

Lateral view ♀

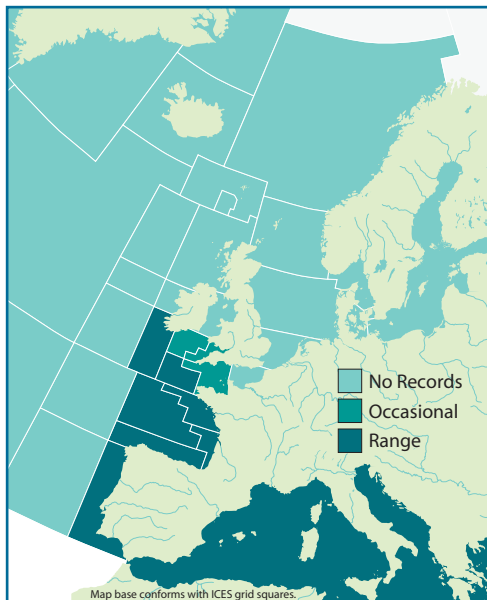
Ventral view ♂

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Centrophorus granulosus (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)

DISTRIBUTION

Found worldwide but distribution unclear due to species confusion. East Atlantic from southwest England to South Africa, including the Mediterranean Seaⁱ.



COMMON NAME

GULPER SHARK, Rough Shark, Squale-Chagrin Commun (Fr), Quelvacho (Es).

IDENTIFICATION

- 1 Long, grooved dorsal spines.
- 2 First dorsal fin larger than second.
- 3 No anal finⁱ.

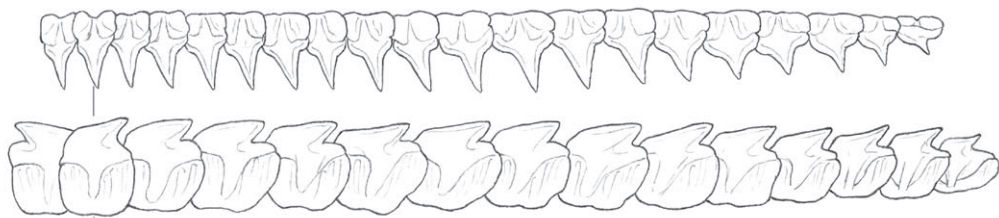
COLOUR

- Olive grey to light brown dorsally.
- Similar but lighter ventrally.
- Juveniles may be lighter with black tips on dorsal and caudal finsⁱⁱ.

BIOLOGY AND SIZE

- Born: 30–42cm. Mature: ~95cm ♀, 60–80cm ♂^{iv}. Max TL: 105–110cmⁱⁱ.
- Extremely low reproductive potential. Two pups per litter with a possible gestation of 2–3 years^v.
- Eats mostly bony fish with some squid, crustaceans and chondrichthyanⁱⁱⁱ.

TEETH

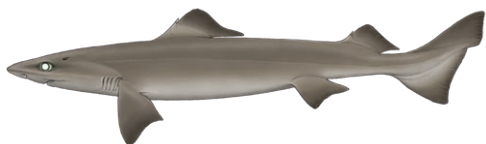


- Uppers are blade-like and unicuspidate.
- Lowers oblique with finely serrated or smooth cutting edges!

SIMILAR SPECIES



- Centrophorus granulosus*, **Gulper Shark**



- Centrophorus niaukang*, **Taiwan Gulper Shark**



- Centrophorus lusitanicus*, **Lowfin Gulper Shark**



- Centrophorus squamosus*, **Leafscale Gulper Shark**

HABITAT

- 100–1,490m, most common 300–800m.
- Believed to form schools^v.
- Segregate by size and sex, although details differ between locations^{vi}.

CONSERVATION STATUS

- Extremely vulnerable to fishing pressure due to life history characteristics. Populations may have decreased 80–95% in northeast Atlantic^v.
- Red List status:** Vulnerable (2006). Critically Endangered in northeast Atlantic.

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- Taken as bycatch throughout its range in bottom trawl, pelagic trawl and line fisheries.
- Targeted for its flesh and liver oil^v.
- 2010 – Subject to a zero TAC in EU waters.

HANDLING

- Handle with care.
- Large dorsal spines.
- Abrasive skin and sharp teeth.

REFERENCES

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