

Lateral view ♀

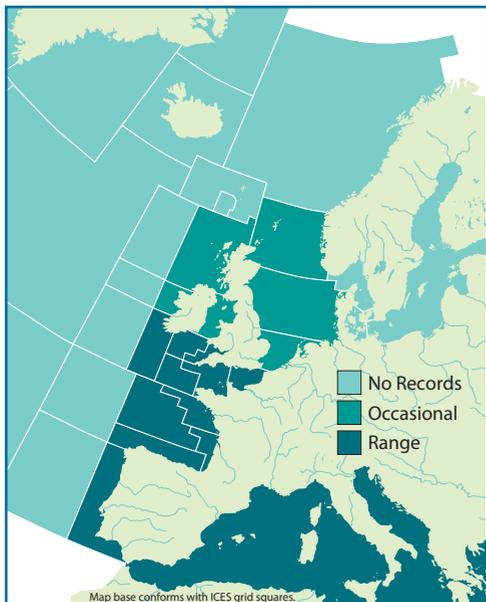
Ventral view ♀

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Mustelus mustelus (Linnaeus, 1758).

DISTRIBUTION

Northeast Atlantic from the British Isles to Madeira and the Canary Isles, including the Mediterraneanⁱⁱ. Possible overestimate of northward range due to confusion with Starry Smoothhound, *Mustelus asterias*^v.



COMMON NAME

COMMON SMOOTHHOUND, Grey Mouth Dog, Common Houndshark, Smooth Dogfish, Sweet William, Emissole Lisse (Fr), Musola (Es).

IDENTIFICATION

- 1 Second dorsal fin much larger than anal fin.
- 2 No dorsal spines.
- 3 Large pectoral and pelvic finsⁱⁱ.

COLOUR

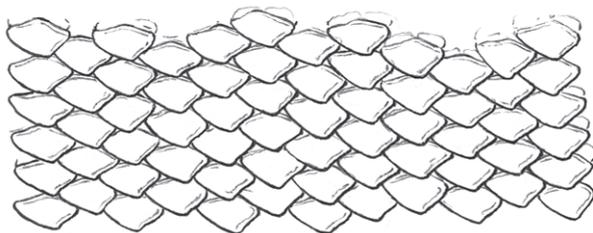
- Grey or grey brown dorsally.
- No white spots, some specimens with dark spots.
- Lighter to white ventrallyⁱⁱ.

BIOLOGY AND SIZE

- Born: 39cm. Mature: 80cm ♀, 70–74cm ♂. Max TL: 164cmⁱⁱ.
- Viviparous with yolk-sac placenta, litters of 4–15 young have been reported after a 10–11 month gestation periodⁱ.
- Benthic crustaceans most important prey item. Also feed on cephalopods and bony fish^{iv}. Mid-water teleost species have been reported in stomach contentsⁱⁱ.

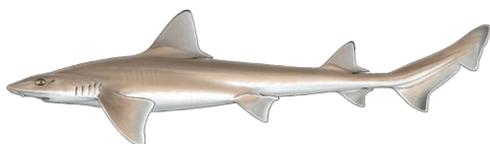


TEETH



- Asymmetric with cusps reduced to a low point.
- Very young may have cuspletsⁱⁱ.
- Denticles only on tongue tip and front of palate^v.

SIMILAR SPECIES



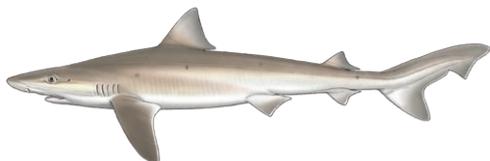
- Mustelus mustelus*, **Common Smoothhound**



- Mustelus asterias*, **Starry Smoothhound**



- Mustelus punctulatus*, **Blackspotted Smoothhound**



- Galeorhinus galeus*, **Tope**



- Squalus acanthias*, **Spiny Dogfish**

HABITAT

- From shallows to at least 350m, most common 5–50m.
- Usually demersal but can be found mid-waterⁱ.
- Has been recorded offshore, often associated with features such as sandbanks^{iv}.

CONSERVATION STATUS

- Widespread but not abundant. Under little pressure in the Atlantic but fished in the Mediterraneanⁱⁱⁱ.
- Red List status:** Vulnerable (2009).

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- Of little importance in northern Europe. Flesh sometimes eaten in Germany and Franceⁱⁱ.
- Targeted in the Mediterranean. Flesh prized in southern Europeⁱ.
- Taken by benthic trawl, driftnet and line gear. Occasionally taken by pelagic trawls and driftnetsⁱ.
- Popular with recreational anglers and can be caught from the shore.

HANDLING

- Handle with care.
- Crushing teeth and powerful jaws.
- Abrasive skin.

REFERENCES

- Anonymous; 2007. TRAFFIC.
- Compagno, L. J. V.; 1984. FAO.
- Ellis, J. R.; 2000. IUCN Red List.
- Fakhoury, F. *et al*; Unknown. Shark Trust.
- Farrell, E. D. *et al*; 2009. ICES JMS.