

Lateral view ♀

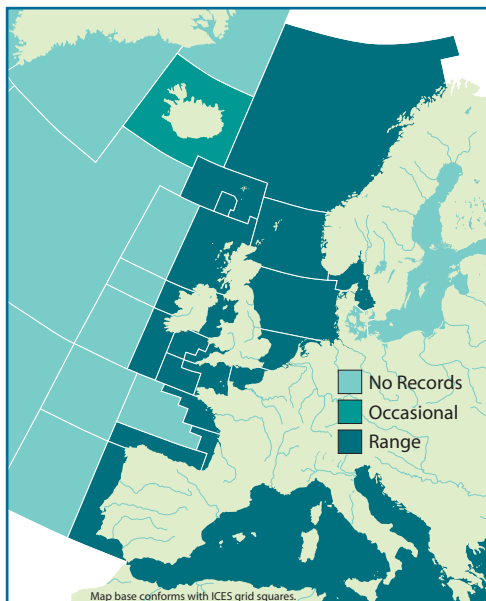
Ventral view ♀

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Hexanchus griseus (Bonnaterre 1788).

DISTRIBUTION

Circumglobal in tropical and temperate seas. East Atlantic from Iceland and Norway to Namibia, including the Mediterranean Seaⁱⁱ.



COMMON NAME

BLUNTNOSE SIXGILL SHARK, Atlantic Mud Shark, Brown Shark, Bull Dog Shark, Bull Shark, Cow Shark, Gray Shark, Mud Shark, Sixgill Cow Shark, Requin Griset (Fr), Cañabota Gris (Es).

IDENTIFICATION

- 1 Six gill slits.
- 2 Single dorsal fin set back over anal fin.
- 3 Large pelvic and anal finsⁱ.

COLOUR

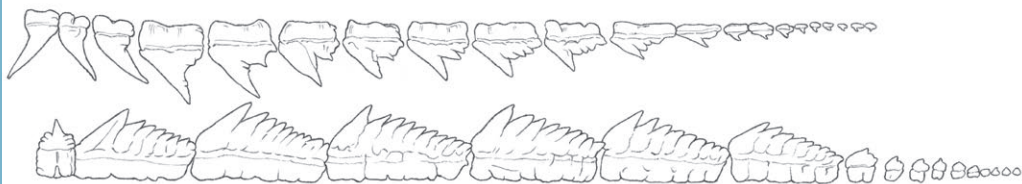
- Grey, olive or brown dorsally.
- Paler ventrally.
- Light stripe along flank.
- Fins may have pale marginsⁱ.

BIOLOGY AND SIZE

- Born: 60–75cm. Mature: 400cm ♀, 300cm ♂ⁱ. Max TL: 482cmⁱⁱ.
- Litters of 22–108 pups have been recordedⁱ.
- Nocturnal feeder on a wide variety of teleost fish, elasmobranchs, molluscs, crustaceans and marine mammals (carrion)ⁱⁱ.



TEETH



- ◉ Six rows of comb-like teeth either side of symphyseal tooth in lower jawⁱ.
- ◉ Nine teeth on each side of upper jaw, first two narrow cusped, wider to corners developing cuspletsⁱ.

SIMILAR SPECIES



- ◉ *Hexanchus griseus*, **Bluntnose Sixgill Shark**



- ◉ *Heptranchias perlo*, **Sharpnose Sevengill Shark**



- ◉ *Hexanchus nakamurai*, **Bigeye Sixgill Shark**



- ◉ *Somniosus microcephalus*, **Greenland Shark**



- ◉ *Chlamydoselachus anguineus*, **Fritted Shark**

HABITAT

- ◉ Juveniles can be found close to shore, adults to 2,000m. Deep inshore bays are used as nursery areas.
- ◉ Known to move into shallower waters at night to feedⁱ.
- ◉ Regularly encountered by divers in areas of the northeast Pacificⁱⁱⁱ.

CONSERVATION STATUS

- ◉ Particularly vulnerable to fishing pressure due to its large size and naturally low abundance. Little species specific landings data is available^{iv}.
- ◉ **Red List status:** Near Threatened (2000).

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- ◉ Fished commercially and recreationally using line gear, trawls, gillnets and traps.
- ◉ Flesh used for human consumption, liver for oil and carcass can be processed into fishmealⁱ.
- ◉ Recreational divers seeking this species are estimated to inject \$5-10 million to British Columbia annuallyⁱⁱⁱ.

HANDLING

- ◉ Handle with care.
- ◉ Powerful jaws and sharp teeth.
- ◉ Abrasive skin.

REFERENCES

- Bester, C; Unknown. FLMNH.
- Compagno, L. J. V; 1984. FAO.
- Martin, R. A; 1998. ReefQuest Centre for Shark Research
- Species Survival Group; 2000. IUCN Red List.