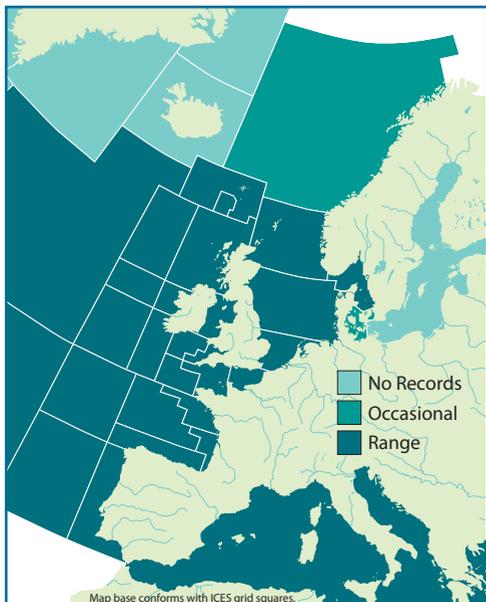


## SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Prionace glauca* (Linnaeus, 1758).

## DISTRIBUTION

Circumglobal in temperate and tropical waters. Norway to South Africa in the East Atlantic<sup>iii</sup>.



## COMMON NAME

**BLUE SHARK**, Blue Dog, Blue Whaler, Peau Bleue (Fr), Tiburón Azul (Es), Tintoreta (Es).

## IDENTIFICATION

- 1 Pectoral fins long and curved.
- 2 First dorsal fin closer to pelvic fins than pectoral fins.
- 3 Second dorsal fin equal in size to and directly above anal fin.
- 4 Caudal fin asymmetrical.

## COLOUR

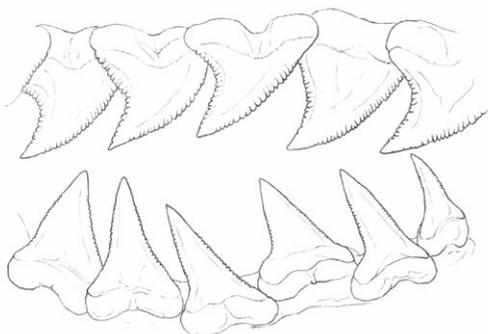
- Dark blue dorsally.
- Metallic blue on flanks.
- Pure white ventrally<sup>ii</sup>.

## BIOLOGY AND SIZE

- Born: 35–50cm. Mature: 221–323cm ♀, 182–291cm ♂. Max TL: 383cm<sup>iii</sup>.
- Litters of 4–135 pups have been recorded. Pups remain in inshore nursery areas for the first few years of life<sup>iii</sup>.
- An opportunistic feeder preying predominantly on pelagic teleost fish and cephalopods, although elasmobranchs, seabirds and cetaceans (possibly carrion) have been reported in diet<sup>iv</sup>.

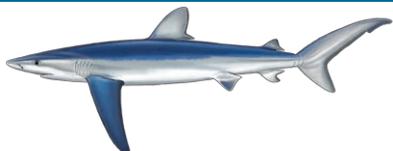


## TEETH



- Upper teeth triangular and curved with serrated edges and overlapping bases.
- Symmetrical symphyseal tooth with 14 teeth either side.
- Lower teeth nearly symmetrical with fine serrations.
- 13–15 teeth either side<sup>i</sup>.

## SIMILAR SPECIES



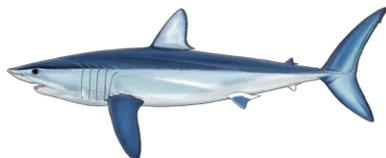
Prionace glauca, **Blue Shark**



Carcharhinus falciformis, **Silky Shark**



Lamna nasus, **Porbeagle Shark**



Isurus oxyrinchus, **Shortfin Mako Shark**



Isurus paucus, **Longfin Mako Shark**

## HABITAT

- Pelagic, surface to 600m. Prefer temperatures 12–20°C but known to tolerate 8–30°C<sup>ii</sup>.
- Undertake clockwise trans-Atlantic migrations. There is considered to be a single stock in the North Atlantic.
- Segregate by sex with females significantly more abundant at higher latitudes<sup>iii</sup>.

## CONSERVATION STATUS

- Widespread and abundant with a relatively high fecundity. However, it is thought to be the most heavily fished shark species and declines have been observed. As it is highly migratory, localised legislation is unlikely to benefit wider populations<sup>iv</sup>.
- Red List status:** Near Threatened (2000).

## COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- Taken mainly as bycatch but high numbers are landed by Spanish and Portuguese pelagic fleets<sup>i</sup>.
- Fins are prized for the Asian fin trade market.
- Meat is eaten in southern Europe, most notably Spain.
- If landed whole, its meat can be used for human consumption, liver for oil, carcasses for fishmeal and hides for leather<sup>i</sup>.

## HANDLING

- Handle with care.
- Large shark with powerful jaws and sharp teeth.
- Abrasive skin.

## REFERENCES

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- Stevens, J.; 2000. IUCN Red List.