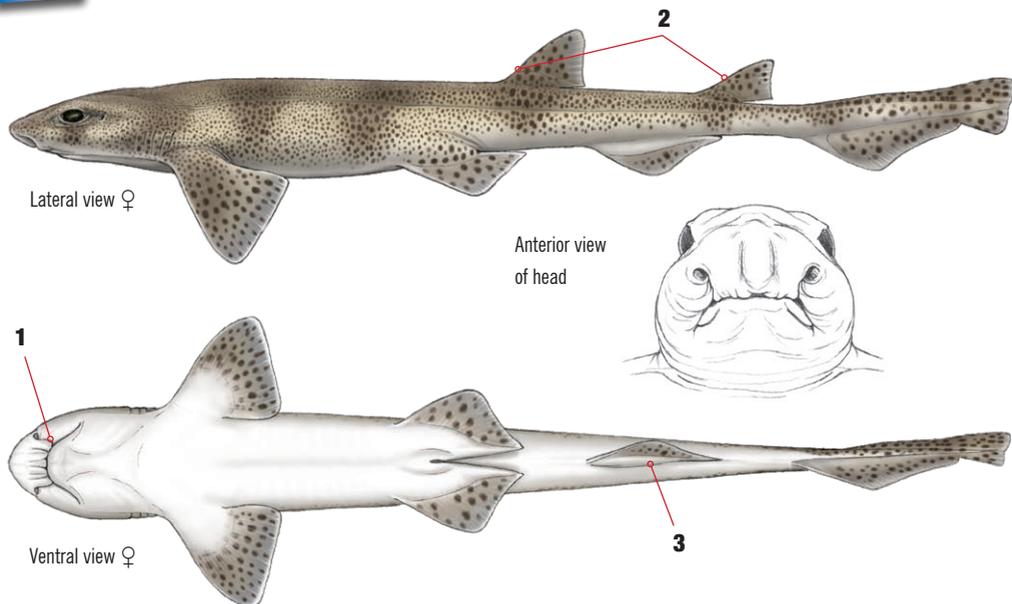


Smallspotted Catshark *Scyliorhinus canicula*



Lateral view ♀

Anterior view
of head

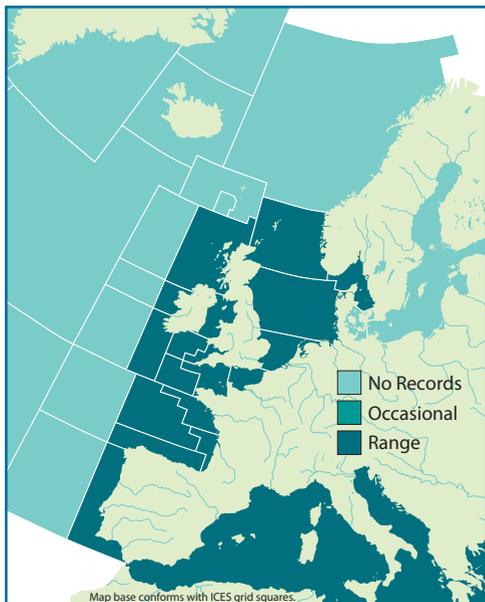
Ventral view ♀

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Scyliorhinus canicula (Linnaeus, 1758).

DISTRIBUTION

Norway to Senegal and possibly the Ivory Coast, including the Mediterranean Sea¹.



COMMON NAME

SMALLSPOTTED CATSHARK, Lesser Spotted Dogfish, Rough Hound, Rock Salmon, Sandy Dogfish, Doggie, Petite Roussette (Fr), Pintarroja (Es).

IDENTIFICATION

- 1 Nasal furrows reach the mouth.
- 2 No dorsal spines.
- 3 Anal fin present¹.

COLOUR

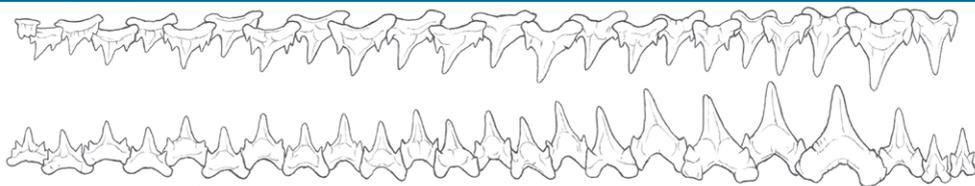
- Pale brown dorsally.
- Pattern of numerous dark spots.
- White ventrally¹.

BIOLOGY AND SIZE

- Born: 9–10cm¹. Mature: 57cm ♀, 54cm ♂^v. Max TL: 80cm¹.
- Oviparous, incubation periods of 5–11 months have been reported depending on water temperature¹.
- Opportunistic feeder which will take most suitably sized prey. Crustaceans and molluscs particularly important^{vi}.



TEETH



- Nine different tooth types.
- Strongly oblique with single cusps to erect with five cusps^{iv}.
- Males have wider mouths and longer teeth than females^{iv}.

SIMILAR SPECIES



- *Scyliorhinus canicula*, **Smallspotted Catshark**



- *Scyliorhinus stellaris*, **Nursehound**



- *Galeus melastomus*, **Blackmouth Catshark**



- *Galeus murinus*, **Mouse Catshark**



- *Galeus atlanticus*, **Atlantic Sawtail Catshark**

HABITAT

- Intertidal to 400m, although rare below 100mⁱ.
- Nocturnal, resting on the bottom during the day and actively hunting at nightⁱⁱ.
- Segregate by sex, more females are found inshore during the warmer months whilst egglaying⁷.

CONSERVATION STATUS

- Extremely abundant species with a relatively high fecundity. Populations appear to be stable or increasing across its rangeⁱⁱⁱ.
- **Red List status:** Least Concern (2008).

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- Taken as bycatch in bottom trawls and line gear fisheries.
- Considered a pest and most are discarded, although discard survival rates have been recorded as high as 98%.
- If landed, may be used for human consumption, fishmeal or pot baitⁱⁱⁱ.

HANDLING

- Handle with care.
- Sharp teeth.
- Abrasive skin.

EGGCASE

- 1 40mm long (excluding horns).
- 2 20mm wide.
- 3 Long tendrils at each cornerⁱ.
- 4 Similar eggcase to the Nursehound, *Scyliorhinus stellaris*.

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