of large gill slits.³
 - 2 Sharply pointed head.³
 - 3 Single dorsal fin.³
- Pale grey to olive dorsally.³
 - Lighter ventrally.³
 - Black tips on dorsal fin and upper caudal lobe – inconspicuous on large individuals.³

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- Birth: 25cm.
- Matures: female 90–105cm; male 75–85cm.
- Max. TL: 140cm.⁶
- Viviparous, 6–20 pups per litter. Thought to reproduce year-round.^{1,2}
- Generalist predator feeding on demersal and pelagic fishes, crustaceans, cephalopods and other small elasmobranchs.^{2,3}



TEETH



- ▶ Upper jaw: 18–24; first 3–4 teeth are narrow with hook-like cusp; all subsequent teeth have 1–2 cusps.¹
- ▶ Lower jaw: 11–13; small, symmetrical tooth at symphysis, subsequent teeth are broad and comb-shaped.¹

SIMILAR SPECIES



Bluntnose Sixgill Shark *Hexanchus griseus*



Bigeye Sixgill Shark *Hexanchus nakamurai*



Frilled Shark *Chlamydoselachus anguineus*

HABITAT

- ▶ A demersal deepwater shark found from 27–1,000m, most commonly 100–720m on continental and island shelves, upper slopes and seamounts.^{1,2}
- ▶ Occasionally found in more inshore waters.^{1,2}

CONSERVATION STATUS*

- ▶ IUCN Red List: Global: Near Threatened (2003)
Europe: Data Deficient (2015)
Mediterranean: Data Deficient (2016)
- ▶ No species-specific data available. Taken as occasional bycatch, but population trends uncertain. This shark is expected to have a low reproductive rate, similar to other deepwater sharks, making it vulnerable to population decline.^{3,6}

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- ▶ Low commercial importance. Occasionally taken as bycatch in deepwater trawl and longline fisheries. Very occasionally taken in shelf seas.^{3,4,6}
- ▶ Possibly utilised for human consumption and fishmeal.^{2,3}

MANAGEMENT*

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

REFERENCES

- 1 Ebert *et al.* 2013.
- 2 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 3 Paul & Fowler. 2003.
- 4 McLaughlin & Morrissey. 2004.
- 5 El Kamel-Moutalibi *et al.* 2014.
- 6 Soldo & Bariche. 2015.