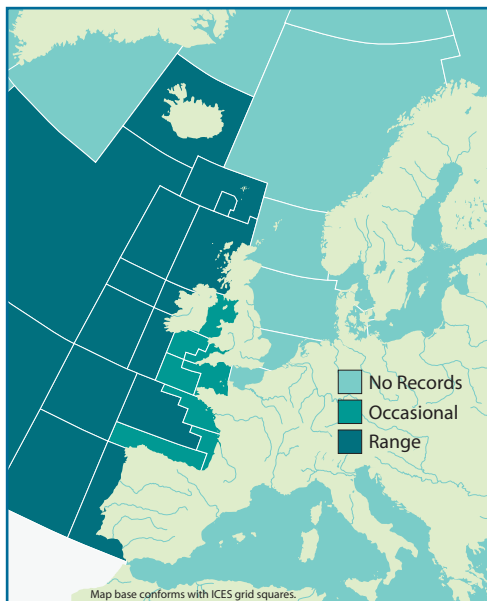


SCIENTIFIC NAME

Deania calcea (Lowe, 1839).

DISTRIBUTION

Patchy distribution worldwide. East Atlantic from Iceland to Mauritania, possibly to Senegal and Namibiaⁱ.



COMMON NAME

BIRDBEAK DOGFISH, Brier Shark, Shovelnose Spiny Dogfish, Squale Savate (Fr), Tollo Pajarito (Es).

IDENTIFICATION

- 1 Extremely long snout.
- 2 First dorsal fin low with extended base.
- 3 Second dorsal spine much larger than first.
- 4 No anal finⁱ.

COLOUR

- Uniform grey brown.
- No pattern or markings on finsⁱ.

BIOLOGY AND SIZE

- Birth: 30 cm. Mature: 100cm ♀, 80cm ♂. Max TL: 122cmⁱⁱ.
- Ovoviviparous species, litters of 6-12 pups have been recordedⁱⁱ.
- Feeds predominantly on fish (>80%) with some cephalopods and few crustaceansⁱⁱⁱ.

TEETH



- Triangular-cusped upper teeth.
- Compressed cutting teeth in lower jawⁱ.

SIMILAR SPECIES



Deania calcea, Birdbeak Dogfish



Deania profundorum, Arrowhead Dogfish



Deania hystricosa, Rough Longnose Dogfish



Centroselachus crepidater, Longnose Velvet Dogfish

HANDLING

- Handle with care.
- Large dorsal spines.
- Sharp teeth.
- Abrasive skin.

REFERENCES

- Compagno, L. J. V.; 1984. FAO.
- Compagno, L. J. V. *et al*; 2005. HarperCollins Publishers
- Cortés, E; 1999. *ICES JMS*.
- Stevens, J; 2003. IUCN Red List.

HABITAT

- 70–1,450m. In Australia, catch rates highest around 600–1,100m.
- There appears to be some segregation by size and sex.
- Usually found demersally but diet suggests it feeds in the water columnⁱⁱ.

CONSERVATION STATUS

- Currently no quantitative data on population trends. Vulnerable to fishing pressure due to late maturity, lengthy gestation period and few youngⁱⁱⁱ.
- Red List status:** Least Concern (2003). Vulnerable in the northeast Atlantic.

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- Mainly a bycatch species in trawl and longline fisheries.
- Targeted in some places, particularly Australia, for its liver oil.
- Flesh sometimes used for human consumption and carcasses can be processed for fishmeal^{iv}.
- 2010 – Subject to a zero TAC in EU waters.

DERMAL DENTICLES

