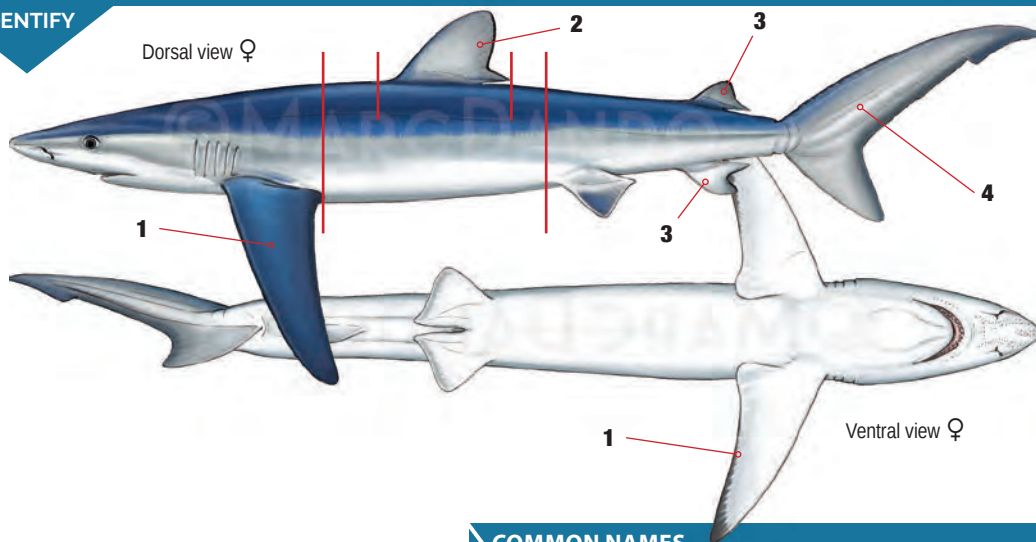




SCIENTIFIC NAME

Prionace glauca (Linnaeus, 1758)

DISTRIBUTION

Circumglobal in temperate and tropical waters spanning latitudes of 60°N to 50°S. Eastern Atlantic from Norway to South Africa including the Mediterranean Sea.¹⁻⁴

COMMON NAMES

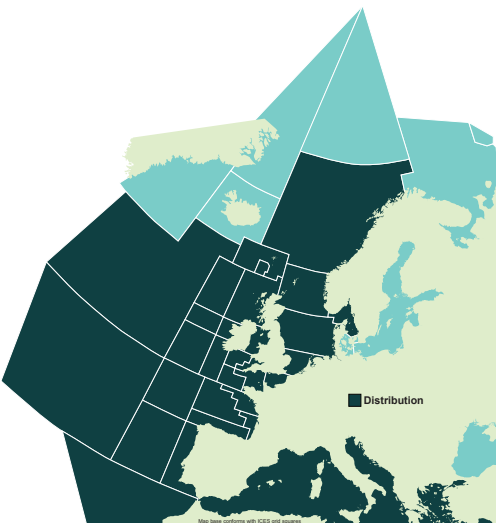
BLUE SHARK, Blue Dog, Blue Whaler, Blauhais (DEU), Tiburón Azul, Tintoreta (ESP), Peau Bleue (FRA), Verdesca (ITA), Blauwe Haai (NLD), Tintureira (PRT).

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

- 1 Pectoral fins long and curved.^{1,2}
 - 2 First dorsal fin closer to pelvic fins than pectoral fins.^{1,2}
 - 3 Second dorsal fin equal in size to, and directly above, anal fin.^{1,2}
 - 4 Caudal fin asymmetrical with a large upper lobe.^{1,2}
- Dark blue dorsally.^{1,2}
 - Metallic blue on flanks.^{1,2}
 - White ventrally.^{1,2}

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- Birth: 35-44cm.
- Matures: female 221cm; male 182-281cm.
- Max. TL: 383cm.^{1,2}
- Age at maturity: female 5-7 years; male 4-6 years. Max. age est.: 20 years.¹⁻⁴
- Viviparous, litters of 4-135 pups (avg. 35). Sex ratios in litters generally 1:1.¹⁻⁵
- Gestation period 9-12 months with young born in spring-early summer.^{1,2,4,5}
- Opportunist feeder: diet consists of small teleosts and cephalopods, small sharks, invertebrates, mammalian carrion and seabirds.^{1,2,5,6}



TEETH

- ▶ Upper jaw: 24–31 (12–15 teeth either side a symphysial tooth). Teeth symmetrical, triangular and curved with serrated edges and overlapping bases.^{1,2}
- ▶ Lower jaw: 24–34 (12–16 teeth either side a symphysial tooth). Teeth nearly symmetrical with fine serrations. Lower teeth do not prominently protrude when mouth is closed.^{1,2}



SIMILAR SPECIES

Shortfin Mako Shark

Isurus oxyrinchus



Longfin Mako Shark

Isurus paucus



Tope

Galeorhinus galeus



Silky Shark

Carcharinus falciformis



HABITAT

- ▶ Oceanic and pelagic, surface to 1,160m. May venture inshore over narrow continental shelves or off oceanic islands. Exhibits diel vertical migration, spending the night in shallower water and diving deeper during the day.^{3,6}
- ▶ Prefers temperatures 12–20°C, can tolerate 4.8–27.2°C.^{2,6,7}
- ▶ Highly migratory, undertaking annual clockwise transatlantic migrations and occasional trans-equatorial movements.^{9,10}
- ▶ Segregates by size and sex: immature sharks recorded in temperate Northeast and central North Atlantic, large adults aggregate in tropical Northeast. Females significantly more abundant at higher latitudes.^{7,11}
- ▶ Evidence of nursery grounds off Iberian Peninsula; in the Bay of Biscay, and off the Azores.^{8,11}

CONSERVATION STATUS*

- ▶ IUCN Red List:
 - Global: Near Threatened (2019)
 - Europe: Near Threatened (2015)
 - Mediterranean: Critically Endangered (2016)
- ▶ Widespread with a relatively high reproductive rate. The Blue Shark's high commercial value has led to estimated global population declines of 20–29% over three generations (~30 years).^{3,4}

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- ▶ Taken in substantial volume in high seas tuna and billfish fisheries as 'wanted' bycatch, especially by pelagic longliners in the EU fleet; retained for meat and fins.^{1–4}
- ▶ Taken in small numbers by recreational anglers.^{1–4}

MANAGEMENT*

- ▶ Subject to FNA regulations.
- ▶ Subject to RFMO catch limits in Atlantic and regulation under the CFP.

REFERENCES

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
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| 6 Queiroz <i>et al.</i> 2012. | |