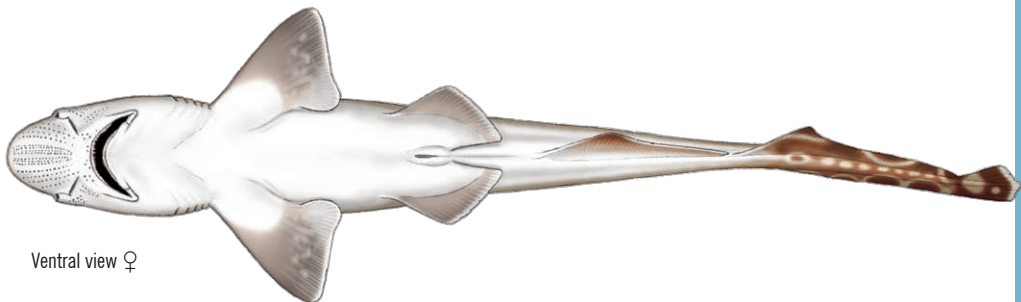


Lateral view ♀



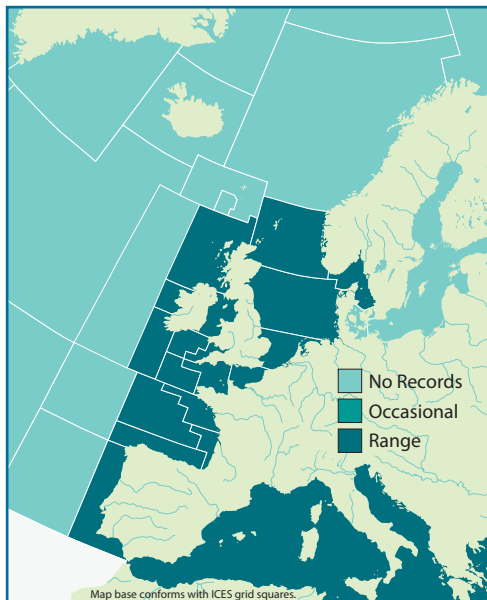
Ventral view ♀

### SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Galeus melastomus* (Rafinesque, 1810).

### DISTRIBUTION

East Atlantic from Norway to Senegal, including the Mediterranean Sea<sup>1</sup>.



### COMMON NAME

**BLACKMOUTH CATSHARK**, Blackmouth Dogfish, Blackmouth Angler, Mouse Catshark, Chien Espagnol (Fr), Pintarroja Bocanegra (Es).

### IDENTIFICATION

- 1 Long, slender body.
- 2 Long anal fin.
- 3 Extended dorsal caudal lobe<sup>1</sup>.

### COLOUR

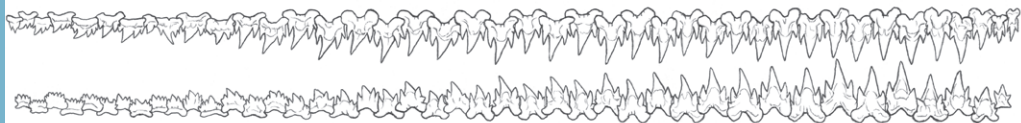
- Inside of mouth black.
- Brown dorsally with 15–18 large, dark saddles and numerous smaller spots.
- Ventrally white<sup>1</sup>.

### BIOLOGY AND SIZE

- Mature: 39–45cm ♀, 34–42cm ♂. Max TL: 90cm<sup>1</sup>.
- Up to 13 eggcases have been found in a female's oviduct.
- Feed predominantly on bottom invertebrates such as shrimp and cephalopods. Also prey on bony fishes and other small elasmobranchs<sup>1</sup>.



## TEETH



- Sharp cusps with 2 cusplets in upper jaw.
- Similar, with up to 4 cusplets in lower jaw<sup>1</sup>.

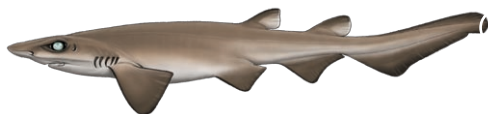
## SIMILAR SPECIES



- Galeus melastomus*, **Blackmouth Catshark**



- Galeus atlanticus*, **Atlantic Sawtail Catshark**



- Galeus murinus*, **Mouse Catshark**



- Scyliorhinus canicula*, **Smallspotted Catshark**



- Scyliorhinus stellaris*, **Nursehound**

## HABITAT

- 55–1,200m, most common 200–500m.
- Predominantly benthic but can feed in the water column<sup>1</sup>.
- Segregate by size with adults and juveniles found deeper than recruits<sup>2</sup>.

## CONSERVATION STATUS

- Abundant species with populations which appear to be stable. Could be negatively affected by expanding deepwater fisheries<sup>iii</sup>.
- Red List status:** Least Concern (2008).

## COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- Taken as bycatch in demersal trawl and longline fisheries, generally discarded.
- If retained it may be used for human consumption or fishmeal<sup>iii</sup>.
- 2010 – Subject to a zero TAC in EU waters.

## HANDLING

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

## EGGCASE

- 51–65mm long.
- 18–30mm wide.
- No tendrils or horns<sup>1</sup>.



## REFERENCES

- Compagno, L. J. V.; 1984. FAO.
- Rey, J. *et al*; 2004. *J. Northw. Atl. Fish. Sci.*
- Serena, F. *et al*; 2008. IUCN Red List.