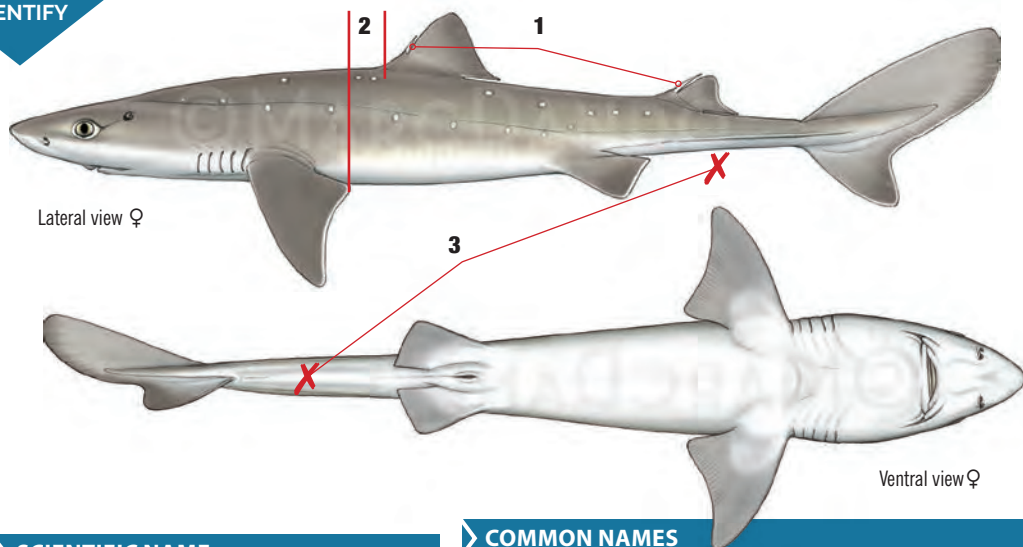




Lateral view ♀

Ventral view ♀

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Squalus acanthias Linnaeus, 1758

DISTRIBUTION

Circumglobal in temperate waters. Northeast Atlantic from Iceland, Faroe Islands, Barents Sea and Scandinavia to the British Isles and south to Senegal incl. the Mediterranean and Black Seas.^{1,2,3,4}

COMMON NAMES

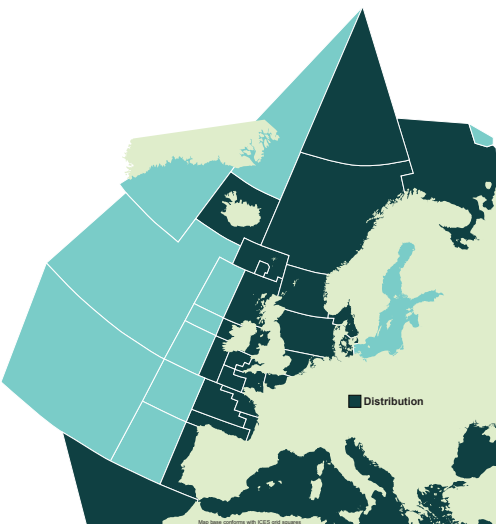
SPURDOG, Spiny Dogfish, Piked Dogfish, Dogfish, Rock Salmon, Spring Dogfish, White-Spotted Dogfish, Dornhai (DEU), Cazón Espinoso (ESP), Mielga (ESP), Aiguillat Commun (FRA), Agoggiau (ITA), Doorn haai (NLD), Cação Galhudo (PRT).

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

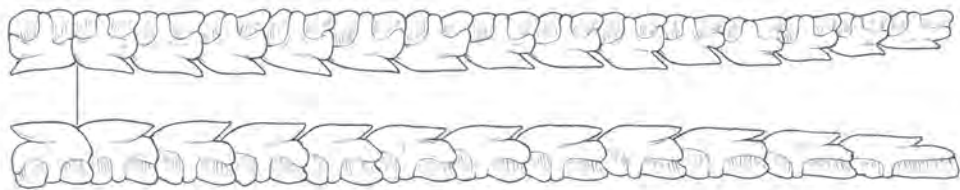
- 1 Large, ungrooved dorsal spines.^{1,2,5}
 - 2 First dorsal fin originates behind pectoral fin rear tips.^{1,2,5}
 - 3 No anal fin.^{1,2,5}
- ▶ Rows of white spots on flanks.^{1,2,5}
 - ▶ Slate grey to bluish grey dorsally.^{1,2,5}
 - ▶ Pale grey to white ventrally.^{1,2,5}

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- ▶ Birth: 18–30cm.
- ▶ Matures: female 66–82cm; male 52–70cm.
- ▶ Max. TL: female 125cm; male 100cm. Maturity and max. sizes vary regionally.^{2,6}
- ▶ Age at maturity: 10–20 years (varies regionally). Max. age est: 30 years.^{1,2}
- ▶ Viviparous with yolk-sac. Females give birth to 1–32 pups per litter (dependent on size of female and region). Gestation period lasts 18–24 months (varies regionally).^{1,6}
- ▶ Feeds on crustaceans, molluscs, teleosts and other elasmobranchs. Known to scavenge fish caught on fishing gear.^{1,2,7,8}



TEETH



- Oblique-cusped cutting teeth in both jaws.²
- Upper jaw: 26–30.¹
- Lower jaw: 22–24.¹

SIMILAR SPECIES



Tope *Galeorhinus galeus*



Starry Smoothhound *Mustelus asterias*



Common Smoothhound *Mustelus mustelus*

HABITAT

- Demersal, possibly epipelagic from surface to 1,446m, most commonly >600m.⁵
- Found in boreal to warm-temperate waters on continental shelf and upper slope, sometimes extending further offshore.⁵
- Aggregates by size and sex.^{1,2}
- Regionally migratory, with a few oceanic movements recorded. Able to tolerate temperature range of 7–15°C.^{1,2}
- Nursery grounds usually occur in shallow inshore areas, open bays and estuaries.^{1,2}

CONSERVATION STATUS*

- IUCN Red List: Global: Vulnerable (2016)
Europe: Endangered (2015)
Mediterranean: Endangered (2016)
- A slow growing, late maturing and long-lived shark making it particularly vulnerable to overexploitation from fisheries due to its slow rate of population increase. Segregation by size and sex make aggregated groups of the population (such as mature females) susceptible to localised targeted fishing.^{3,4}

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- A highly valued shark targeted and taken as bycatch across much of its range by demersal fisheries.^{1–4}
- Utilised for its meat, liver oil and fins.^{1,2}
- Targeted by anglers in recreational fishing.²

MANAGEMENT*

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

REFERENCES

- 1 Ebert, *et al.* 2013.
- 2 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 3 Ellis *et al.* 2015.
- 4 Fordham *et al.* 2016.
- 5 Compagno, L.J.V. 1984.
- 6 Yigin & Ismen. 2013.
- 7 Ellis, J.R. *et al.* 1996.
- 8 Hanchet, S. 1991.