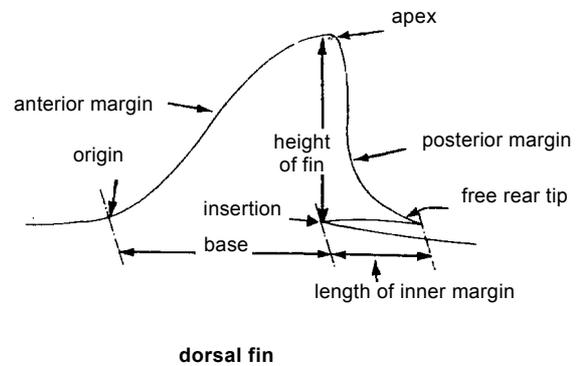
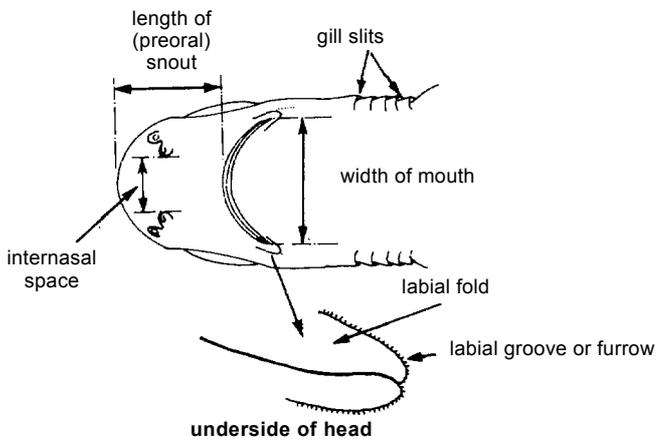
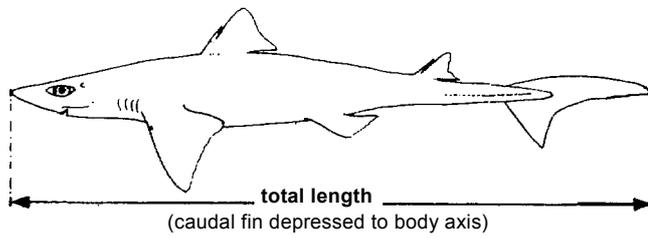
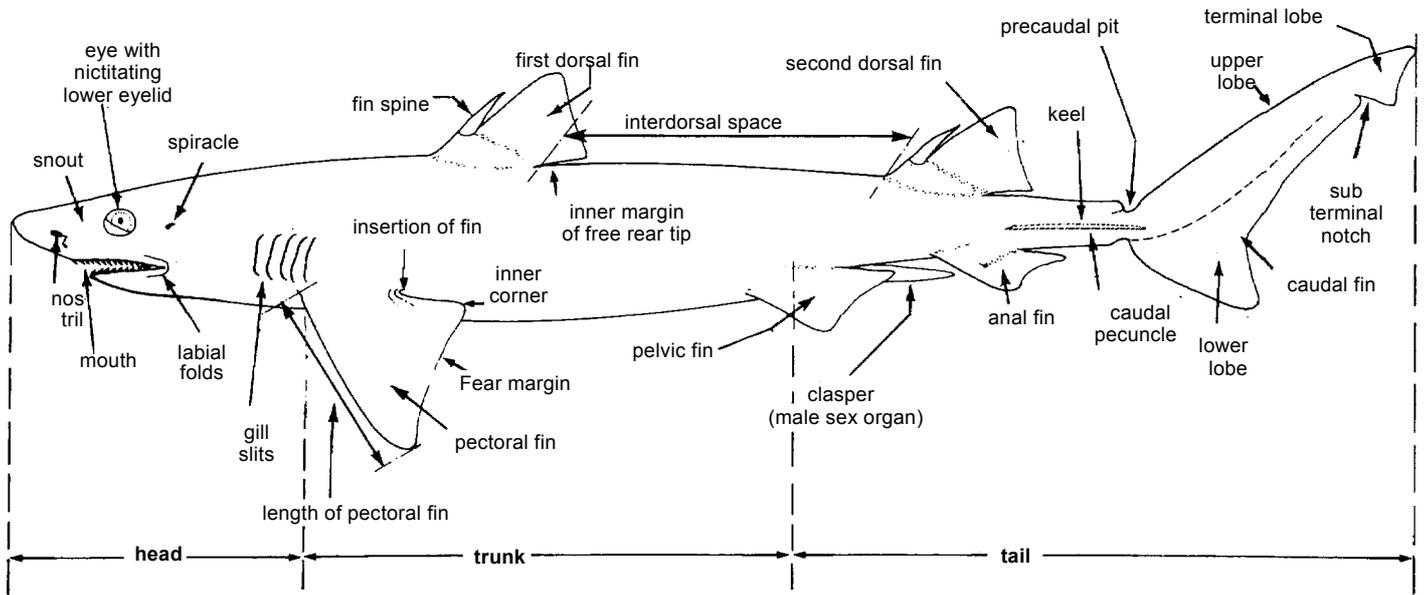


SHARKS

TECHNICAL TERMS AND PRINCIPAL MEASUREMENT USED

(Straight-line distances)



SHARKS

GUIDE TO FAMILIES

The purpose of this guide is to ensure correct identification of all shark families occurring in the Gulf of Guinea. It also allows the identification of genera in the case of polymorphic families.

Note:

Page numbers following the names, where present, lead to information on species of interest to fisheries.

All distinctive characters used here apply only to species occurring in the Gulf of Guinea.

FRILLED AND COW SHARKS - Hexanchiformes
Six or seven pairs of gill slits

HEXANCHIDAE

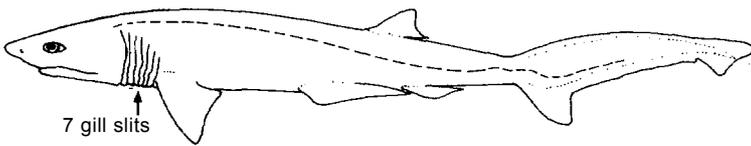
Sixgill and Sevensgill sharks, Cowsharks

To at least 482 cm; continental shelf and slope to about 1900 m depth; demersal or pelagic.

secondary cusps on inner margin



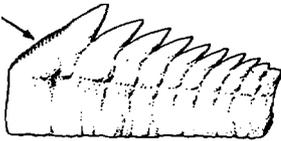
lower lateral tooth



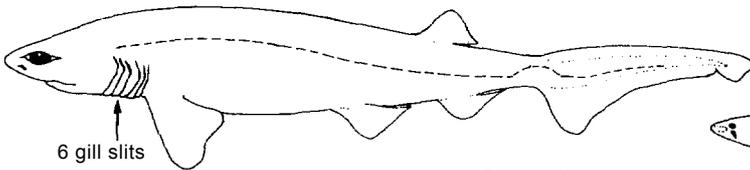
7 gill slits

Heptranchias perlo

denticulations on inner margin



lower lateral tooth



6 gill slits

Hexanchus griseus

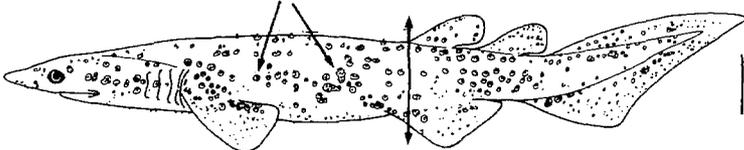
DOG FISH SHARKS AND ALLIES - Squaliformes
Anal fin absent; mouth ventral; snout short.

ECHINORHINIDAE

Bramble sharks

To 310 cm; continental shelf and slope, from 20 to 900 m depth; demersal. A single species.

bony plates



Echinorhinus brucus

SQUALIDAE

Dogfish sharks

page 147

To about 180 cm; continental shelf and slope, from 50 to 2700 m depth; predominantly demersal.

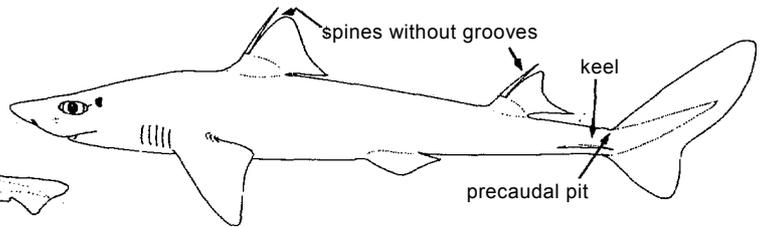
Examples:



upper tooth



lower tooth



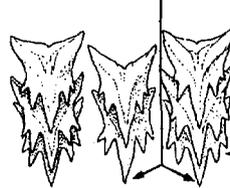
spines without grooves

keel

precaudal pit

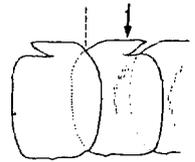
Squalus blainvillei

primary cusplet



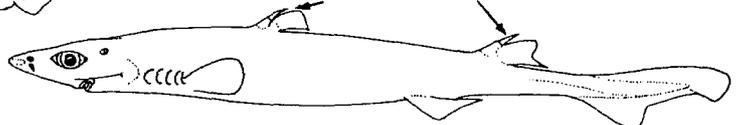
upper teeth

blade-like

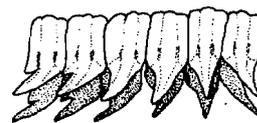


lower teeth

grooved spines,



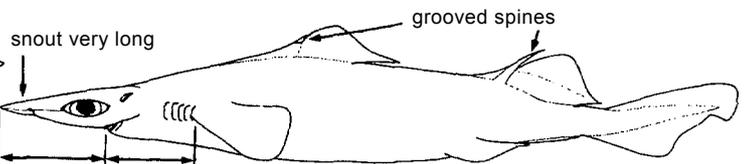
Etmopterus



upper teeth



lower teeth



snout very long

grooved spines

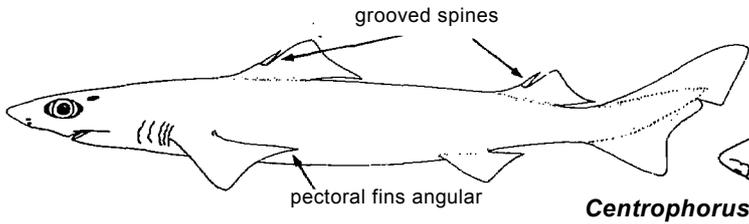
Deania

SHARKS

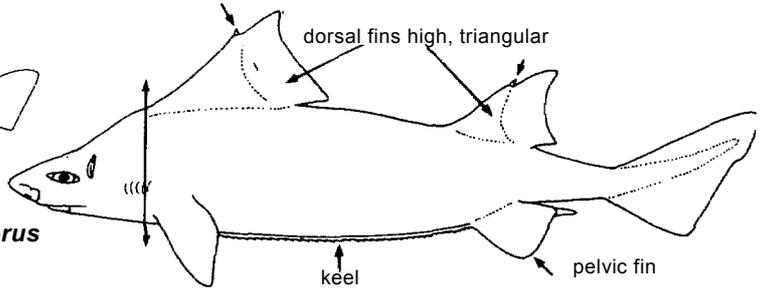
OXYNOTIDAE

Centrines

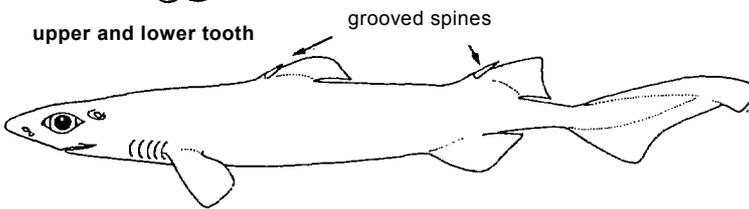
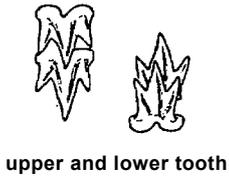
To 150 cm; in offshore waters from 40 to 720 m depth; demersal. A single species.



Centrophorus



Oxinotus centrina



Centroscyllium fabricii

ANGEL SHARKS - Squatiniformes

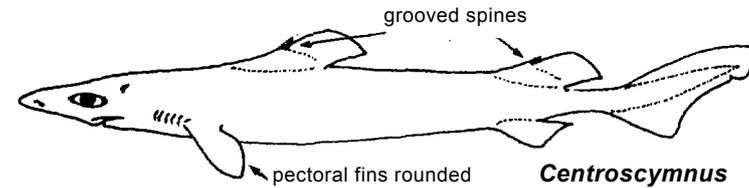
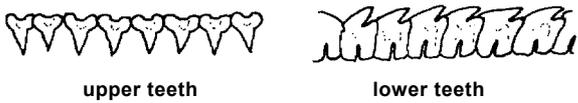
Body flattened; gill slits ventro-lateral; anal fin absent, mouth terminal.

SQUATINIDAE

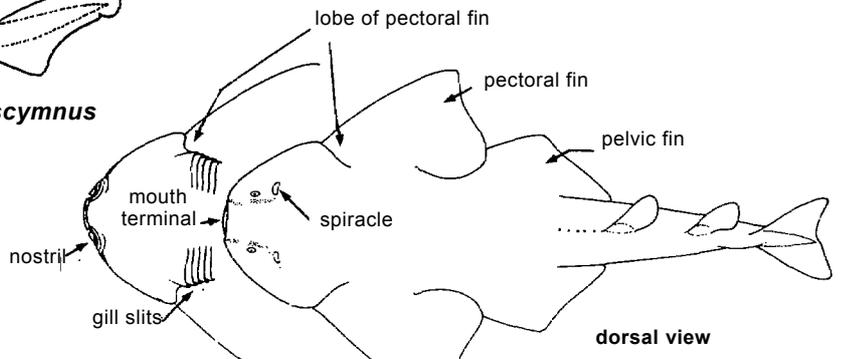
Angel sharks

page 151

To 188 cm; continental shelf and slope from 30 to 500 m depth; demersal.

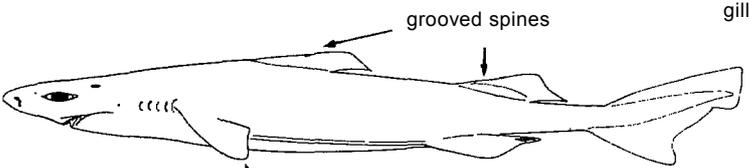
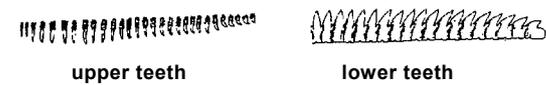


Centroscyllium fabricii



Squatina

underside of head



Scymnodon obscurus

NURSE AND WHALE SHARKS - Orectolobiformes

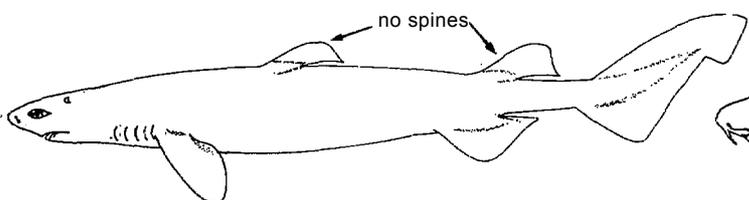
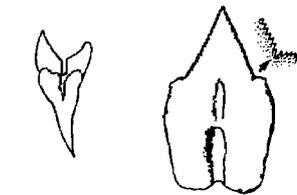
Mouth in front of eyes; nostrils with barbels.

GINGLYMOSTOMATIDAE

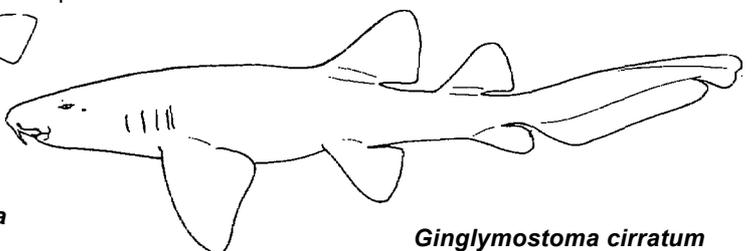
Nurse sharks

page 142

To about 430 cm; coastal waters, demersal. A single species.



Dalatias licha



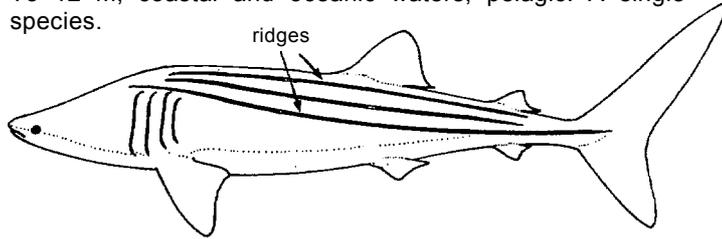
Ginglymostoma cirratum

SHARKS

RHINIODONTIDAE

Whale sharks

To 12 m; coastal and oceanic waters; pelagic. A single species.



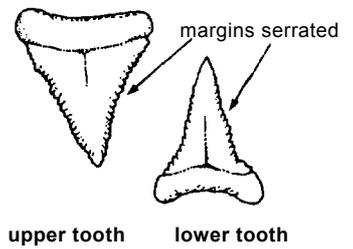
Rhiniodon typus

LAMNIDAE

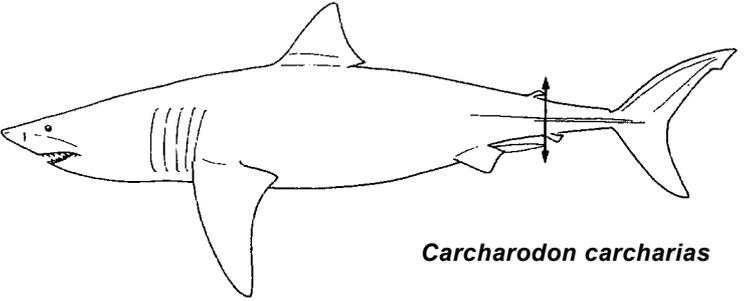
Mackerel sharks

page 143

To at least 650 cm; coastal and oceanic waters; pelagic.



upper tooth lower tooth



Carcharodon carcharias

MACKEREL SHARKS AND ALLIES - Lamniformes

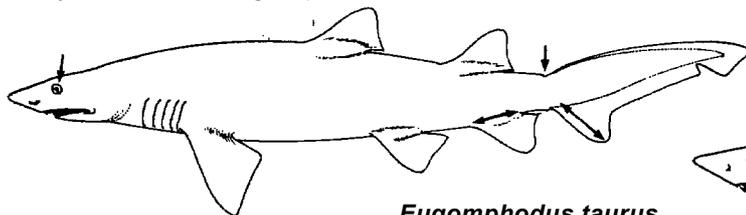
No nictitating eyelid; intestinal valve of ring type.

intestinal valve of ring type (schematic, characteristic for the order)

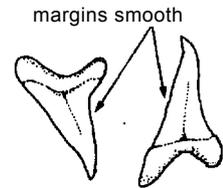
ODONTASPIDIDAE

Sand tiger sharks

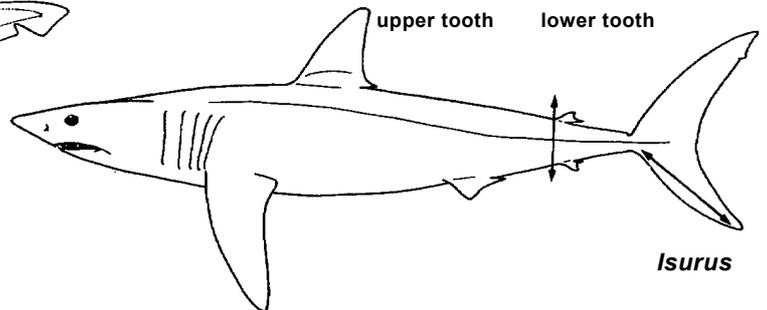
To 318 cm; common along the coast and off bays, mainly demersal. A single species.



Eugomphodus taurus



upper tooth lower tooth

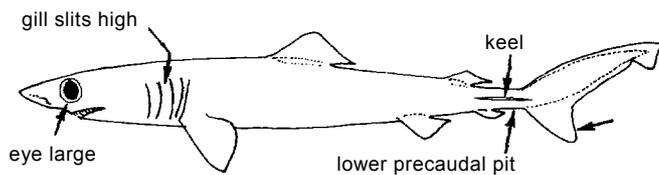


Isurus

PSEUDOCARCHARIIDAE

Crocodile sharks

To 110 cm; coastal and oceanic waters. A monogeneric family with a single species.



Pseudocarcharias kamoharui

GROUND SHARKS AND ALLIES - Carcharhiniformes

Nictitating membrane present on eyes; intestinal valve of scroll or spiral type.

SCYLIORHINIDAE

Catsharks

page 144

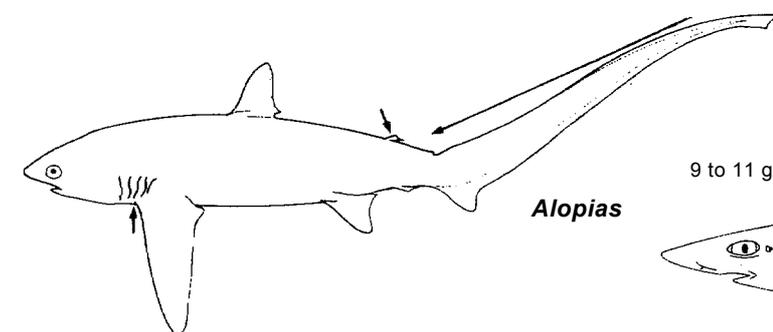
To 160 cm; coastal waters and on the slope to 720 m depth; usually demersal.

ALOPIIDAE

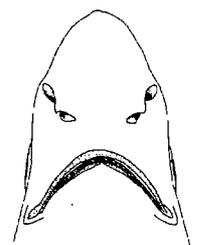
Thresher sharks

page 137

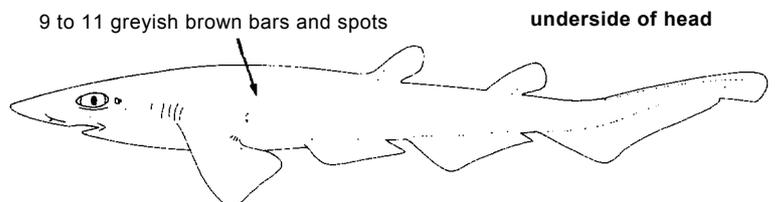
To at least 550 cm; coastal and oceanic waters; pelagic.



Alopias

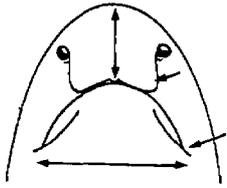


underside of head

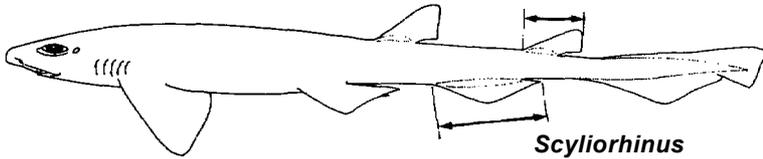


Galeus polli

SHARKS



underside of head

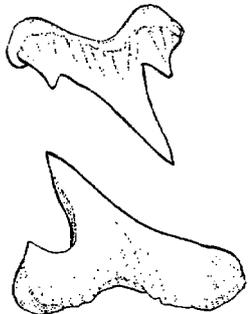


Scyliorhinus

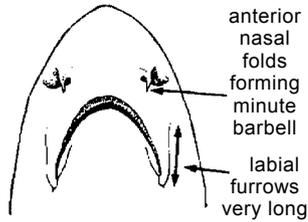
LEPTOCHARIIDAE

Barbeled houndsharks **page 144**

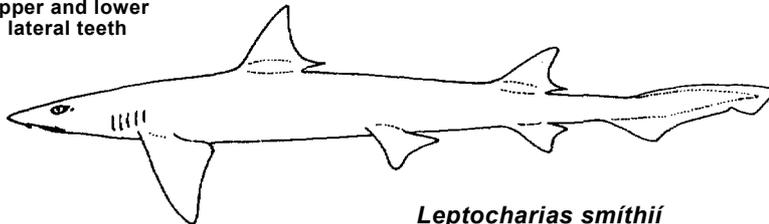
To 80 cm, coastal waters, particularly around river mouths, to 75 m depth. A single species.



upper and lower lateral teeth



underside of head

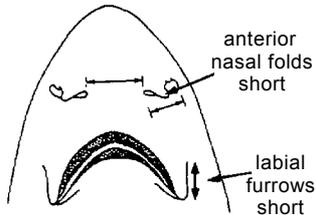


Leptocharias smithii

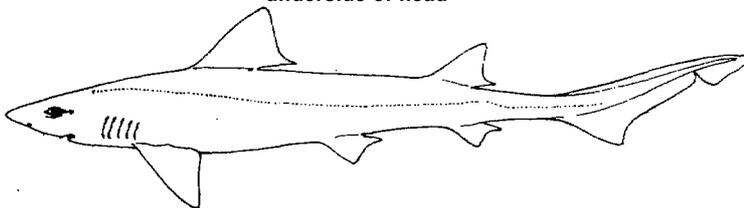
TRIAKIDAE

Hound sharks **page 152**

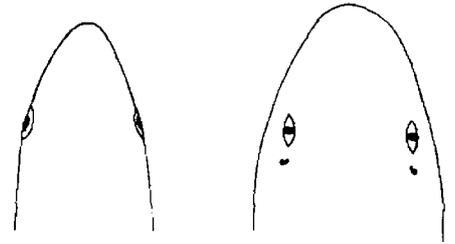
To 167 cm; coastal waters to at least 350 m depth; benthopelagic and demersal.



underside of head

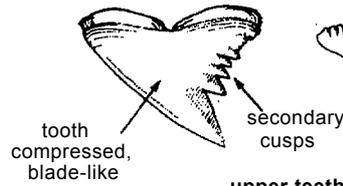


Mustelus



Galeorhinus galeus *Mustelus mustelus*

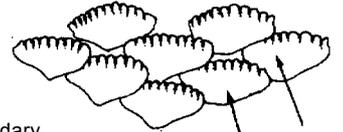
dorsal view of head



tooth compressed, blade-like

secondary cusps

G. galeus



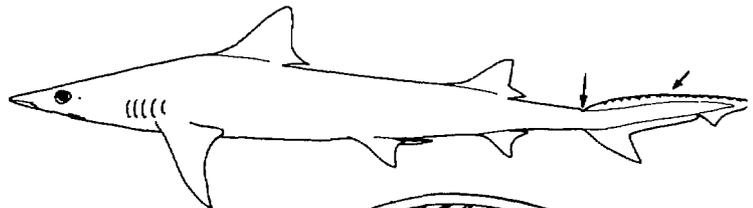
teeth low with rounded cusps, forming a pavement

M. mustelus

HEMIGALEIDAE

Weasel sharks **page 143**

To 138 cm; coastal waters to 100 m depth. A single species.



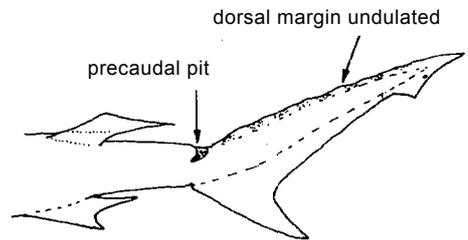
intestinal valve of spiral type

Paragaleus pectoralis

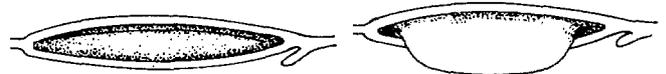
CARCHARHINIDAE

Requiem sharks **page 137**

To about 650 cm; coastal and oceanic waters, from the surface to about 800 m depth; pelagic or demersal.



(Family characters)

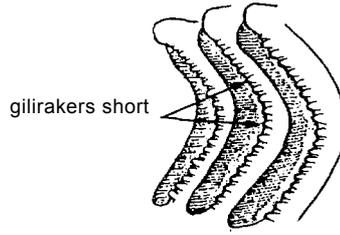
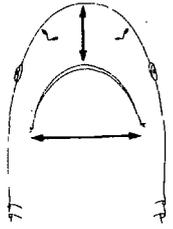
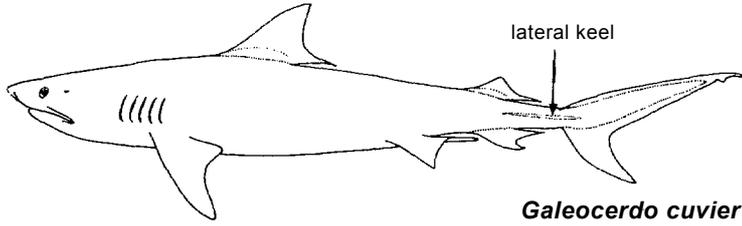
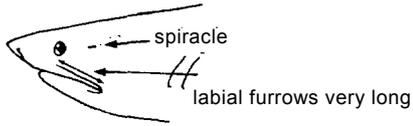


rolled

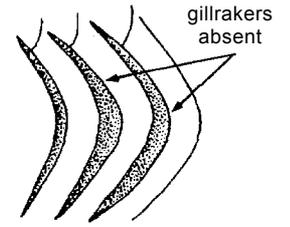
unrolled

intestinal valve of scroll type (Family characters)

SHARKS

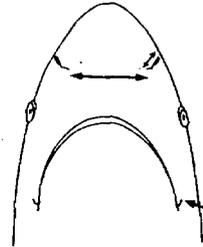


Prionace

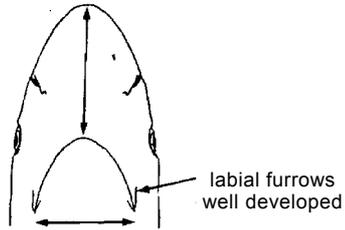
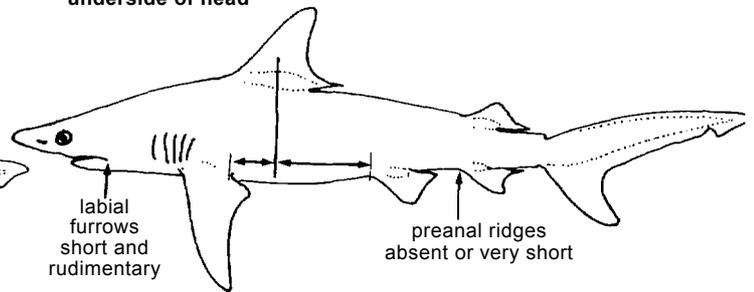
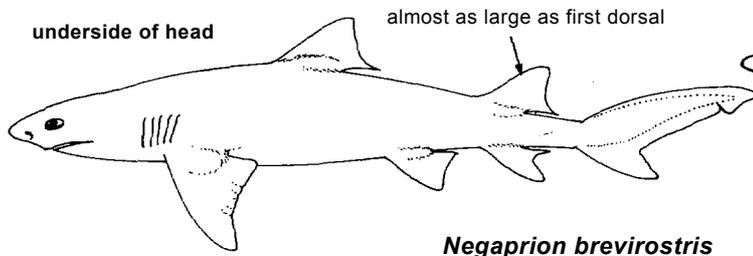


Carcharhinus

gillrakers



underside of head



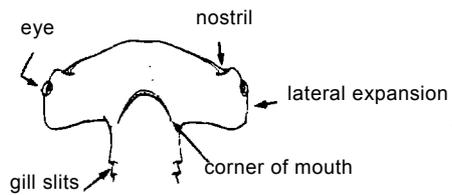
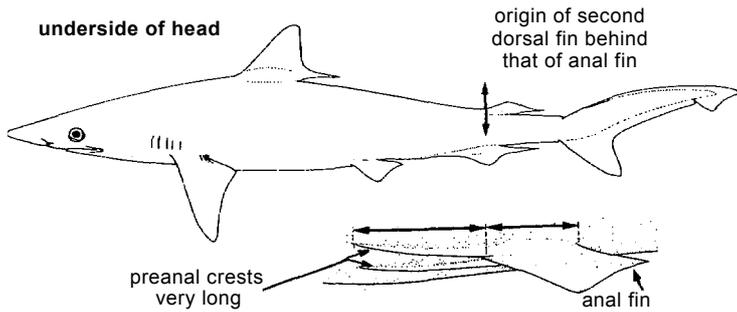
underside of head

SPHYRNIDAE

Hammerhead sharks

page 146

To 300 cm; coastal and oceanic waters, near the surface; pelagic.



underside of head

