

SCIENTIFIC NAME

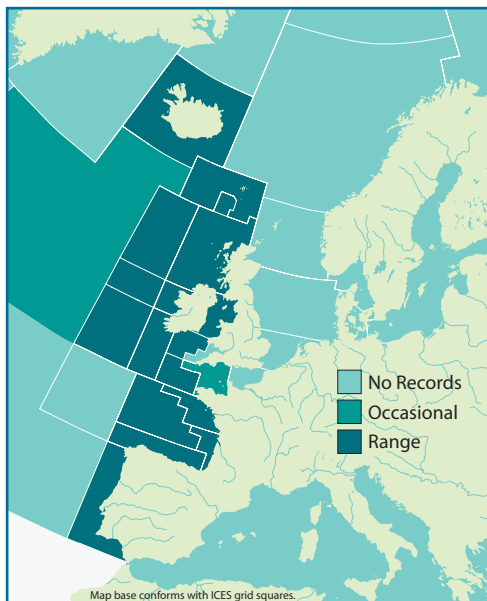
Centroscyllium fabricii (Reinhardt, 1825).

COMMON NAME

BLACK DOGFISH, Aiguillat Noir (Fr), Tollo Negro Merga (Es).

DISTRIBUTION

Found across the North Atlantic. East Atlantic from southern Iceland to Senegal and from Guinea to Namibia¹.



IDENTIFICATION

- 1 Grooved, light coloured dorsal spines.
- 2 Second dorsal fin and spine larger than first.
- 3 No anal finⁱⁱⁱ.

COLOUR

- Uniform black/brown in adults.
- Juveniles lighter dorsally with white edged precaudal fins¹.

BIOLOGY AND SIZE

- Born: 15cm. Mature: 50–66cm ♀, 46–50cm ♂^{iv}. Max TL: 84cm, possibly to 107cmⁱⁱⁱ.
- Feeds on some fish and cephalopods but mostly crustaceans^v.
- Litters of 4–40 pups have been recorded with an average of 16^{vi}.

TEETH



- Teeth with narrow cusps and cusplets in both jawsⁱⁱⁱ.
- Only deepwater shark in the region with similar teeth in both jaws^{vi}.

SIMILAR SPECIES



Centroscyllium fabricii, **Black Dogfish**



Etmopterus princeps, **Greater Lanternshark**



Etmopterus pusillus, **Smooth Lanternshark**



Etmopterus spinax, **Velvet Belly Lanternshark**

HABITAT

- 180–1,653m, most common 550–1,000mⁱ.
- Prefer 3.5–4.5°Cⁱ but have been found to 1°C^{viii}.
- Have been taken near the surface in Arctic waters during extremely cold periodsⁱ.
- Segregate by size and sex, sometimes form schools^{iv}.

CONSERVATION STATUS

- Data lacking but it is taken in large quantities in the northeast Atlantic. Most populations appear stable^{vii}.
- Red List status:** Least Concern (2008). Near Threatened in northeast Atlantic.

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- Can be taken in large numbers in some areas such as the Hatton Bank.
- Generally discarded due to its small size^{vi}.
- If retained, the flesh and liver oil may be utilisedⁱⁱ.
- 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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