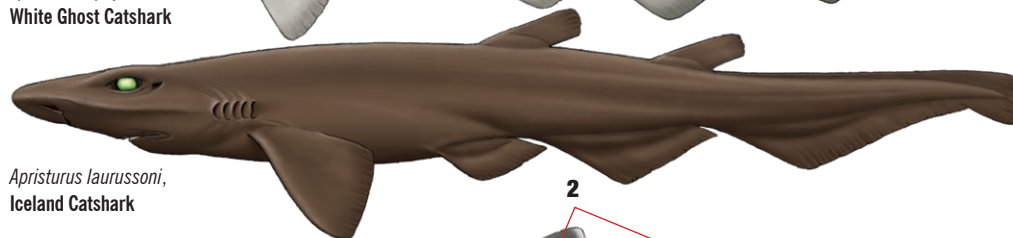
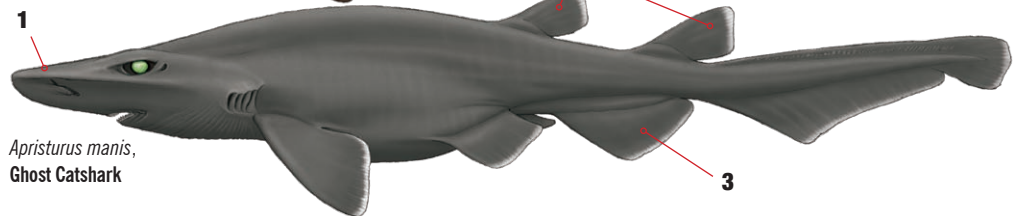


*Apristurus aphyodes*,  
White Ghost Catshark



*Apristurus laurussoni*,  
Iceland Catshark



*Apristurus manis*,  
Ghost Catshark



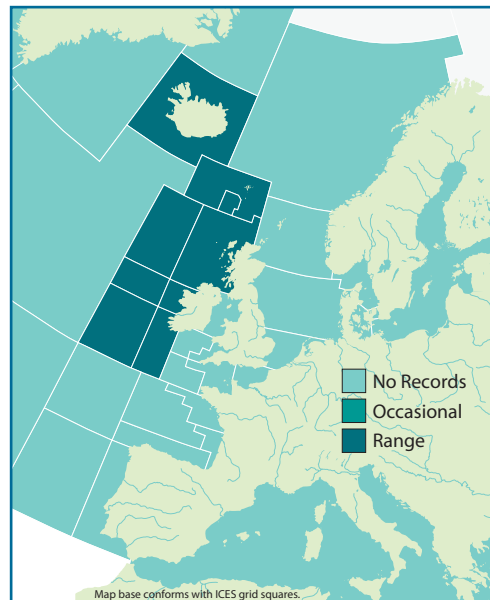
*Apristurus microps*,  
Smalleye Catshark

## SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Apristurus* (Garman, 1913).

## DISTRIBUTION

At least five species in northeast Atlantic<sup>ii</sup>.



## COMMON NAME

White Ghost Catshark, Iceland Catshark, Ghost Catshark, Smalleye Catshark, Black Roughscale Catshark (not shown).

## IDENTIFICATION

- 1 Long, laterally expanded snout with wide nostrils.
- 2 Two spineless dorsal fins set far back on the body.
- 3 Large anal fin with elongated base<sup>i</sup>.

## COLOUR

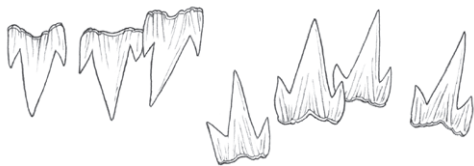
- Generally uniform in colour.
- Varies with species from black to white<sup>ii</sup>.

## BIOLOGY AND SIZE

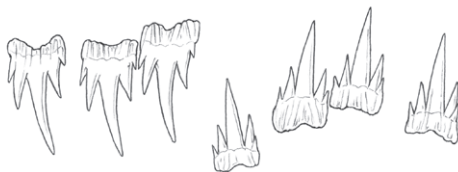
- Mature: 40–61cm. Max TL: 99cm.
- Oviparous, life history essentially unknown.
- Some species known to feed on decapod crustaceans, cephalopods, bony fish and chondrichthyans<sup>iii</sup>.



## TEETH



⊙ *Apristurus aphyodes*, **White Ghost Catshark**



⊙ *Apristurus manis*, **Ghost Catshark**



⊙ *Apristurus laurusosoni*, **Iceland Catshark**



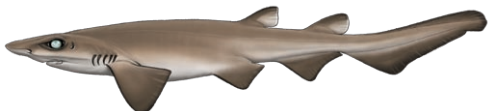
⊙ *Apristurus microps*, **Smalleye Catshark**

- ⊙ Prominent central cusp.
- ⊙ One or more pairs of lateral cusplets<sup>ii</sup>.

## SIMILAR SPECIES



⊙ *Apristurus* sp., **Demon Catsharks**



⊙ *Galeus murinus*, **Mouse Catshark**



⊙ *Galeus melastomus*, **Blackmouth Catshark**



⊙ *Centrophorus squamosus*, **Leafscale Gulper Shark**



⊙ *Centroselachus crepidater*, **Longnose Velvet Dogfish**

## HABITAT

- ⊙ Deep sea group found from 560–2,200m.
- ⊙ Usually demersal, possibly prefer soft substrates<sup>ii</sup>.
- ⊙ Have been observed drifting almost vertically, head down, near the bottom<sup>iv</sup>.

## CONSERVATION STATUS

- ⊙ Little known group of species probably distributed beyond the range of most commercial fisheries<sup>ii</sup>.
- ⊙ **Red List status:** Not Evaluated.

## COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- ⊙ Of no commercial importance due to rarity of capture.
- ⊙ Presumably utilised with other deep sea sharks for their liver oil and flesh.

## HANDLING

- ⊙ Handle with care.
- ⊙ Sharp teeth.

## REFERENCES

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- Cotton, C.; 2009. *Pers. Comm*.