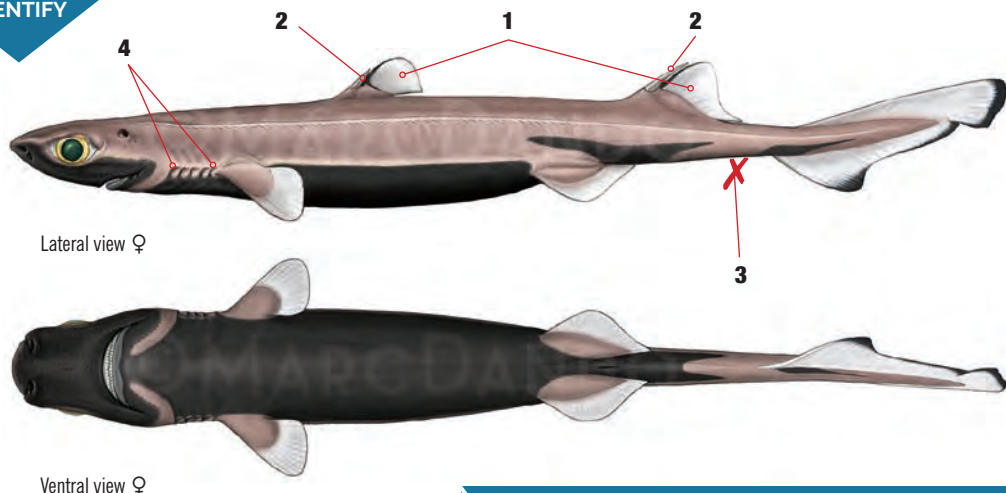


VELVET BELLY LANTERNSHARK

Etmopterus spinax



SCIENTIFIC NAME

Etmopterus spinax (Linnaeus, 1758)

DISTRIBUTION

Eastern Atlantic from Iceland and Norway to Gabon incl. the Azores, Cape Verde and the Western Mediterranean Sea.^{4,5,6,8}

COMMON NAMES

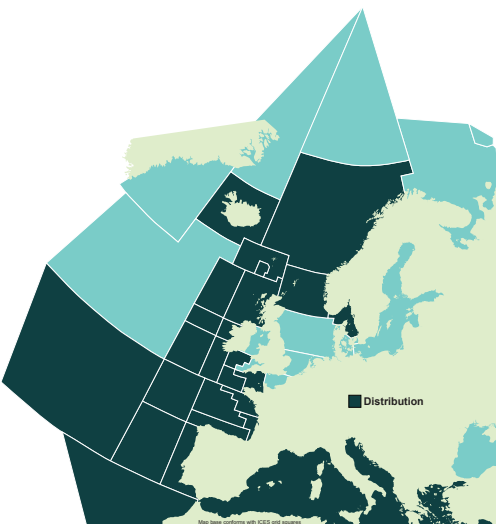
VELVET BELLY LANTERNSHARK, Black Centrina, Kleiner Schwarzer Dornhai (DEU), Negrito (ESP), Sagre Commun (FRA).

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

- 1 Second dorsal fin twice the size of first.^{5,6}
 - 2 Large dorsal spines.^{5,6}
 - 3 No anal fin.^{5,6}
 - 4 Five pairs of very small gill slits.^{5,6}
- Brown dorsally.^{5,6}
 - Black ventrally.^{5,6}
 - Prominent black markings on fin edges and around pelvic fins.^{5,6}

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- Birth: 9–14cm.
- Matures: female 30–41cm; male 24–34cm.
- Max. TL: 41cm, unconfirmed to 60cm.^{5,6}
- Age at maturity: 4–4.7 years. Max. age est.: female 9–11 years; male 7–8 years.^{2,5,6}
- Viviparous, litters of 1–21 pups. Litter size increases with size of female.⁶
- Gestation lasts 12 months followed by a resting phase. Reproductive cycle of 2–3 years is possible.^{2,5}
- Primarily feeds on teleosts, cephalopods, crustaceans and krill. Diet varies with size of shark with smaller individuals favouring crustaceans and larger sharks consuming larger fishes and cephalopods.^{5,6,11}



TEETH

- Upper jaw: 22–32; teeth have cusps and three or fewer cusplets.^{5,6}
- Lower jaw: 26–40; blade-like and unicuspidate.^{5,6}

SIMILAR SPECIES



Smooth Lanternshark *Etmopterus pusillus*



Great Lanternshark *Etmopterus princeps*



Black Dogfish *Centroscyllium fabricii*



Portuguese Dogfish *Centroscymnus coelolepis*

HABITAT

- Found on outer continental shelves and upper slopes at depths of 70–2,500m, primarily between 200–500m.^{5,6,8}
- Known to segregate by size across different depths with larger, mature specimens found at greater depths. Gravid females migrate from deeper water to shallower nursery grounds.³

CONSERVATION STATUS*

- IUCN Red List: Global: Least Concern (2009)
Europe: Near Threatened (2015)
Mediterranean: Least Concern (2016)
- Slow life history characteristics make it vulnerable to unregulated fishing. Often recorded in the aggregated category for deepwater sharks.^{4,8}

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- Of little commercial importance. Bycatch species in bottom and pelagic trawl fisheries and generally discarded.^{4,6,8}
- Where retained it is occasionally utilised for fishmeal or dried/salted for human consumption.^{4,6,8}

MANAGEMENT*

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

REFERENCES

- 1 Coelho *et al.* 2009.
- 2 Ebert *et al.* 2013.
- 3 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 4 Guallart *et al.* 2015.
- 5 Coelho & Erzini. 2008.
- 6 Neiva *et al.* 2006.
- 7 Coelho & Erzini. 2010.