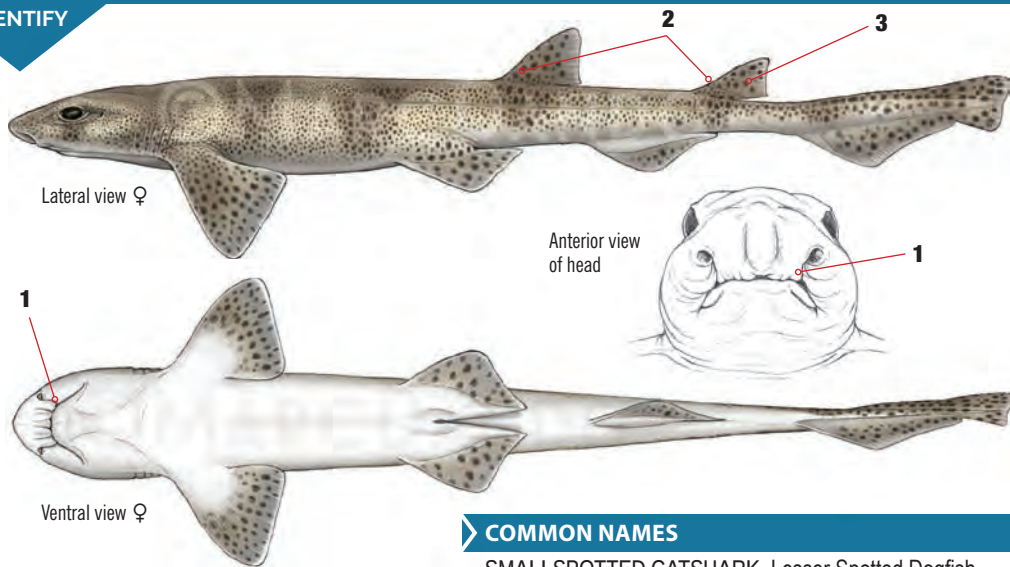


SMALLSPOTTED CATSHARK

Scyliorhinus canicula



COMMON NAMES

SMALLSPOTTED CATSHARK, Lesser Spotted Dogfish, Rough Hound, Rock Salmon, Sandy Dogfish, Doggie, Kleiner Katzenhai (DEU), Pintarroja (ESP), Petite Roussette (FRA), Rosetta Minore (ITA), Hondshaai (NLD), Pata-roxa (PRT).

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Scyliorhinus canicula (Linnaeus, 1758)

DISTRIBUTION

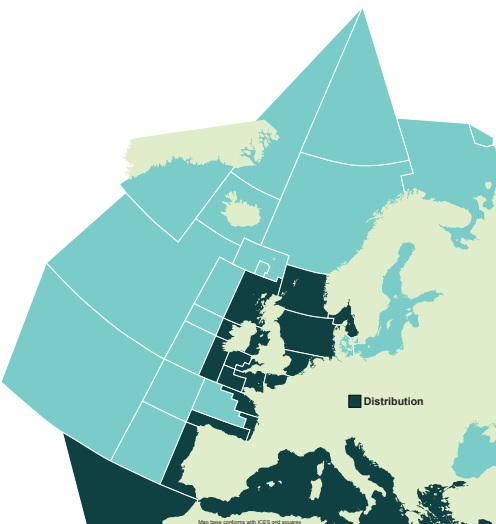
Known throughout the Northeast Atlantic. Present from Norway, British Isles and Canary Islands to Senegal, possibly to Ivory Coast. Occurs in the Mediterranean Sea.¹⁻⁵

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

- 1 Nasal furrows reach the mouth.^{1,2}
 - 2 No dorsal spines.^{1,2}
 - 3 Second dorsal fin smaller than the first.^{1,2}
- ▶ Creamy beige dorsally with numerous small dark spots. Occasionally scattered white spots present.
 - ▶ 7-8 dusky saddles sometimes visible.^{1,2}
 - ▶ Ventral surface uniformly cream.

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- ▶ Birth: 9-10cm.
- ▶ Matures: female 52-65cm (NE Atl.); 44cm (Med.); male 49-55cm (NE Atl.); 39cm (Med.).
- ▶ Max. TL: 85cm (British Isles and North Sea).¹
- ▶ Max. age: 20 years.⁶
- ▶ Oviparous, eggcases primarily laid November to July. Incubation periods of 5-11 months (most commonly 8-9) reported.^{1,3,7}
- ▶ Females able to store sperm and utilise it for delayed fertilisation.⁸
- ▶ Feeds primarily on bottom invertebrates e.g. crustaceans, gastropods, polychaete worms, small cephalopods and fishes.^{1,2,5}

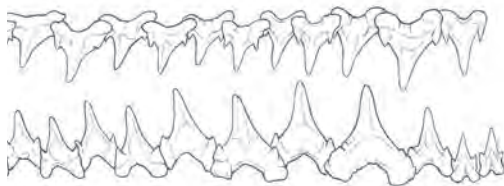


EGGCASE

- ▶ 18–31mm wide.⁹
- ▶ 31–74mm long (excl. tendrils).⁹
- ▶ Long tendrils at each corner.⁹
- ▶ Similar shaped eggcase to Nursehound, *Scyliorhinus stellaris*.⁹
- ▶ Colour varies from pale yellow to brown or black.



TEETH



- ▶ Strongly oblique with single cusps to erect with five cusps.
- ▶ Upper jaw: 46–47.²
- ▶ Lower jaw: 39–42.²

SIMILAR SPECIES



Nursehound *Scyliorhinus stellaris*

(history of misidentifications with *S. stellaris*; 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

- ▶ Bottom dwelling over continental shelves and upper slopes on sandy, muddy, and rocky bottoms.¹
- ▶ Intertidal to at least 300m, normally to 100m.^{2–4}
- ▶ Nocturnal, spending the day resting on the bottom and hunting at night.⁵
- ▶ Juveniles found in shallow water; adults found deeper and frequently occur in single sex aggregations.^{1,2}

CONSERVATION STATUS*

- ▶ IUCN Red List: Global: Least Concern (2009)
Europe: Least Concern (2015)
Mediterranean: Least Concern (2016)
- ▶ One of the most abundant elasmobranch species in the Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean. Life history characteristics may enable it to withstand current levels of exploitation.^{4,7}

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- ▶ Taken as bycatch in bottom trawl, fixed bottom nets and gill nets, and longline fisheries.^{1,3,7}
- ▶ Commercially valuable in parts of its range such as in Italy where it is retained and utilised fresh, or dried-salted for human consumption. Also utilised for liver oil, fish meal and as bait in pot fisheries.^{3,7}
- ▶ Studies show that discard survival rate is high.^{1,3,7}

MANAGEMENT*

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

REFERENCES

- 1 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 2 Ebert *et al.* 2013.
- 3 Ellis *et al.* 2009.
- 4 Ellis *et al.* 2005.
- 5 Sims, D.W. 2003.
- 6 Bendiab *et al.* 2012.
- 7 Serena *et al.* 2015.
- 8 Griffiths *et al.* 2012.
- 9 Gordon *et al.* 2016.