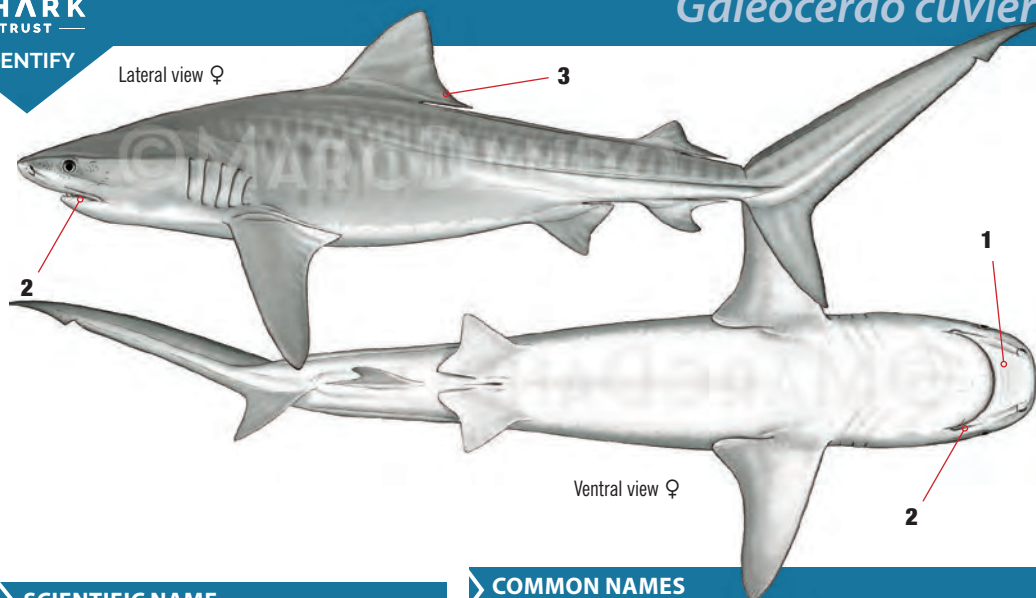




SCIENTIFIC NAME

Galeocerdo cuvier (Péron & Lesueur, 1822)

DISTRIBUTION

Circumglobal in warm temperate to tropical waters. Northeast Atlantic from Morocco to Angola, incl. the Azores and Canary Islands. Known in the Western Atlantic, Indo-Pacific and Pacific Ocean.¹⁻⁴

COMMON NAMES

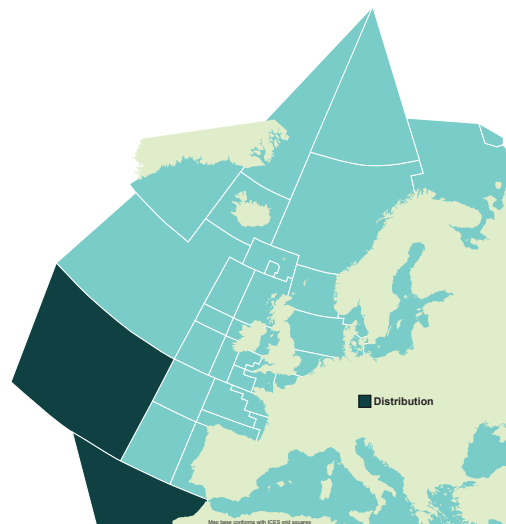
TIGER SHARK, Spotted Shark, Tigerhai (DEU), Tintoreria (ESP), Requin Tigre Commun (FRA), Squalo tigre (ITA), Tubarão tigre (PRT).

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

- 1 Large shark with very short, bluntly rounded snout.^{1,2}
 - 2 Broad mouth and long upper labial furrows reaching towards eyes.^{1,2}
 - 3 Large first dorsal fin with noticeable free rear tip.^{1,2}
- Dorsal side deep blue to dark grey with black to dark-grey bars and spots. Markings are more prominent in young sharks but fade as they mature.^{1,2}
 - Pale yellow to white ventrally.^{1,2}

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- Birth: 46–89cm.²
- Matures: female 250–350cm; male 226–292cm.²
- Max. TL: female 550cm; male ≥ 370cm.²
- Age at maturity: 4–13 years.⁴ Max. age est: 20–37 years.⁴
- Litters born in spring/early summer with gestation lasting 12–16 months.²⁻⁴
- Mating takes place in spring in the Northern Hemisphere.²
- Highly varied diet, incl. teleosts, elasmobranchs, sea birds, marine reptiles and mammals, and invertebrates.
- Known to consume carrion and even rubbish.^{1,2,5}



TEETH



► Curved cusps with finely serrated edges.^{1,2}

► Deep notch on outer margin of each tooth with numerous cusplets.^{1,2}

► Upper jaw: 18–26.^{1,2}

► Lower jaw: 18–26.^{1,2}

SIMILAR SPECIES



Oceanic Whitetip Shark *Carcharhinus longimanus*



Sandbar Shark *Carcharhinus plumbeus*

HABITAT

► Surface to 830m, predominantly <100m but dives to >200m are common.^{6–8}

► A demersal and pelagic shark that occurs from the coastal zone and continental shelf to oceanic waters.^{1,2}

► Found in turbid areas e.g. harbours/river estuaries, and clear waters of lagoons and coral atolls.^{1,2}

► Capable of long migrations in short periods with one individual travelling >5000km in six months.²

► Abundance and type of prey are key factors in determining foraging locations.⁹

CONSERVATION STATUS*

► IUCN Red List: Global: Near Threatened (2019)
Europe: Data Deficient (2015)

► Relatively high reproductive rate compared with other sharks, and a wide distribution indicates a potentially higher resilience to overfishing. Further research required to establish population trends in Northeast Atlantic.^{3,4}

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

► High commercial value. Taken as target and bycatch species in coastal and offshore fisheries using a range of gear including longlines, hook and line, and fixed bottom nets.^{2–4}

► Valued for its fins, meat, liver and skin.^{2–4}

► Popular big-game species with recreational anglers.^{2–4}

MANAGEMENT*

► No species-specific management in the Northeast Atlantic.

► Subject to FNA regulations.

REFERENCES

- 1 Ebert *et al.* 2013.
- 2 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 3 Simpfendorfer *et al.* 2015.
- 4 Ferreira & Simpfendorfer. 2019.
- 5 Simpfendorfer, C. 1992.
- 6 Holmes *et al.* 2014.
- 7 Meyer *et al.* 2010.
- 8 Vaudo *et al.* 2014.
- 9 Meyer *et al.* 2009.