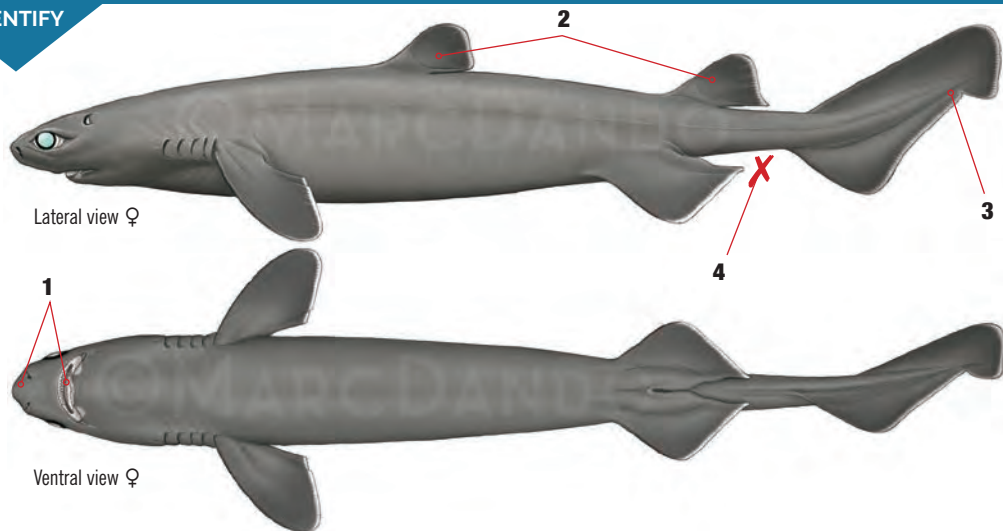




SCIENTIFIC NAME

Dalatias licha (Bonnaterre, 1788)

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide but patchy distribution. Northeast Atlantic from Norway, the Atlantic slope of the British Isles and the Mediterranean to Northwest Africa and the Gulf of Guinea. Also found in the Western Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans.¹⁻³

COMMON NAMES

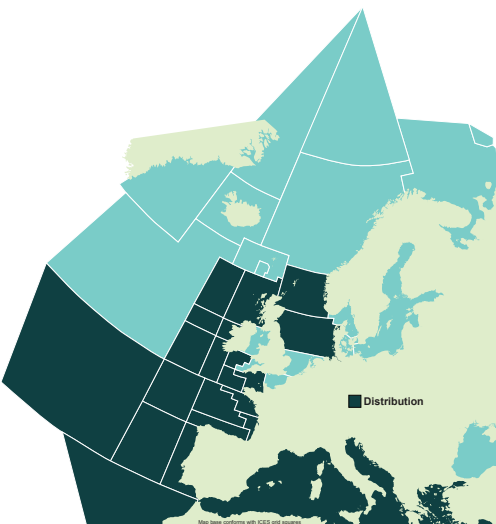
KITEFIN SHARK, Black Shark, Darkie Charlie, Seal Shark, Schokoladenhai (DEU), Carrocho (ESP), Squalo Liche (FRA), Zigrino (ITA), Zwarte Haai (NLD), Gata (PRT).

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

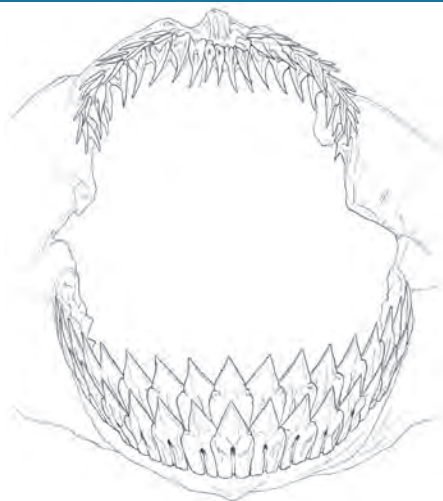
- 1 Short, blunt snout with thick fringed lips.^{1,4}
 - 2 Dorsal fins almost equal in size with no spines.^{1,4}
 - 3 Large upper caudal lobe with distinct sub-terminal notch.^{1,4}
 - 4 No anal fin.^{1,4}
- ▶ Deep brown to greyish to black. Sometimes with poorly defined black spots on dorsal surface.^{1,4}
 - ▶ Trailing edge of most fins are translucent.^{1,4}

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- ▶ Birth: 30–40cm.
- ▶ Matures: female 120cm; male 100cm.
- ▶ Max. TL: 159cm, possibly to 182cm.^{1,3,4}
- ▶ Max. age est.: 29 years.³
- ▶ Ovoviviparous, litters of 3–16 pups (avg. 6–8). Reproduction occurs throughout the year, with greater activity during summer and autumn.^{1,3,4}
- ▶ Versatile demersal and mid-water predator; feeds predominantly on teleosts, small demersal sharks, cephalopods and crustaceans.^{1,4,5}
- ▶ Appears to be solitary, not displaying the aggregating behaviour associated with some other dogfish.¹



TEETH



Upper



Lower

- Upper jaw: 16–21; slender, awl shaped upper teeth sloping toward the corners of the mouth.^{1,4}
- Lower jaw: 17–20; large, triangular, serrated lower teeth.^{1,4}

SIMILAR SPECIES


Knifetooth Dogfish *Scymnodon ringens*

Portuguese Dogfish *Centroscymnus coelolepis*

Velvet Dogfish *Zameus squamulosus*

HABITAT

- Deepwater shark found from 37–1,800m; most common >200m.^{1,4}
- Primarily demersal, but known to occur in midwater, on outer continental and insular shelves and slopes.^{1,3}

CONSERVATION STATUS*

- IUCN Red List: Global: Vulnerable (2018)
Europe: Endangered (2015)
Mediterranean: Vulnerable (2016)
- Formerly taken in targeted fishery around the Azores. Bycatch in a range of deepwater fisheries, mortality likely extremely high following discarding. The fragmented distribution and life history characteristics of this shark make it vulnerable to fishing pressure, with population declines noted in the Northeast Atlantic.^{1–3}

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- Currently there are no target fisheries for Kitefin Shark in Northeast Atlantic waters.²
- Taken as bycatch and utilised across parts of its range for human consumption, fish meal and liver oil – which has a high squalene content.^{1,3}

MANAGEMENT*

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

REFERENCES

- 1 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 2 ICES WGEF Report. 2017.
- 3 Finucci *et al.* 2018.
- 4 Ebert *et al.* 2013.
- 5 Navarro *et al.* 2014.