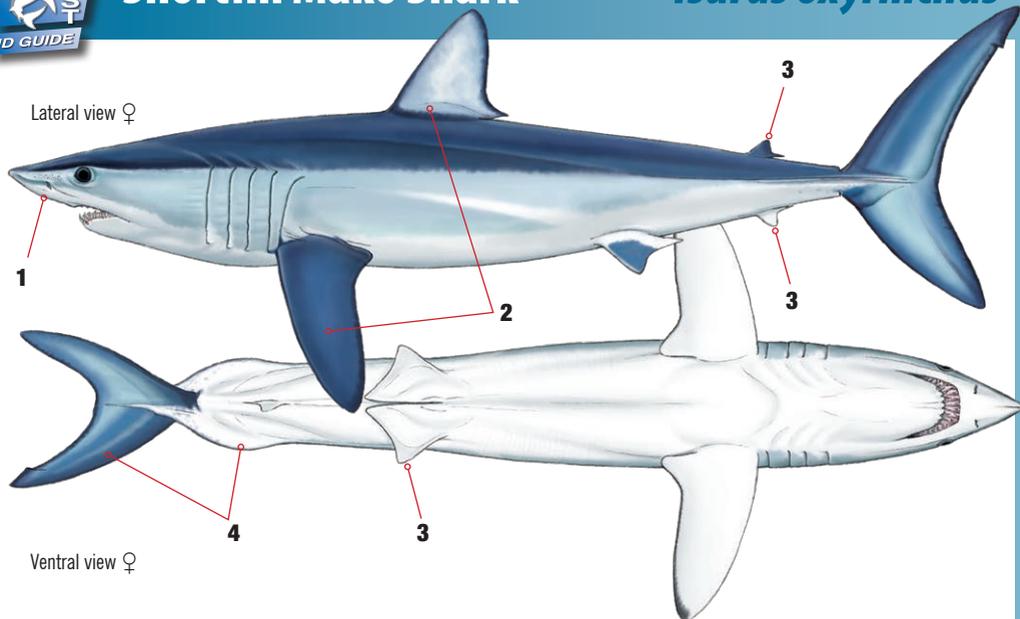


# Shortfin Mako Shark

*Isurus oxyrinchus*



## SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Isurus oxyrinchus* (Rafinesque, 1810).

## DISTRIBUTION

Circumglobal in temperate and tropical seas. East Atlantic from Norway to South Africa, including the Mediterranean Sea<sup>iv</sup>.



## COMMON NAME

**SHORTFIN MAKO SHARK**, Mako, Short-finned Mako, Blue Pointer, Mackerel Shark, Blue Dynamite, Taupe Bleu (Fr), Marrajo Dientuso (Es).

## IDENTIFICATION

- 1 Streamlined with pointed snout.
- 2 Large first dorsal and pectoral fins.
- 3 Tiny second dorsal, anal and pelvic fins.
- 4 Lunate caudal fin with single keel<sup>ii</sup>.

## COLOUR

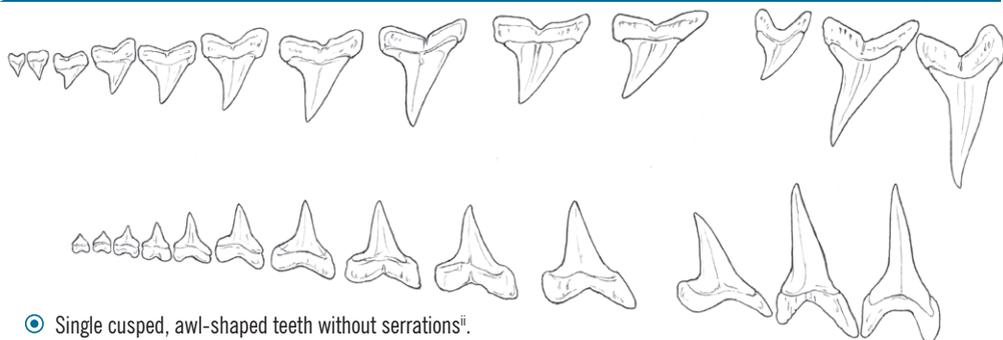
- Metallic blue dorsally.
- Ventrally white, including snout and mouth.
- Distinct demarcation line along flank<sup>iii</sup>.

## BIOLOGY AND SIZE

- Born: 68–70cm. Mature: 275cm ♀, 200cm ♂<sup>iv</sup>. Max TL: 394cm<sup>iii</sup>.
- Maintains its body temperature through a heat-exchange system allowing it to range into temperate regions<sup>iii</sup>.
- Extremely fast, feeding on pelagic species such as tuna, bonito and billfishes. Take a wide variety of teleosts, elasmobranchs, cephalopods and some marine mammals<sup>iii</sup>.
- Litters of 4–25 pups have been reported, possibly to 30<sup>ii</sup>.



## TEETH



- Single cusped, awl-shaped teeth without serrations<sup>ii</sup>.
- Tips of lower front teeth visible when mouth is shut.
- Large specimens (>3m) have broader, triangular upper teeth<sup>iv</sup>.

## SIMILAR SPECIES



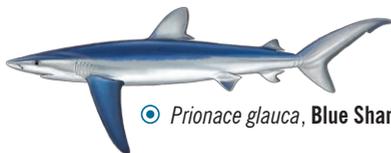
● *Isurus oxyrinchus*,  
Shortfin Mako Shark



● *Isurus paucus*,  
Longfin Mako Shark



● *Lamna nasus*, Porbeagle Shark



● *Prionace glauca*, Blue Shark



● *Carcharodon carcharias*,  
White Shark

## HABITAT

- Surface to at least 400m, possibly 740m.
- Prefer water 17–20°C, although can be found to at least 5°C.
- Migrates seasonally to follow warmer waters within well defined geographical limits, restricting genetic interchange between populations<sup>iv</sup>.
- Primarily a solitary species, has been known to form aggregations when food is abundant. Segregates by sex<sup>iii</sup>.

## CONSERVATION STATUS

- Populations difficult to quantify due to inadequate and inaccurate reporting. Logbook data indicate declines of 33–50% in the North Atlantic<sup>i</sup>.
- Red List status:** Vulnerable (2008).

## COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- Important secondary target for pelagic longline fisheries targeting tuna and Swordfish.
- Highly prized for its flesh, as well as its fins and liver oil.
- Extremely popular game fish due to its hard fight and habit of breaching when hooked<sup>iii</sup>.

## HANDLING

- Handle with care.
- Large shark with powerful jaws.
- Abrasive skin.

## REFERENCES

- Cailliet, G. M. *et al*; 2008. IUCN Red List.
- Compagno, L. J. V; 2001. FAO.
- Martin, R. A; Unknown. Reefquest Centre for Shark Research.
- Passarelli, N. *et al*; Unknown. FLMNH.