

Lateral view ♀

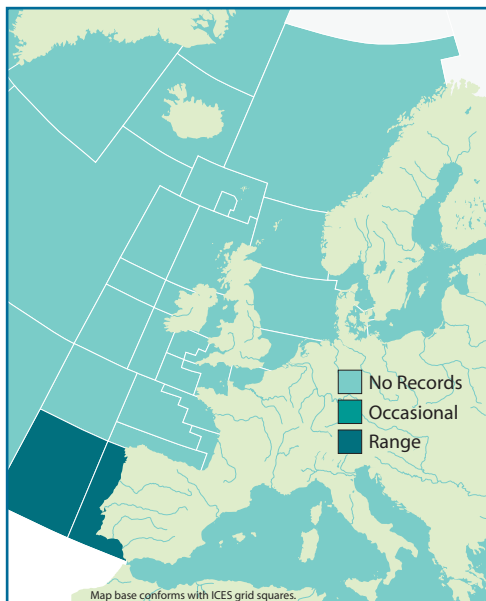
Ventral view ♀

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Carcharhinus falciformis (Bibron, 1839)

DISTRIBUTION

Widely distributed in tropical and warm temperate waters. East Atlantic from Portugal to northern Angolaⁱⁱ.



COMMON NAME

SILKY SHARK, Blackspot Shark, Grey Whaler Shark, Olive Shark, Reef Shark, Ridgeback Shark, Sickie Shark, Net-eater Shark, Requin Soyeux (Fr), Tiburón Jaquetón (Es).

IDENTIFICATION

- 1 First dorsal fin behind pectoral fins.
- 2 Second dorsal fin with greatly elongated inner margin and rear tip.
- 3 Interdorsal ridge presentⁱⁱ.

COLOUR

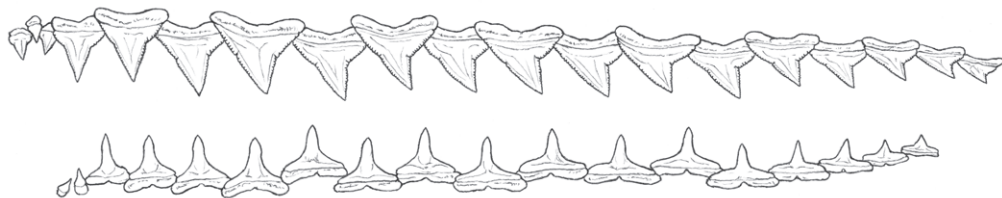
- ⦿ Dark grey with a bronze tint dorsally.
- ⦿ White ventrally.
- ⦿ Fin tips dusky, except first dorsal fin. More obvious in juvenilesⁱⁱⁱ.

BIOLOGY AND SIZE

- ⦿ Born: 70–87cm. Mature: 213–230cm ♀, 187–217cm ♂. Max TL: ~330cm.
- ⦿ Gestation period 12 months, litters of 2–14 possibly on alternate years.
- ⦿ Feeds on a wide variety of teleost fish, cephalopods and crustaceans, both benthically and pelagicallyⁱⁱⁱ.



TEETH



- Upper teeth broadly triangular and oblique with serrated edges.
- Lower teeth erect with smooth edges.
- One or two symphyseal teeth in both jawsⁱⁱⁱ.

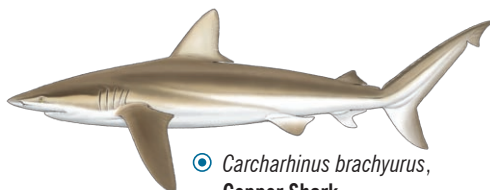
SIMILAR SPECIES



◉ *Carcharhinus falciformis*,
Silky Shark



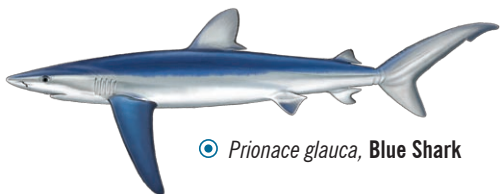
◉ *Carcharhinus brevipinna*,
Spinner Shark



◉ *Carcharhinus brachyurus*,
Copper Shark



◉ *Carcharhinus obscurus*,
Dusky Shark



◉ *Prionace glauca*, Blue Shark

HABITAT

- Surface to at least 500m, most common >200m.
- Active shark which prefers warmer water around 23–24°C.
- Primarily pelagic, not restricted to the open ocean and can be encountered inshore around reefsⁱⁱⁱ.

CONSERVATION STATUS

- Data lacking but life history traits and large numbers taken in fisheries are likely to be having a significant impact on populationsⁱ.
- Red List status:** Least Concern (2000).

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- Taken in large numbers as bycatch in oceanic fisheries.
- Often unreported or misidentified so stocks hard to quantify.
- Landed for its meat, fins, hide and liverⁱ.
- Important for ecotourism in the Red Sea.

HANDLING

- Handle with care.
- Sharp teeth.
- Abrasive skin.

REFERENCES

- Bonfil, R; 2000. IUCN Red List.
- Compagno, L. J. V. *et al*; 2005. HarperCollins Publishers.
- Knickle, C; Unknown. FLMNH.