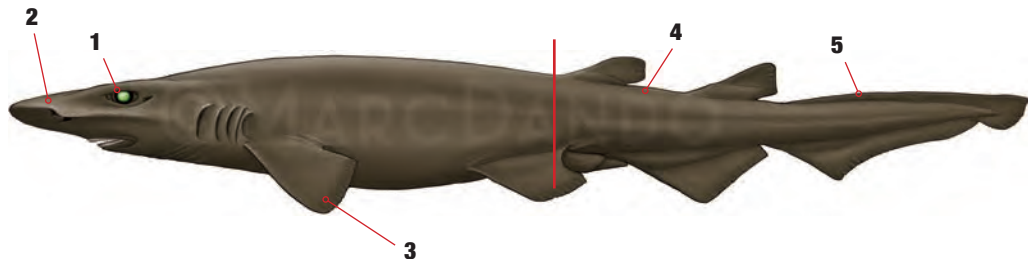


Lateral view ♀



SCIENTIFIC NAME

Apristurus microps (Gilchrist, 1922)

DISTRIBUTION

Northeast Atlantic between Iceland and Scotland. Northwest Atlantic off Newfoundland Canada and Massachusetts. Also off South Africa.¹⁻³

COMMON NAMES

SMALLEYE CATSHARK, Holbiche porc (FRA),
Pejegato puerco (ESP).

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

- 1 Extremely small eyes.²⁻⁴
 - 2 Long, broad snout.²⁻⁴
 - 3 Very short pectoral fins.²⁻⁴
 - 4 Short interdorsal space. First dorsal fin originates at rear of pelvic fin bases.²⁻⁴
 - 5 Crest of denticles above tail.²⁻⁴
- Uniform dark-brown, grey-brown to purplish-black in colour.²⁻⁴

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- Matures: female 47–49cm;
male 47–51cm.
- Max. TL: 61cm.³
- Oviparous, females appear to lay eggcases year-round. Little else known about the biology of this shark.^{2,3}
- Primarily feeds on small fishes, squid and shrimp.^{2,3}



SMALLEYE CATSHARK

EGGCASE

- ▶ Small eggcases with fine, longitudinal striations. No tendrils.⁵
- ▶ 47–52mm long.^{2,3,5}

SIMILAR SPECIES



Iceland Catshark *Apristurus laurussonii*



Ghost Catshark *Apristurus manis*



White Ghost Catshark *Apristurus aphyodes*



Mouse Catshark *Galeus murinus*

Black Roughscale Catshark *Apristurus melanoasper*
(no illus.)

HABITAT

- ▶ Benthic, found on continental slopes at depths of 700–2,200m.^{2,3}
- ▶ Migrates to midwater to feed.^{1,6}
- ▶ Young migrate from midwater to depths once mature.^{1,6}

TEETH



- ▶ Prominent medial cusp, bordered by two or more smaller lateral cusplets.
- ▶ Upper jaw: 36–102.³
- ▶ Lower jaw: 31–106.³

CONSERVATION STATUS*

- ▶ IUCN Red List: Global: Least Concern (2019)
Europe: Least Concern (2015)
- ▶ The Smalleye Catshark is occasionally bycaught in deepwater trawls. Much of its depth range occurs outside of the reach of deepwater fisheries, affording it some protection from overexploitation.^{1,6}

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- ▶ Of no commercial importance, this species is likely discarded when caught in deepwater trawls.^{1,6}

MANAGEMENT*

- ▶ Subject to prohibitions under the CFP and FNA regulations.

REFERENCES

- 1 Pollom *et al.* 2019
- 2 Ebert *et al.* 2013.
- 3 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 4 Compagno, L.J.V. 1984.
- 5 Ebert *et al.* 2006.
- 6 Walls, R. 2015.