



An identification guide to sharks, skates and rays in Northern English waters

www.sharktrust.org/northernengland

The **co-operative**

As top predators, sharks, skates and rays (known collectively as elasmobranchs) play a pivotal role in maintaining a healthy, balanced marine ecosystem. This in-turn supports productive fisheries for other species such as teleost fish, Nephrops and shellfish.

In recent decades elasmobranch landings by the Northern English fleet have reduced considerably in volume and are now largely taken as bycatch. Nevertheless they still represent a valuable component within mixed fisheries. The aim of this project is to ensure this remains the case – with fishermen able to profit from well-managed sustainable elasmobranch fisheries.

Fishermen already record their catch by species, however certain species can, at times, be difficult to accurately identify, especially when working at sea – for example catsharks, houndsharks, deep-sea sharks and some skates and rays. This ID Guide offers rapid, accurate advice on identifying all species of shark, skate and ray species caught by Northern English vessels.

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This page: © www.DaveMoss.co.uk.

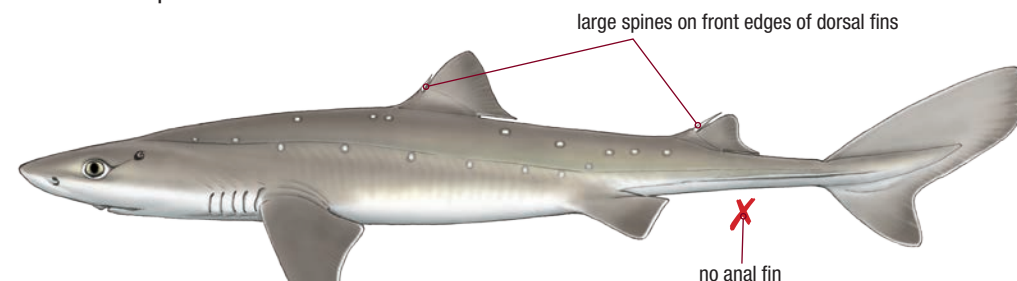
Funded by The co-operative

This project sits within a wide body of sustainable fisheries work undertaken by The Co-operative. Since 2008 a Responsible Fish Sourcing Policy has ensured all Co-operative branded seafood is selected only once the stock status and fishing pressure has been reviewed with the latest scientific advice and factors such as the sustainability of the method of catch have been considered.

www.co-operative.coop/biodiversity



This guide covers the ten species of shark and eight species of skate and ray most regularly encountered in Northern English fisheries. Although less commonly caught, eleven deep-sea sharks are also detailed.



Spurdog (Spiny Dogfish)

Squalus acanthias

DGS

124cm

CR

FAO code

Maximum total length

Conservation status

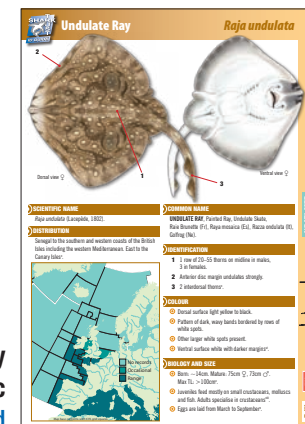
CR	Critically endangered
EN	Endangered
VU	Vulnerable
NT	Near threatened
LC	Least concern
DD	Data deficient

Stay up-to-date



Commercial Fisheries Advisories
www.sharktrust.org/advisories

Updated annually.

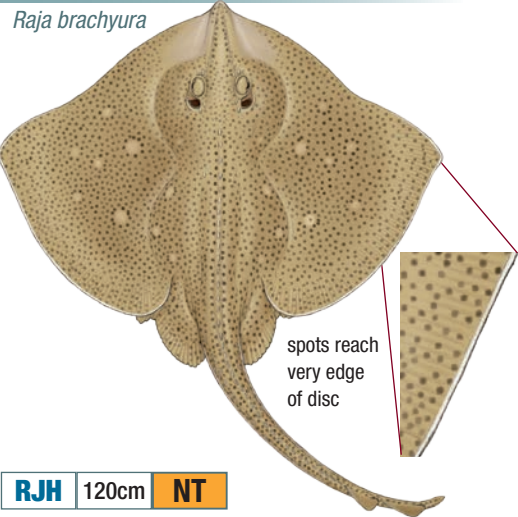


**Full Shark, Skate and Ray
ID Guides for the NE Atlantic**
www.sharktrust.org/id

SKATE AND RAY IDENTIFICATION

Blonde Ray

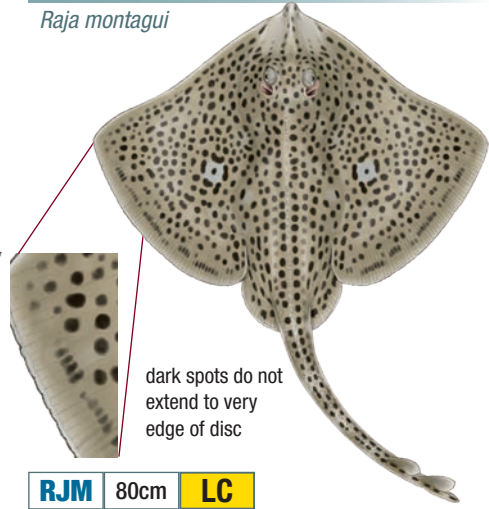
Raja brachyura



RJH 120cm **NT**

Spotted Ray

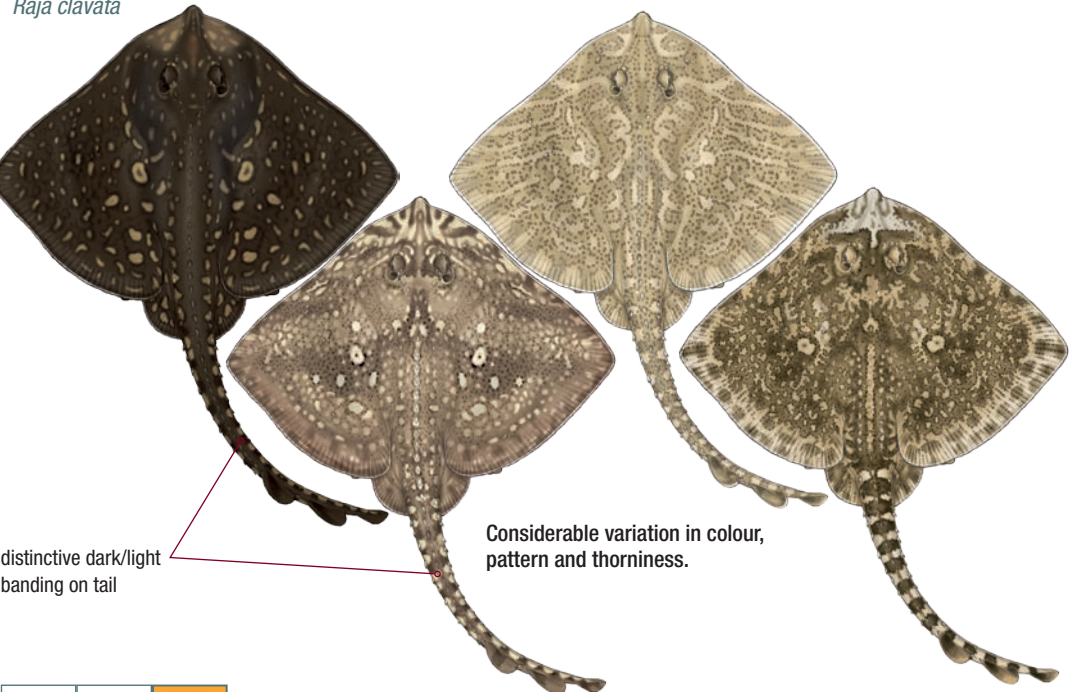
Raja montagui



RJM 80cm **LC**

Thornback Ray or Roker

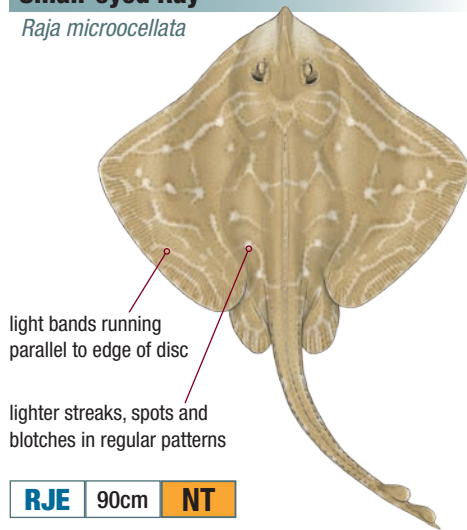
Raja clavata



RJC 130cm **NT**

Small-eyed Ray

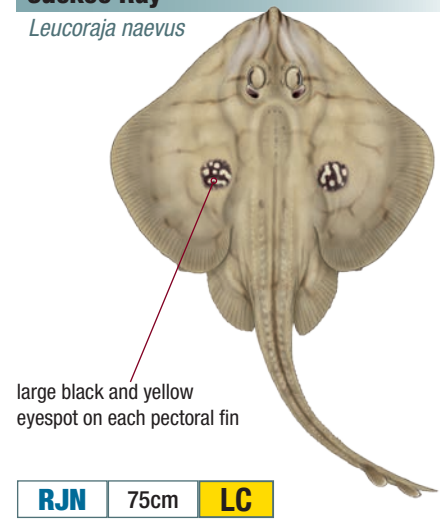
Raja microcellata



RJE 90cm **NT**

Cuckoo Ray

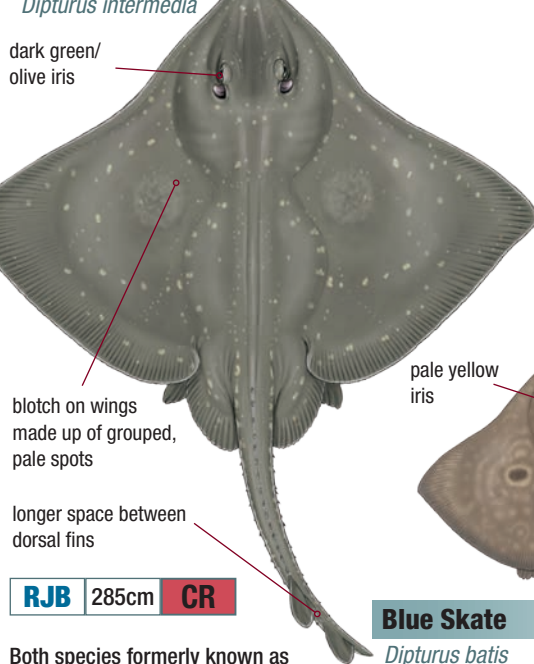
Leucoraja naevus



RJN 75cm **LC**

Flapper Skate

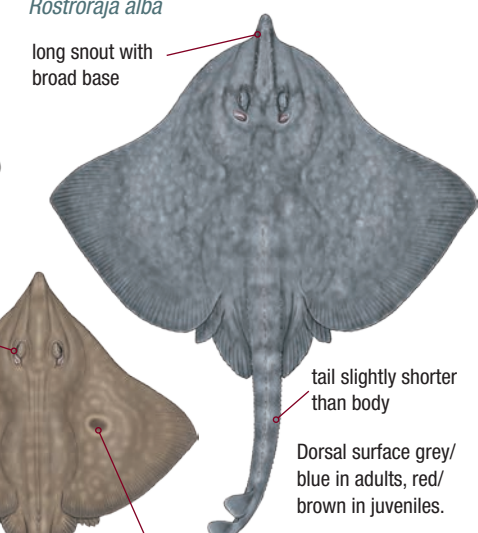
Dipturus intermedia



RJB 285cm **CR**

White Skate

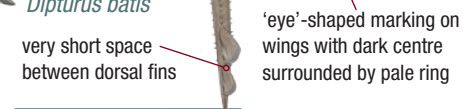
Rostroraja alba



RJA 200cm **CR**

Blue Skate

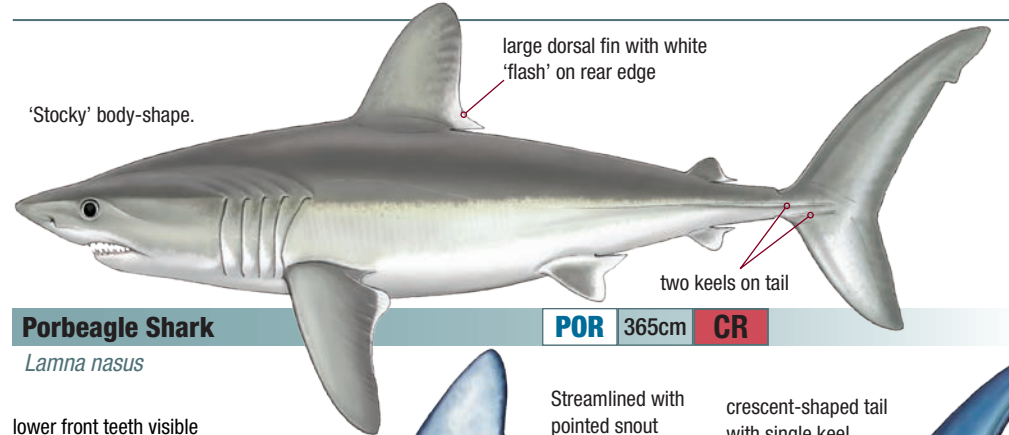
Dipturus batis



RJB 150cm **CR**

Both species formerly known as the Common Skate. The Flapper Skate occurs in the northern North Sea; the Blue Skate is mainly found in the Celtic Sea.

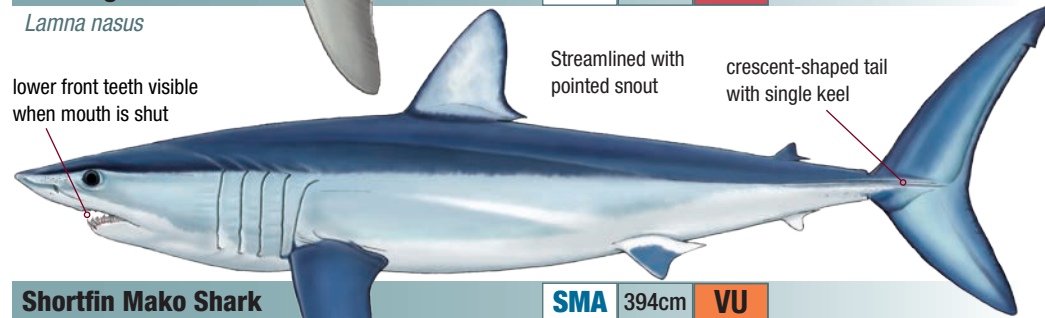
SHARK IDENTIFICATION



Porbeagle Shark

Lamna nasus

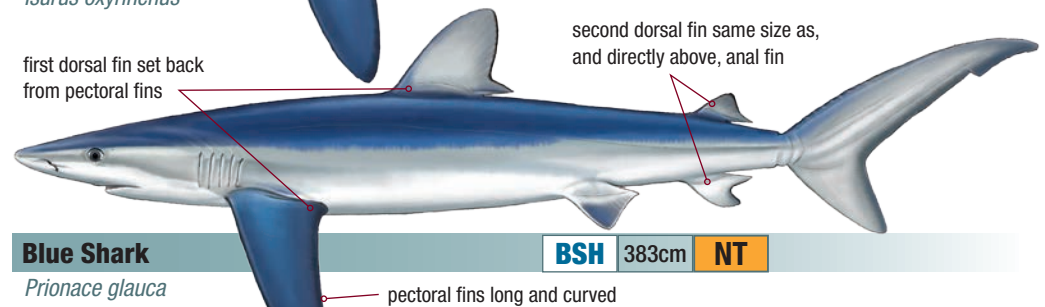
POR 365cm **CR**



Shortfin Mako Shark

Isurus oxyrinchus

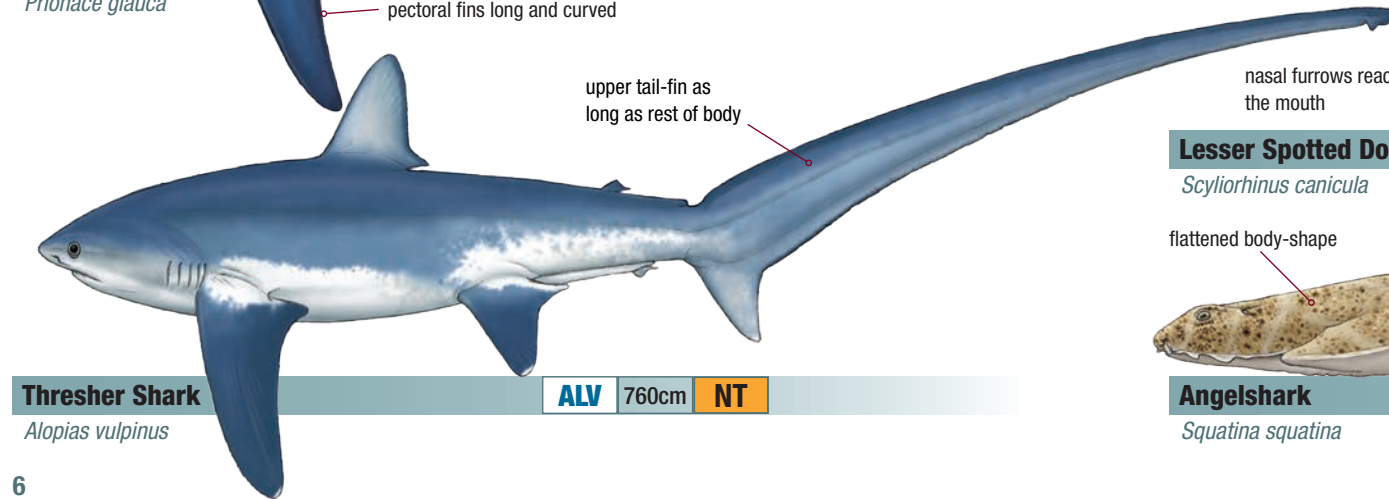
SMA 394cm **VU**



Blue Shark

Prionace glauca

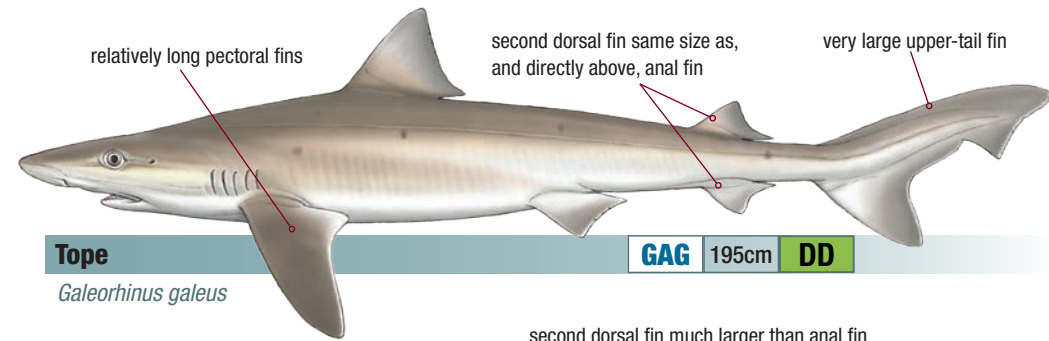
BSH 383cm **NT**



Thresher Shark

Alopias vulpinus

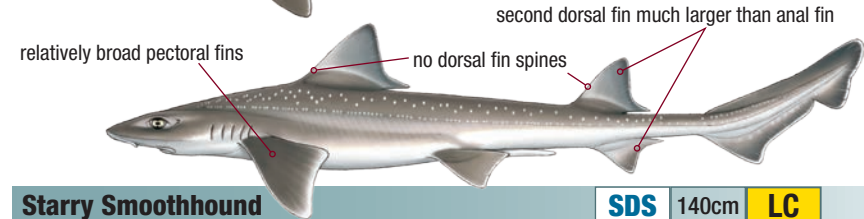
ALV 760cm **NT**



Tope

Galeorhinus galeus

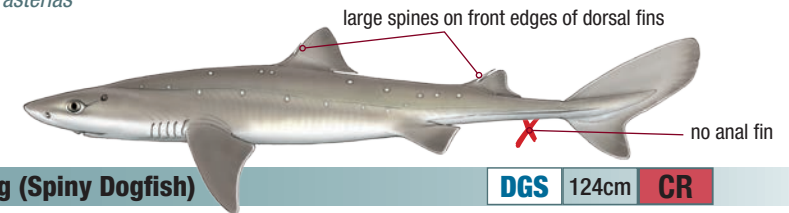
GAG 195cm **DD**



Starry Smoothhound

Mustelus asterias

SDS 140cm **LC**



Spurdog (Spiny Dogfish)

Squalus acanthias

DGS 124cm **CR**



Bullhuss/Nursehound

Scyliorhinus stellaris

SYT 162cm **NT**



Lesser Spotted Dogfish/Smallspotted Catshark

Scyliorhinus canicula

SYC 80cm **LC**



Angelshark

Squatina squatina

AGN 183cm **CR**

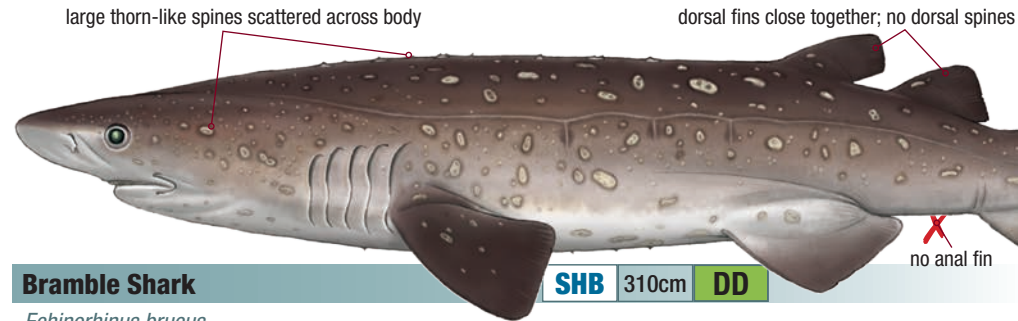
DEEP-SEA SHARKS



Frilled Shark

Chlamydoselachus anguineus

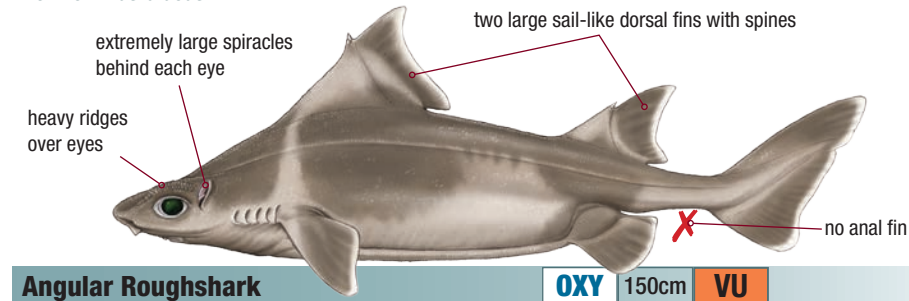
HXC 197cm **NT**



Bramble Shark

Echinorhinus brucus

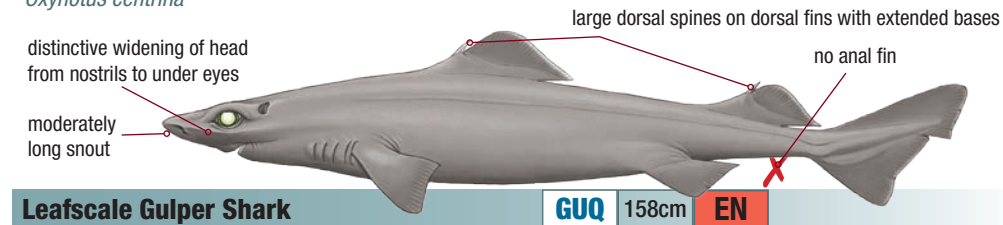
SHB 310cm **DD**



Angular Roughshark

Oxynotus centrina

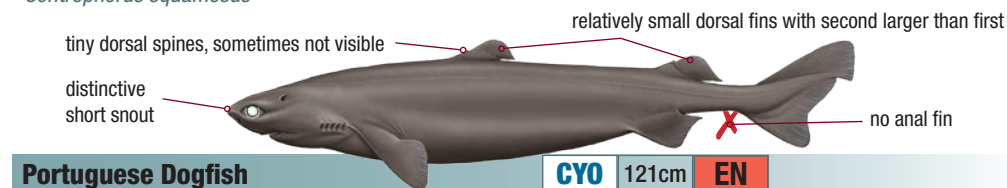
OXY 150cm **VU**



Leafscale Gulper Shark

Centrophorus squamosus

GUQ 158cm **EN**

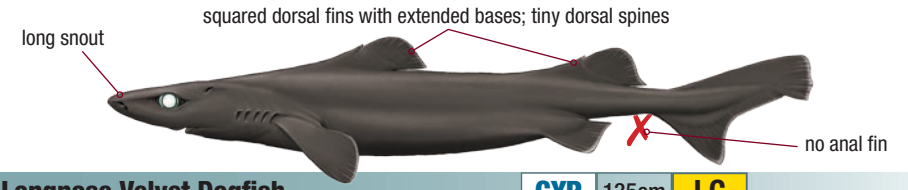


Portuguese Dogfish

Centroscymnus coelolepis

CYO 121cm **EN**

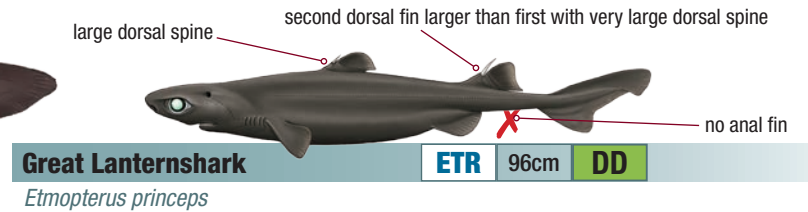
This guide does not show all deep-water sharks recorded in the waters surrounding Northern England. Visit www.sharktrust.org/northernengland for a comprehensive ID Guide to all deep-sea species.



Longnose Velvet Dogfish

Centroselachus crepidater

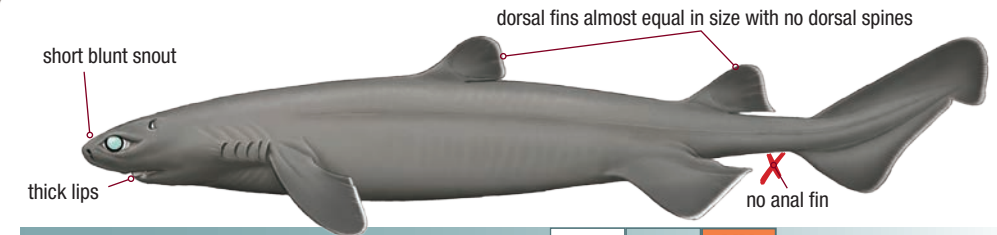
CYP 135cm **LC**



Great Lanternshark

Etmopterus princeps

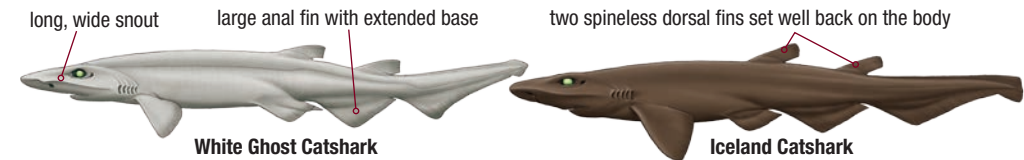
ETR 96cm **DD**



Kitefin Shark

Dalatias licha

SCK 180cm **VU**



White Ghost Catshark

Iceland Catshark

Demon catsharks

Apristurus species

API ~100cm **DD**



Blackmouth Catshark

Galeus melastomus

SHO 90cm **LC**



Deep-sea species may be subject to landing restrictions - including zero-TACs.

USEFUL INFORMATION

North Western



Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

(01524) 727 970

science@nw-ifca.gov.uk

www.nw-ifca.gov.uk

Skate and Ray bylaws exist Jurisdiction: 0-6nm

Applicable from Haverigg Point in Cumbria to the Scottish border (NOT to the southern part of the NW-IFCA District).

No person shall take from a fishery:

- Any skate or ray that measures less than 45cm between the extreme tips of the wings; OR
- Any wing which measures less than 22cm in its maximum dimensions and which is detached from the body of the skate or ray.

North Eastern



Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

(01482) 393 515

ne-ifca@eastriding.gov.uk

www.ne-ifca.gov.uk

Shark bylaws exist Jurisdiction: 0-6nm

- No person shall remove from any fishery Tope *Galeorhinus galeus* or part(s) thereof which are detached from the body.
- Any Tope caught shall be returned immediately to the sea in a position as near as possible to where it was taken.

Regional Offices:

Preston

(01772) 867 280
preston@marinemanagement.org.uk

Whitehaven

(01946) 591 287
whitehaven@marinemanagement.org.uk

Grimsby

(01472) 355 112
grimsby@marinemanagement.org.uk

North Shields

(0191) 257 4520/257 0159
northshields@marinemanagement.org.uk

Scarborough

(01723) 580 040
scarborough@marinemanagement.org.uk

Advice on shark, skate and ray identification.

www.sharktrust.org



Mon – Fri 09:00 – 17:00
Tel: (01752) 672 020
Email: enquiries@sharktrust.org

The information below contributes to a greater understanding, and more effective management, of shark, skate and ray stocks and fisheries.

Discards

If you have time please record as much information as possible on shark, skate and ray discards in the vessel logbook including:

- Species
- Sex
- Length
- Catch co-ordinates
- Number caught

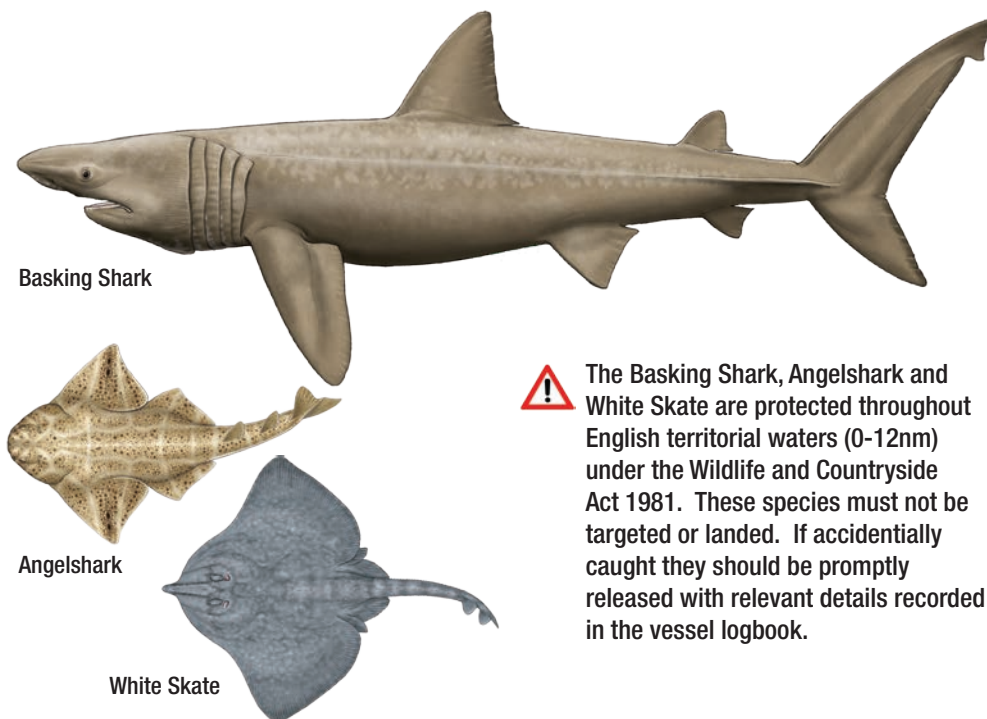
Tagged fish

Use contact details on the tag to report capture and relevant details; OR contact the Shark Trust with all details which will be forwarded to the relevant organisation.

Unknown/unusual species

Contact the Shark Trust with as much detail as possible (photos are useful); OR visit www.sharktrust.org/id for information on all Northeast Atlantic sharks, skates and rays. For concerns regarding landing and/or sales restrictions see MMO contacts on opposite page.

Wildlife Protection



 The Basking Shark, Angelshark and White Skate are protected throughout English territorial waters (0-12nm) under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. These species must not be targeted or landed. If accidentally caught they should be promptly released with relevant details recorded in the vessel logbook.

The Project

Focusing on ports in Yorkshire, Humberside, Lancashire and Cumbria, the aim of this project is to work with the commercial fishing industry to better understand shark, skate and ray fisheries in which Northern English vessels operate, promoting a long-term sustainable future for these fisheries and the species on which they rely.

The project will support accuracy in identification, as well as compliance with existing regulations applicable to some species. As the accuracy of recording continues to improve, fisheries scientists will be better able to identify elasmobranch stocks which can support sustainable, profitable fisheries. Similarly, those stocks showing the greatest declines can be more effectively managed and protected and might again – in time – support commercial fisheries. These measures, along with others implemented by the fishing industry, will afford greater opportunities for a regional approach to the management of these fisheries.

The Shark Trust

Established in 1997, the Shark Trust is the only UK conservation charity dedicated to sharks, skates and rays and remains a strongly independent advocate.

The Trust was founded in recognition of the dire state of shark populations, lack of fisheries management and the potential implications for marine ecosystems. Today the Trust is valued as a reliable source of fact-based information and promotes a pragmatic approach to commercial and recreational shark fisheries.

www.sharktrust.org



The **co-operative**