

Lateral view ♀

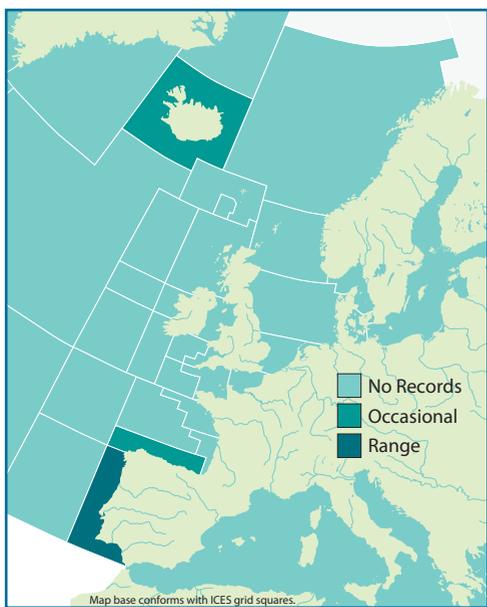
Ventral view ♀

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Galeocerdo cuvier (Péron & LeSueur, 1822).

DISTRIBUTION

Circumglobal in warm temperate and tropical waters, excluding the Mediterranean. Recorded as a vagrant from Iceland and possibly the UKⁱⁱⁱ.



COMMON NAME

TIGER SHARK, Leopard Shark, Maneater Shark, Spotted Shark, Requin Tigre Commun (Fr), Tintorerera (Es).

IDENTIFICATION

- 1 Very short, blunt snout.
- 2 Large mouth reaching well behind eyes.
- 3 Heterocercal caudal fin with low keelsⁱ.

COLOUR

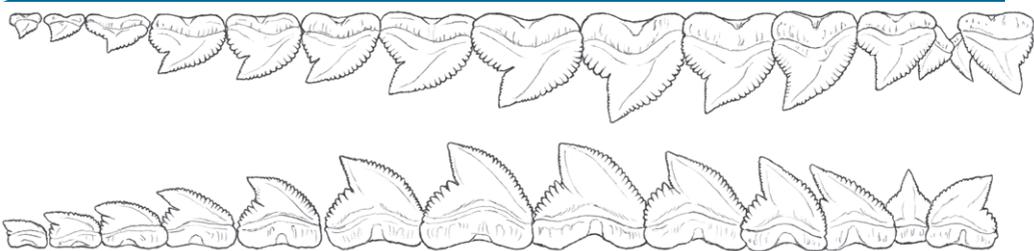
- Deep blue/grey to black dorsally.
- Pale yellow to white ventrally.
- Dark spots and stripes prominent in young animals, fade with ageⁱⁱⁱ.

BIOLOGY AND SIZE

- Born: 51–76cm. Mature: 250–350cm ♀, 226–290cm ♂. Max TL: >550cm, possibly to 740cmⁱ.
- Gestation period 12–14 monthsⁱⁱⁱ with litters of 10–82 pups recordedⁱ.
- Primarily a piscivore but has a highly varied diet including reptiles, sea snakes, sea birds, marine mammals, molluscs, crustaceans, carrion and garbageⁱ.



TEETH



- ◉ Curved cusps with finely serrated edges.
- ◉ Deep notch on outer margin of each tooth with numerous cuspletsⁱⁱⁱ.
- ◉ 36–51 rows of teethⁱ.

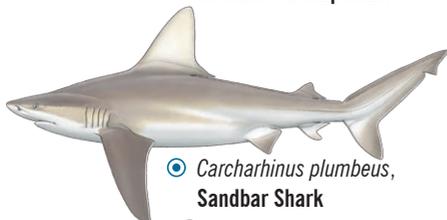
SIMILAR SPECIES



◉ *Galeocerdo cuvier*, **Tiger Shark**



◉ *Carcharhinus longimanus*,
Oceanic Whitetip Shark



◉ *Carcharhinus plumbeus*,
Sandbar Shark



◉ *Carcharhinus falciformis*,
Silky Shark



◉ *Carcharhinus brachyurus*,
Copper Shark

HABITAT

- ◉ Surface to possibly 350m. Prefers shallow areas such as bays, estuaries and lagoons.
- ◉ Migratory with temperature, moving into temperate waters in warmer months. Individuals recorded from Iceland and northern Europe most likely followed the Gulf Streamⁱⁱⁱ.
- ◉ Makes diurnal migrations inshore at night across much of its range. Hawaiian research has shown sharks there are found inshore at all timesⁱⁱ.

CONSERVATION STATUS

- ◉ Relatively fast growing and fecund species but regularly taken in target and non target fisheries. Declines have been observed in several populations^{iv}.
- ◉ **Red List status:** Near Threatened (2000).

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- ◉ Targeted throughout its range for its highly valuable fins, liver, hide and meat^v. Jaws and teeth are valued in the curio trade^{vi}.
- ◉ Highly sought after big game fish for recreational anglers due to its large size and aggressive appearanceⁱⁱⁱ.
- ◉ Increasingly important species for dive tourism.

HANDLING

- ◉ Handle with care. Large, powerful shark.
- ◉ Sharp teeth and abrasive skin.

REFERENCES

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- ii. Holland, K. N. *et al*; 1999. *Marine Biology*.
- iii. Knickle, C; Unknown. FLMNH.
- iv. Randall, J. E; 1992. *Australian Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research*.
- v. Simpfendorfer, C; 2000. IUCN Red List.