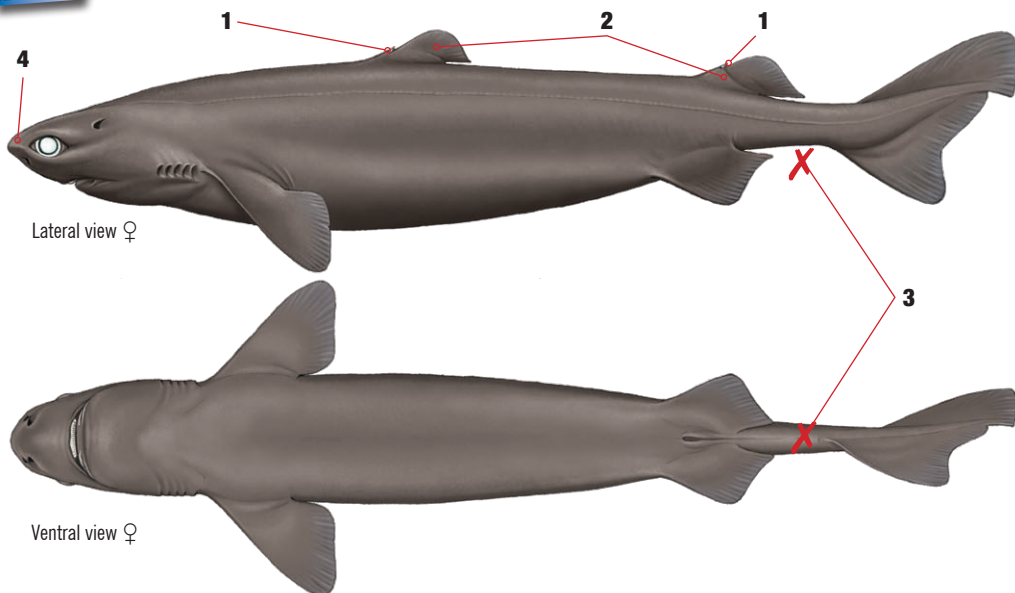


Portuguese Dogfish *Centroscymnus coelolepis*



Lateral view ♀

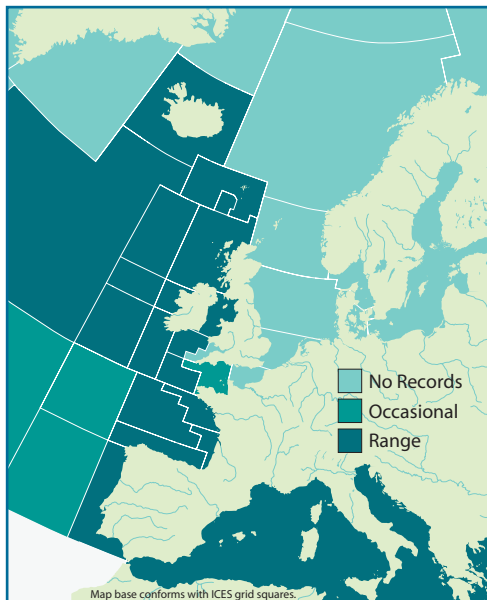
Ventral view ♀

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Centroscymnus coelolepis (Bocage & Capello, 1864).

DISTRIBUTION

Patchy worldwide distribution. Northeast Atlantic from Iceland to Sierra Leone, including the western Mediterranean Seaⁱ.



COMMON NAME

PORTUGUESE DOGFISH, Portuguese Shark, Siki Shark, Pailona Commun (Fr), Pailona (Es).

IDENTIFICATION

- 1 Tiny dorsal spines, sometimes not visible.
- 2 Second dorsal fin larger than first.
- 3 No anal fin.
- 4 Distinctive short snoutⁱⁱ.

COLOUR

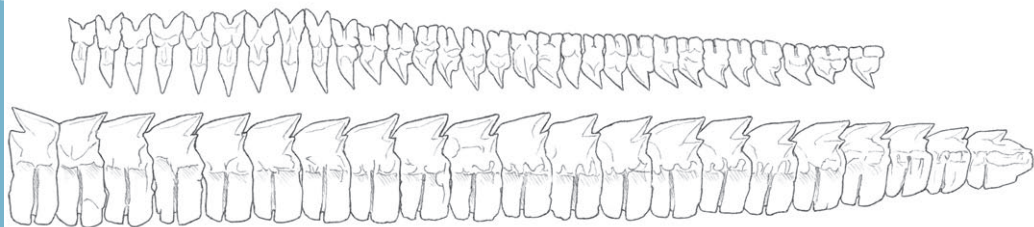
- Adults and juveniles uniform black/brown.
- Bluish black when very young.
- No markingsⁱ.

BIOLOGY AND SIZE

- Born: 30cm. Mature: 100cm ♀, 70–86cm ♂^{vi}. Max TL: 121cm ♀, 101cm ♂^v.
- Feeds predominately on cephalopods along with small amounts of fish, decapod crustaceans, invertebrates and other chondrichthyans^{iv}.
- Feeds on large fish and marine mammals in the manner of cookiecutter sharks, *Isistius* spp.ⁱⁱⁱ.



TEETH



- Slender, lanceolate upper teeth.
- Blade-like lower teeth with short, oblique cuspsⁱⁱ.

SIMILAR SPECIES



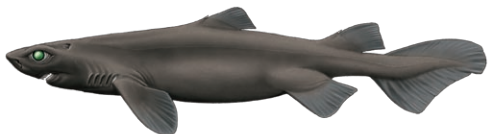
- *Centroscyrnus coelolepis*, Portuguese Dogfish



- *Centroselachus crepidater*, Longnose Velvet Dogfish



- *Dalatias licha*, Kitefin Shark



- *Scymnodon ringens*, Knifetooth Shark



- *Zameus squamulosus*, Velvet Dogfish

HABITAT

- Demersal, 270–3,700m.
- Rare shallower than 400m.
- Segregate by size and sex with pregnant females found shallowest and young individuals found deepest^{vi}.

CONSERVATION STATUS

- Population data lacking but low abundance, demersal habitat and low fecundity make it extremely vulnerable to fishing pressure. Large declines have been observed^{vi}.
- **Red List status:** Near Threatened (2003). Endangered in the northeast Atlantic.

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- Mainly a bycatch species taken in trawl and line fisheries.
- Some targeted fishing for its liver and flesh^{vi}.
- It is utilised in the East Atlantic for human consumption and fishmealⁱⁱ.
- 2010 – Subject to a zero TAC in EU waters.

HANDLING

- Handle with care.
- Dorsal spines.
- Abrasive skin and sharp teeth.

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