

Lateral view ♀

Ventral view ♀

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Carcharhinus brevipinna (Müller & Henle, 1839).

DISTRIBUTION

Poorly understood due to species confusion but found almost worldwide. East Atlantic from Spain to Namibia, including the southern Mediterranean Sea¹.



COMMON NAME

SPINNER SHARK, Blacktipped Shark, Great Blacktip Shark, Long-nose Grey Shark, Requin Tisserand (Fr), Tiburón Aleta Negra (Es).

IDENTIFICATION

- 1 Prominent labial furrows, longer than any other *Carcharhinus* species.
- 2 First dorsal fin over or just behind pectoral fin rear tips.
- 3 Snout pointed, as long as or longer than width of mouth.

COLOUR

- Grey to bronze dorsally.
- Faint white band on flanks.
- All fins except the upper caudal may have dark tips.
- Fins unmarked in very young¹.

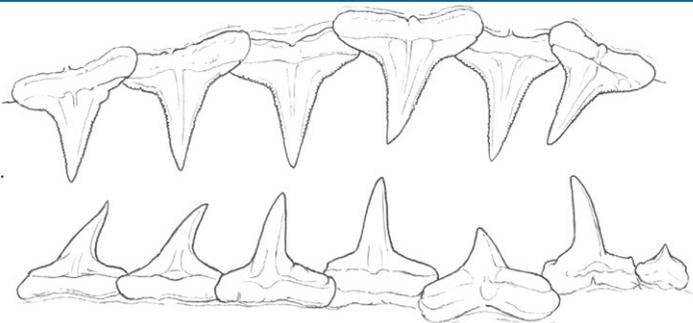
BIOLOGY AND SIZE

- Born: 60–75cm. Mature: 170–200cm ♀, 159–203cm ♂. Max TL: 278cmⁱⁱ.
- Gestation period 12–15 months, litters of 3–15 have been recordedⁱⁱ.
- Feeds on a wide variety of teleost fish, elasmobranchs, molluscs and cephalopodsⁱⁱ.



TEETH

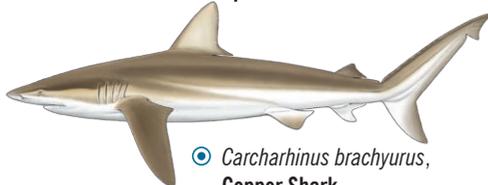
- 14–18 broad based teeth with narrow cusps in both jaws.
- Upper teeth finely serrated.
- Two small symphyseal teeth in upper jaw, one in the lower jawⁱ.



SIMILAR SPECIES



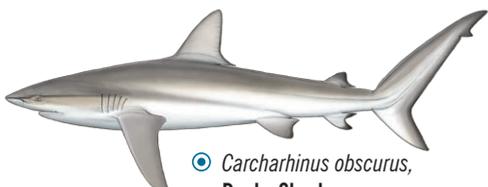
Carcharhinus brevipinna,
Spinner Shark



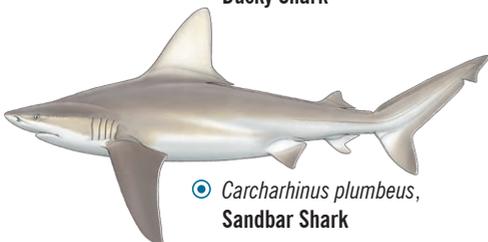
Carcharhinus brachyurus,
Copper Shark



Carcharhinus falciformis,
Silky Shark



Carcharhinus obscurus,
Dusky Shark



Carcharhinus plumbeus,
Sandbar Shark

HABITAT

- Found inshore to at least 100m throughout the water column.
- Highly migratory in the western Atlantic moving inshore to reproduce and feed in warmer months.
- Often seen leaping from the water and spinning in pursuit of preyⁱ.

CONSERVATION STATUS

- Frequently taken in commercial and recreational fisheries across its range. Uses inshore nursery areas so is vulnerable to habitat destruction and pollutionⁱ.
- Red List status:** Near Threatened (2000).

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- Taken as bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries.
- Fins are valuable, meat and skin also utilised.
- Sought by recreational anglers due to its habit of spinning and breaching when hookedⁱ.

HANDLING

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

REFERENCES

- Bester, C; Unknown. FLMNH.
- Compagno, L. J. V.; 1984. FAO.