

FRILLED SHARK

Chlamydoselachus anguineus



Lateral view ♂



Ventral view ♂

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Chlamydoselachus anguineus Garman, 1884

DISTRIBUTION

Widespread but patchy distribution in Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Eastern Atlantic from northern Norway, Atlantic slope off northern Scotland and western Ireland, Iberian Peninsula and North Africa; also along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores.¹⁻⁴

COMMON NAMES

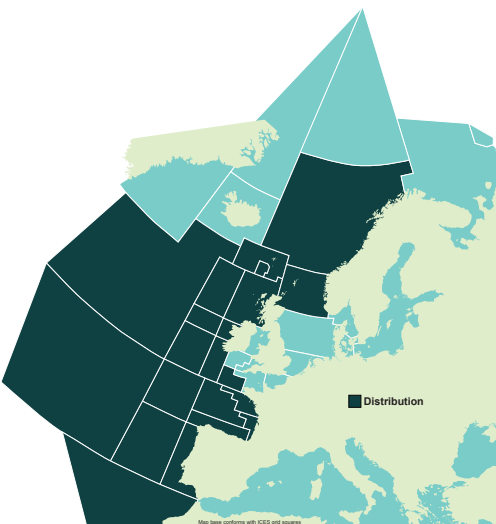
FRILLED SHARK, Frill-Gilled Shark, Lizard Shark, Scaffold Shark, Silk Shark, Kragenhai (DEU), Tiburón Lagarto (ESP), Requin Lézard (FRA), Squalo Serpente (ITA), Franjehaai (NLD), Tubarão-cobra (PRT).

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

- 1 Thin, eel-like body with flattened, snake-like head.^{2,3}
 - 2 Six pairs of large gill slits (1st pair joined ventrally) with frilled edges.^{2,3}
 - 3 Single dorsal fin set back on body, smaller than anal fin.²
- Uniform deep brown to grey with lighter lateral line.³

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- Birth: 39–50cm.
- Matures: female 130–150cm; male 118–163cm.
- Max. TL: 196cm.^{3,4}
- Ovoviviparous, litters of 2–15 pups (avg. 6) nourished by large uterine eggs; gestation thought to be 1–2 years.^{2,4}
- Diet consists of deepwater fishes, cephalopods and small sharks.³
- Morphology suggests this species can approach faster-swimming epipelagic prey before making a sudden snakelike lunge.³



TEETH



- Tricuspid, needle-sharp teeth in both jaws; small cusplet present between each cusp.³
- Teeth on both jaws curved inwards.³
- Upper jaw: 19–28.^{2,3}
- Lower jaw: 21–29.^{2,3}



SIMILAR SPECIES



Sharpnose Sevengill Shark *Heptranchias perlo*



Bigeye Sixgill Shark *Hexanchus nakamurai*

Sometimes confused with
Southern African Frilled Shark *C. africana*

HABITAT

- Deepwater demersal and occasionally epipelagic shark found from 20–1,500m, most commonly 500–1,000m.^{1–3}
- Found over offshore continental and insular shelves, seamounts and mid-ocean ridges. Also reported as pelagic over upper and middle continental slopes.^{2–4}

CONSERVATION STATUS*

- IUCN Red List: Global: Least Concern (2016)
Europe: Least Concern (2015)
- Although not targeted, this shark's life history characteristics make it highly vulnerable to overexploitation.¹

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- Low commercial importance in Atlantic fisheries; taken occasionally as bycatch in deepwater trawl, longline and gillnet fisheries.
- In some countries meat is retained for human consumption, also processed into fishmeal.^{1,3}

MANAGEMENT*

- Subject to prohibitions under the CFP and FNA regulations.

REFERENCES

- 1 Smart *et al.* 2016.
- 2 Ebert *et al.* 2013.
- 3 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 4 Barnett *et al.* 2012.