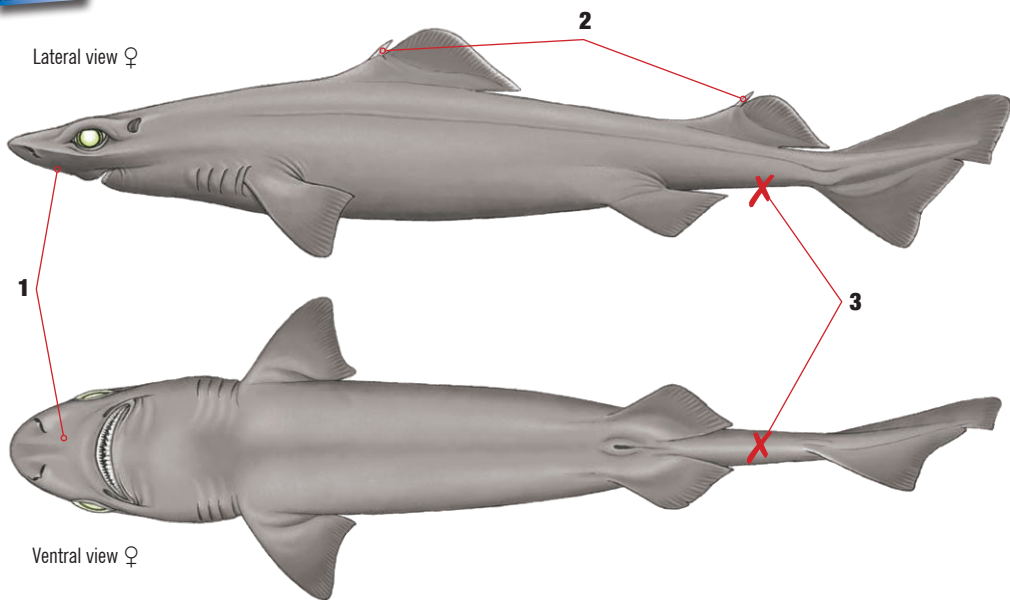


Leafscale Gulper Shark *Centrophorus squamosus*



Lateral view ♀

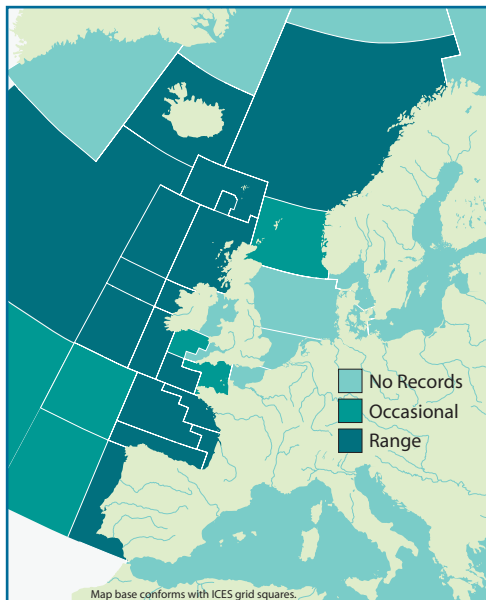
Ventral view ♀

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Centrophorus squamosus (Bonnaterre, 1788).

DISTRIBUTION

Iceland to South Africa into the western Indian Ocean. Known from New Zealand, the Philippines and Japanⁱⁱ.



COMMON NAME

LEAFSCALE GULPER SHARK, Deepwater Spiny Dogfish, Nilson's Deepsea Dogfish, Squale-Chagrin de l'Atlantique (Fr), Quelvacho Negro (Es).

IDENTIFICATION

- 1 Moderately long snout.
- 2 Large dorsal spines.
- 3 No anal fin^{iv}.

COLOUR

- ◉ Uniform grey to deep brown and black.
- ◉ No markings or patterns^v.

BIOLOGY AND SIZE

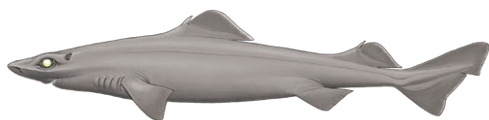
- ◉ Born: 30–45cm^{vi}. Mature: 110cm ♀, 95cm ♂ⁱ. Max TL: 158cmⁱⁱ.
- ◉ Feeds presumably fish and cephalopods^v.
- ◉ One of the oldest living sharks, max age is at least 70 yearsⁱⁱⁱ.
- ◉ Litters of 5-8 have been recorded^{viii}.

TEETH



- ◉ Blade-like unicuspidate teeth.
- ◉ Lowers much larger than uppers^v.

SIMILAR SPECIES



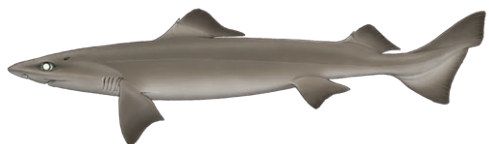
- ◉ *Centrophorus squamosus*, **Leafscale Gulper Shark**



- ◉ *Centrophorus granulosus*, **Gulper Shark**



- ◉ *Centrophorus lusitanicus*, **Lowfin Gulper Shark**



- ◉ *Centrophorus niaukang*, **Taiwan Gulper Shark**

DERMAL DENTICLES



HABITAT

- ◉ Demersal, 230–3,300m^{vii}.
- ◉ Also found pelagically to 1,250m^{viii}.

CONSERVATION STATUS

- ◉ Good population data is rare although declines of 80–90% have been recorded in some areas of the northeast Atlantic^{vii}.
- ◉ **Red List status:** Vulnerable (2003). Endangered in northeast Atlantic.

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- ◉ Previously an important component of deepwater longline and trawl fisheries.
- ◉ Fished heavily off Ireland, Spain, Portugal and France.
- ◉ Flesh and liver marketed across much of its rangeⁱⁱⁱ.
- ◉ 2010 – Subject to a zero TAC in EU waters.

HANDLING

- ◉ Handle with care.
- ◉ Large dorsal spines.
- ◉ Abrasive skin and sharp teeth.

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