

Guitarfish ID Guide

In the Mediterranean there are two species - the Blackchin [Giant] Guitarfish and Common Guitarfish. Due to fishing pressure both are now globally **Critically Endangered**, with severely depleted populations.

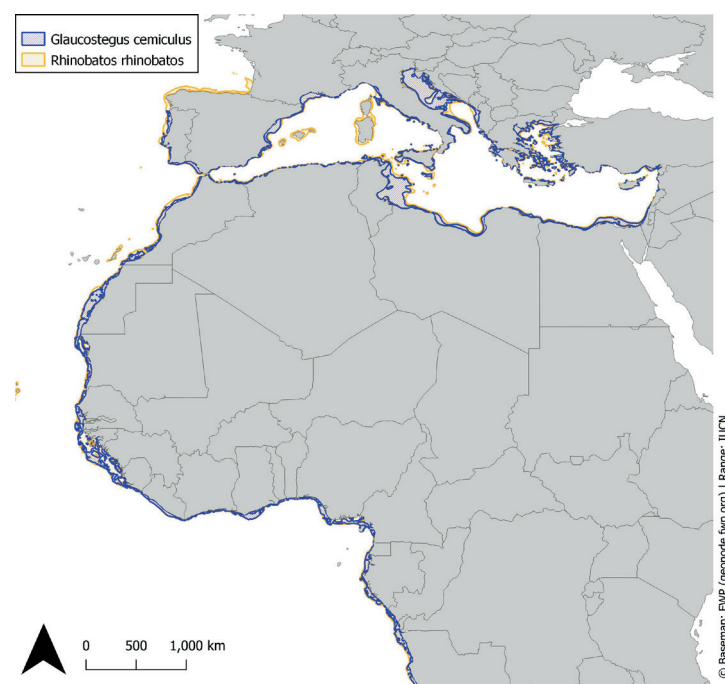
The two species are prohibited from targeting and retention in the Mediterranean¹ and listed on Appendix II of CITES².



Shark Trust is collaborating with researchers across North Africa, the Eastern Mediterranean, and beyond, to advance Guitarfish conservation.

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Distribution Map



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Blackchin Guitarfish

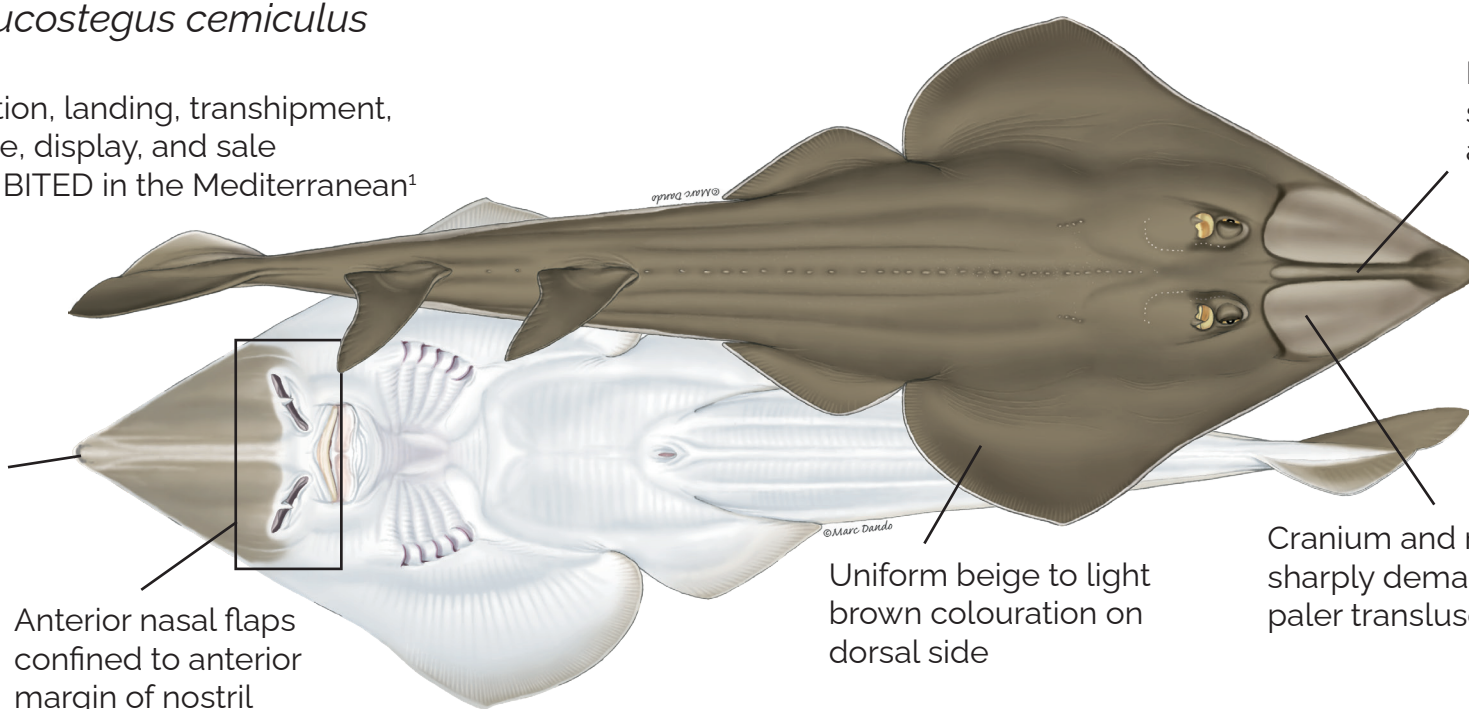
Max length: 265 cm

Glaucostegus cemiculus



Retention, landing, transshipment, storage, display, and sale PROHIBITED in the Mediterranean¹

Ventrally, blackish blotch on tip of snout in young, may fade in adults



Common Guitarfish

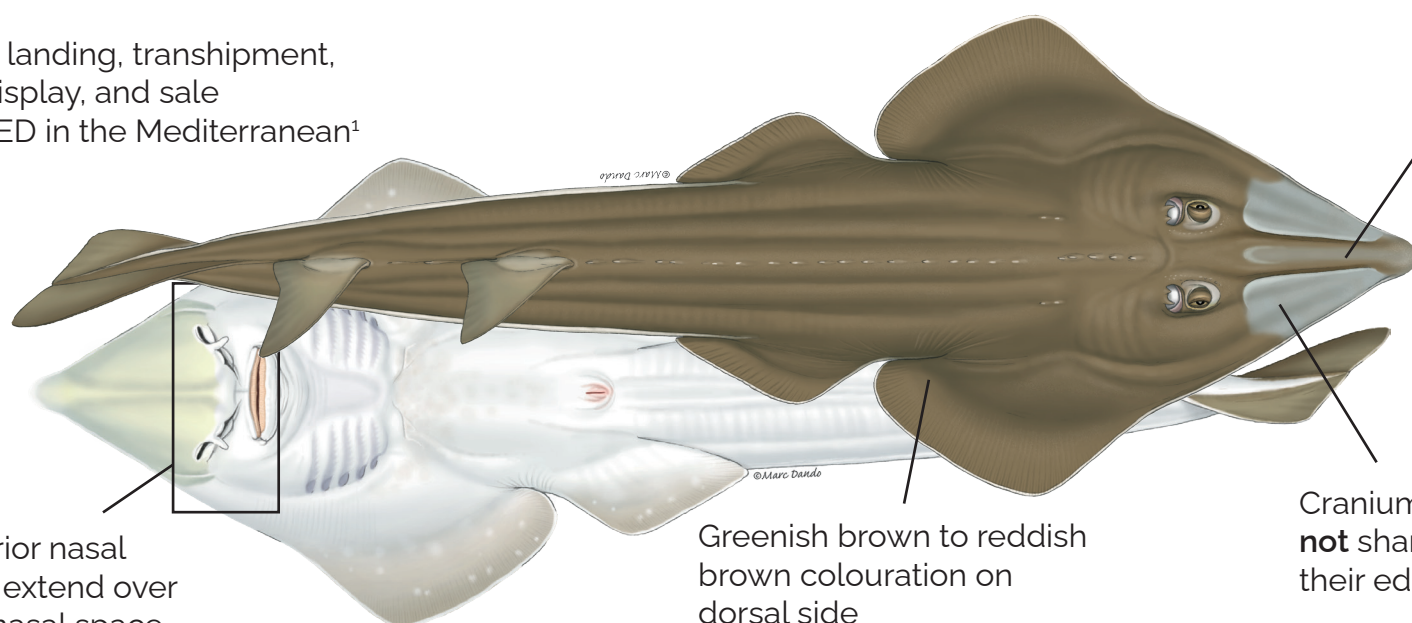
Max length: 111 cm

Rhinobatos rhinobatos



Retention, landing, transshipment, storage, display, and sale PROHIBITED in the Mediterranean¹

Anterior nasal flaps extend over internasal space



Rostral ridges widely separated throughout their length

Cranium and rostral cartilage **not** sharply demarcated at their edges with the snout

Illustrations ©Marc Dando

¹General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM). GFCM/42/2018/2 (modifying GFCM/36/2012/3)
²CITES - Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species



Guitarfish Meat ID Guide

In the Mediterranean there are two species - the Blackchin [Giant] Guitarfish and Common Guitarfish. Due to fishing pressure both are now globally **Critically Endangered**, with severely depleted populations.

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This document is intended as an aid to identifying Guitarfish meat as prepared for sale at market.

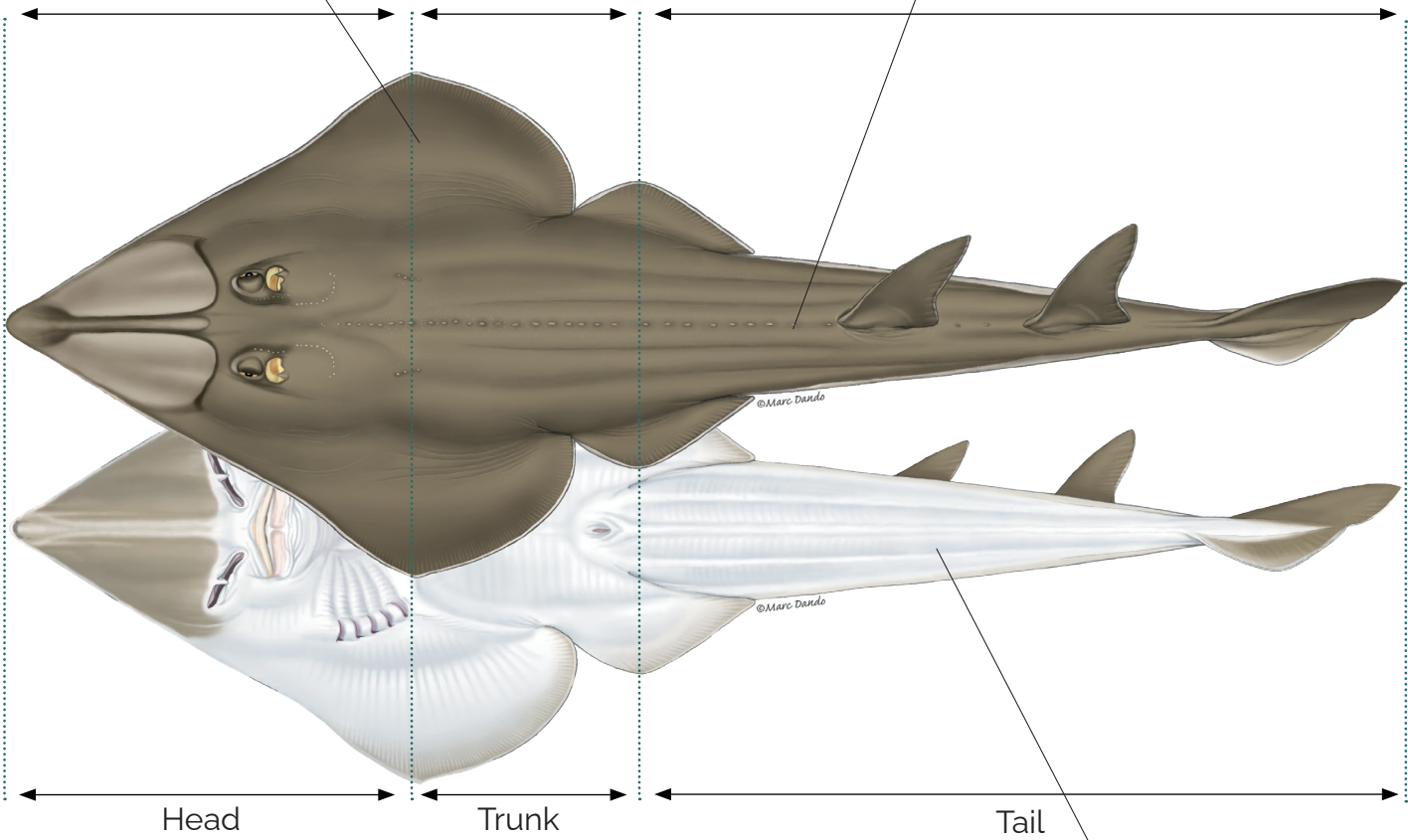
Below: Pectoral fins as prepared for sale at market



Below: Tail meat and cross section as prepared for sale at market



Blackchin Guitarfish
Glaucostegus cemiculus



Left: Full body with dorsal fins removed as prepared for sale at market



Above: Cross section of tail meat as prepared for sale at market

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