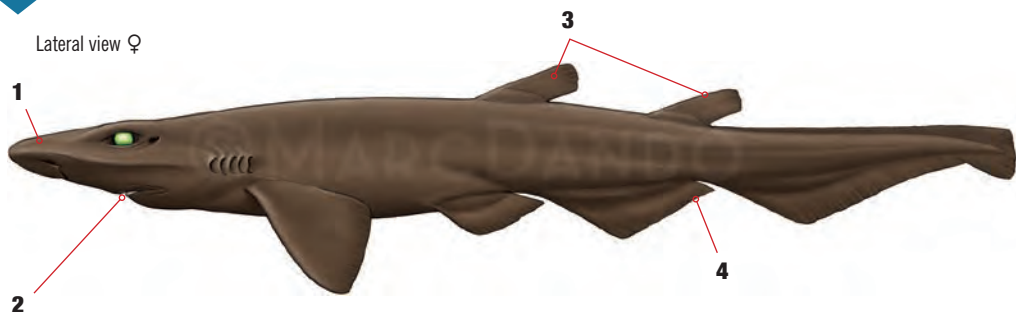




SCIENTIFIC NAME

Apristurus laurussonii (Saemundsson, 1922)

DISTRIBUTION

North and Central Atlantic. North Atlantic from Iceland, Faroe Islands to west of Scotland and Ireland. Also reported off Madeira and Canary Islands. Occurs in the Northwest and Western Central Atlantic.¹⁻³

COMMON NAMES

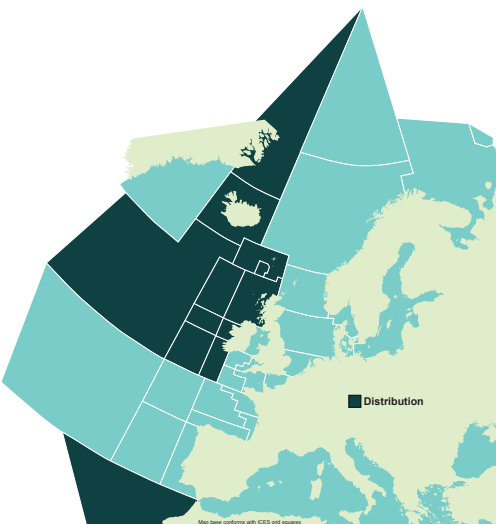
ICELAND CATSHARK, Flathead Catshark, Madeira Catshark, Atlantic Ghost Catshark, Island-Tiefwasserkatzenhai (DEU), Pejegato De Madera (ESP), Roussette De Madère (FRA), Atlantische Spookkathaai (NLD).

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

- 1 Slender body with broad, flattened head and short snout.²⁻⁴
 - 2 Long, broadly arched mouth.²⁻⁴
 - 3 First dorsal fin slightly larger than second.²⁻⁴
 - 4 Large, elongated anal fin separated from elongated tail fin by small notch.²⁻⁴
- Uniform dark brown.²⁻⁴

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- Birth: smallest specimen reported 25cm.
- Matures: smallest mature female reported 59.2cm.
- Max. TL: 72cm.¹⁻³
- Oviparous, little else is known about the biology of this shark.^{1-3,5}
- Diet unknown. Likely consists of crustaceans, cephalopods and small benthic fishes.^{1,2}



EGGCASE

- ▶ 24–27mm wide.⁵
- ▶ 61–72mm long.⁵
- ▶ Long, fine striations run length of the eggcase.⁵
- ▶ Anterior end with long, weak fibrous threads in each corner.⁵
- ▶ Posterior end with spiralled tendrils extending from two small 'horns'.⁵



Eggcase © Iglésias et al. 2002. Cylindrus, 26(1).

TEETH



- ▶ Teeth small in both upper and lower jaws, each with long central cusp with one to three smaller lateral cusps on each side.^{2,4}
- ▶ Upper jaw: 54–102.^{2,4}
- ▶ Lower jaw: 43–106.^{2,4}

SIMILAR SPECIES



White Ghost Catshark *Apristurus aphyodes*



Ghost Catshark *Apristurus manis*



Smalleye Catshark *Apristurus microps*



Mouse Catshark *Galeus murinus*

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

HABITAT

- ▶ Likely demersal deepwater shark found on upper continental slopes from 560–2,060m.^{1,2}
- ▶ Catches of this shark occurred in bottom waters with temperature range of 1.7–4.3°C.^{1,2}

CONSERVATION STATUS*

- ▶ IUCN Red List: Global: Data Deficient (2007)
Europe: Least Concern (2015)
- ▶ A relatively common bycatch in several deepwater trawl fisheries. These fisheries do not overlap with the majority of this species habitat, as such, the current risk of overexploitation is low.¹

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- ▶ Low commercial importance; a relatively common bycatch in deepwater bottom trawl fisheries but generally discarded.^{1,2}

MANAGEMENT*

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

REFERENCES

- 1 Walls, R. 2015.
- 2 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 3 Ebert et al. 2013.
- 4 Iglésias & Nakaya. 2004.
- 5 Iglésias et al. 2002