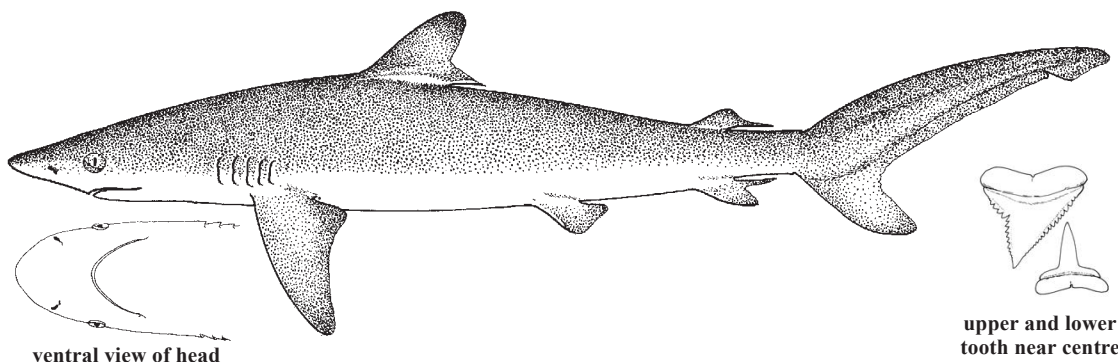


Carcharhinus falciformis (Müller and Henle, 1839)

FAL

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Carcharhinus floridanus* Bigelow, Schroeder, and Springer, 1943 / *Carcharhinus obscurus* (Lesueur, 1818).

FAO names: **En** - Silky shark; **Fr** - Requin soyeux; **Sp** - Tiburón jaquetón.



Diagnostic characters: Large, with an elongate and slender body. Eyes moderately large, internal nictitating lower eyelids present. **Snout narrowly rounded, moderately long, preoral length 1.2 to 1.6 times internarial space;** anterior nasal flaps low or rudimentary; labial furrows very short. **Upper teeth with relatively narrow cusps well delimited from the heavy, serrated bases, their outer edges notched;** teeth in lower jaw erect, their edges only slightly serrated; anteroposterior tooth row counts 14 to 16/14 to 17 on each side, total tooth row counts 31 to 37/30 to 37. Spiracles absent; gill slits moderately long, height of third gill slit about 2.9 to 3.6% of total length; gill arches without papillae. First dorsal fin moderately high, height 5.2 to 8.1% of total length; **first dorsal fin with a broadly convex anterior margin, a broadly rounded apex, an origin behind the free rear tips of the pectoral fins,** and the midlength of its base somewhat closer to the pectoral-fin insertions than the pelvic-fin origins or almost equidistant between them; **second dorsal fin very low** and much smaller than the first dorsal fin, height 1.4 to 2.1% of total length; second dorsal fin with a shallowly concave posterior margin, an origin about over that of anal fin, **an elongated, slender free rear tip, and an inner margin usually twice the height of the fin or more;** anal fin with a deeply notched posterior margin and without long preanal ridges; **pectoral fins long and falcate,** more so in adults than in young. **Interdorsal ridge present between dorsal fins;** no keels on caudal peduncle. Precaudal vertebral centra 98 to 106, total vertebral centra 199 to 205. **Colour:** back dark grey, greyish brown, or bluish black (in life); belly greyish or white.

Size: Maximum about 3.3 m total length, common to 2.5 m; size at birth 70 to 87 cm; males maturing at about 187 to 217 cm and females at 213 to 230 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits subtropical and tropical oceanic waters near and beyond the continental slopes, but also in coastal waters on continental and insular shelves in waters as little as 18 m deep. Usually live near the surface, but occur sometimes to at least 500 m. Number of young 2 to 14 per litter. Feeds chiefly on fishes, including tunas, also squids and pelagic octopods. May occasionally bite people. Caught mainly offshore near the continental slopes, with less abundant catches in coastal waters. The most important fisheries have been off southern Florida, both coasts of Cuba, Mexico (Campeche Bank), and Venezuela. Separate statistics not reported. Caught mainly with pelagic and bottom longlines, purse seines, gill nets, and hook-and-line. Its meat used fresh or dried-salted, its hide for leather, its fins for shark-fin soup, and its liver is extracted for oil, which has a high Vitamin A content. Vulnerable to overexploitation.

Distribution: Circumglobal in all warm seas. Widespread in the area, from Delaware Bay and Bermuda to southern Brazil, abundant or formerly abundant in the Gulf of Mexico, off southern Florida and around the Antilles.

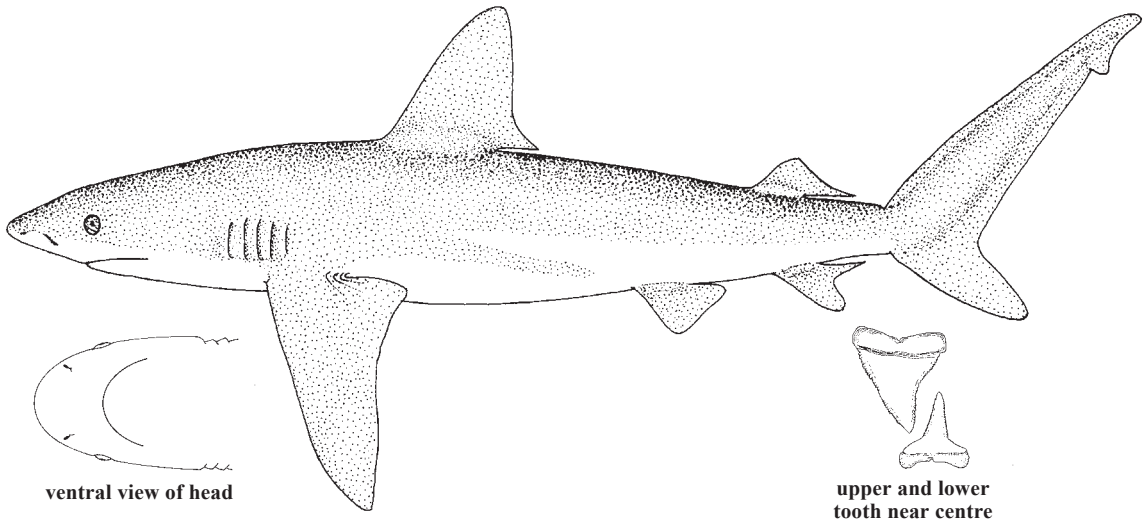


Carcharhinus galapagensis (Snodgrass and Heller, 1905)

CCG

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Carcharhinus obscurus* (Lesueur, 1818).

FAO names: En - Galapagos shark; Fr - Requin de Galapagos; Sp - Tiburón de Galápagos.

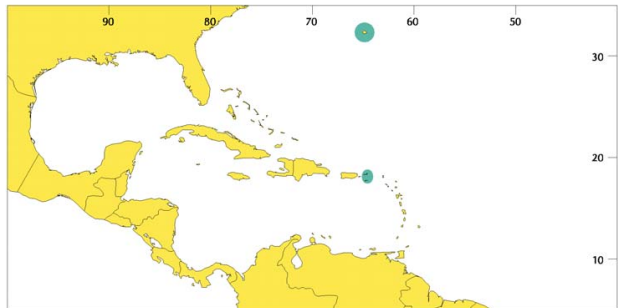


Diagnostic characters: Body slender to moderately stout. Eyes large, internal nictitating lower eyelids present. Snout rounded and short, about 1.0 to 1.3 times internarial width; **anterior nasal flaps rudimentary**; labial furrows short. **Upper teeth broadly triangular**, erect to moderately oblique, **the anterior ones strongly serrated and with higher, broad cusps not delimited from the bases**; lower teeth with high, narrow cusps and serrations; anteroposterior tooth row counts 13 to 15/13 to 15 on each side, total tooth row counts 27 to 31/27 to 31. Spiracles absent; gill slits relatively short, height of third gill slit about 2.8 to 3.5% of total length; gill arches without papillae. First dorsal fin high, height 9.5 to 11.2% of total length; **first dorsal fin with a convex or nearly straight anterior margin**, a narrowly rounded or pointed apex, **an origin over inner margins of pectoral fins** and the midlength of its base somewhat closer to the pectoral-fin insertions than the pelvic-fin origins; **second dorsal fin moderately high although much smaller than the first dorsal fin, height 2.6 to 2.8% of total length; second dorsal fin with a broadly concave posterior margin**, an origin over or slightly anterior to that of anal fin, a slightly elongated free rear tip, and an inner margin less than twice the fin height; anal fin with a deeply notched posterior margin and without long preanal ridges; **pectoral fins nearly straight** and apically pointed, not falcate. **A low interdorsal ridge present**; no keels on caudal peduncle. Precaudal vertebral centra 103 to 109, total vertebral centra 200 to 215. **Colour:** dark grey above, light below, fins plain except for slightly dusky tips in some individuals.

Size: Maximum size about 3.7 m total length, common to 3 m; size at birth about 57 to 80 cm; males maturing between 170 and 236 cm, females at about 235 cm.

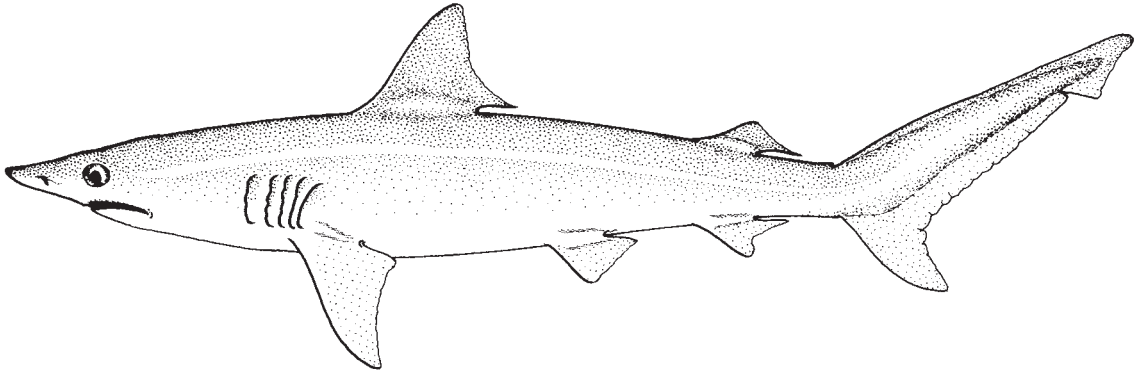
Habitat, biology, and fisheries: A wide-ranging, inshore and offshore shark often preferring the coastal waters around islands to those of the continental shelf. Viviparous, number of fetuses 4 to 16. Feeds on bottom fishes, including basses, flatheads, eels, and flatfishes; also on cephalopods and bivalves. A bold and inquisitive species, sometimes pestering divers but rarely biting people. No information on utilization or fishing methods are available for the area, but likely fished because of its abundance in insular habitats.

Distribution: Widely distributed in tropical and subtropical seas, but of spotty occurrence in the Pacific and Atlantic, primarily off islands but offshore in continental waters in the eastern Pacific. In the area occurs off the Virgin Islands, but possibly more wide-ranging; common off Bermuda.



Carcharhinus isodon ((Müller and Henle, 1839))

CCO

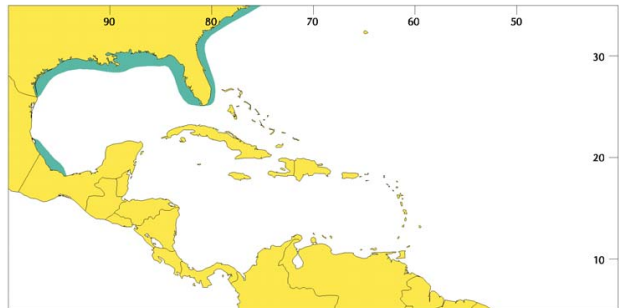
Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.**FAO names:** **En** - Finetooth shark; **Fr** - Requin à petites dents; **Sp** - Tiburón dentiliso.

Diagnostic characters: Body relatively slender. Eyes large, internal nictitating lower eyelids present. **Snout pointed and moderately long, preoral length about 1.1 to 1.3 times internarial width**; anterior nasal flaps rudimentary; labial folds short. **Upper and lower teeth nearly symmetrical and very similar, with mostly erect, very narrow cusps; upper teeth either smooth-edged (young) or weakly and irregularly serrated (adults), lower teeth smooth-edged**; anteroposterior tooth row counts 12 to 15/3 to 14 on each side, total tooth row counts 27 to 32/29 to 31. Spiracles absent; **gill slits very long**, height of third gill slit about 4.8 to 6.5% of total length; gill arches without papillae. First dorsal fin moderately high, height 7.5 to 10.6% of total length; first dorsal fin with a broadly convex anterior margin, a narrowly rounded or pointed apex, an origin over or just behind pectoral-fin insertions and the midlength of its base closer to the pectoral-fin insertions than the pelvic-fin origins; second dorsal fin high although much smaller than first dorsal fin, height 2.5 to 2.9% of total length; second dorsal fin with a shallowly concave posterior margin, an origin about opposite origin of anal fin, a somewhat elongated free rear tip, and an inner margin much less than twice the fin height; anal fin with a deeply notched posterior margin and without long preanal ridges; pectoral fins small and falcate, with narrowly rounded or angular apices. **No interdorsal ridge between dorsal fins**; no keels on caudal peduncle. Precaudal vertebral centra 77 to 81, total vertebral centra 163 to 166. **Colour:** blue-grey on back, greyish on sides, white below, with a white band on sides; fins not black-tipped.

Size: Maximum total length possibly to 189 cm or even 200 cm, but otherwise to about 165 cm; size at birth 55 to 58 cm; males mature at about 133 cm and females between 125 and 135 cm, adult at 133 to 135 cm and with most below 165 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: A common, coastal, highly active and migratory schooling shark. Number of young 2 to 6 per litter. Caught incidentally throughout its range; targeted inshore along the Atlantic coast of the USA in the area, but with small catches. Separate statistics not reported. Caught with longlines, gill nets, rod-and-reel, and as bycatch in demersal bottom trawls. Highly vulnerable to gill-net fisheries off the Atlantic USA because of its inshore habitat and seasonal mass migrations on known routes along the coast.

Distribution: Western Atlantic: USA (rarely north to New York and North Carolina, normally from South Carolina to Florida, and Gulf coast from Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas), Mexico (western Gulf of Mexico); also Trinidad, Guyana, and southern Brazil. An old record from Cuba is erroneous, and eastern Atlantic records off Senegal and Guinea-Bissau may be based on some other requiem shark, possibly *Carcharhinus brevipinna* or *C. limbatus*.

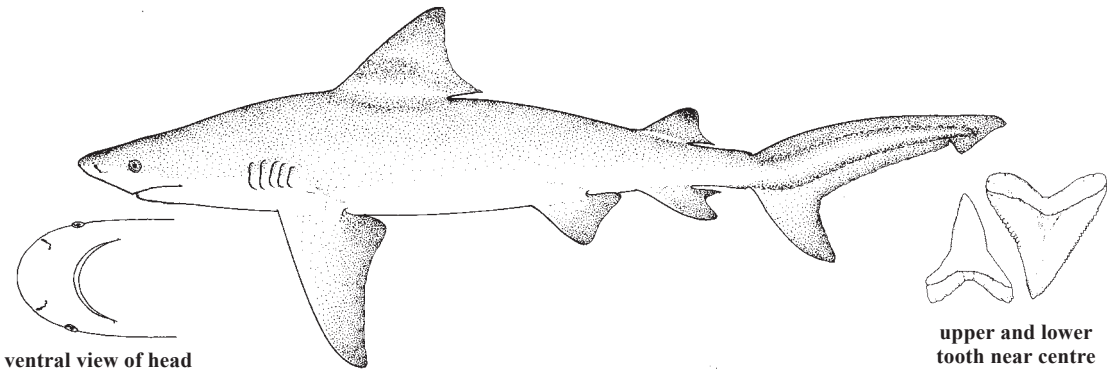


Carcharhinus leucas (Müller and Henle, 1839)

CCE

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Bull shark; Fr - Requin bouledogue ; Sp - Tiburón sarda.

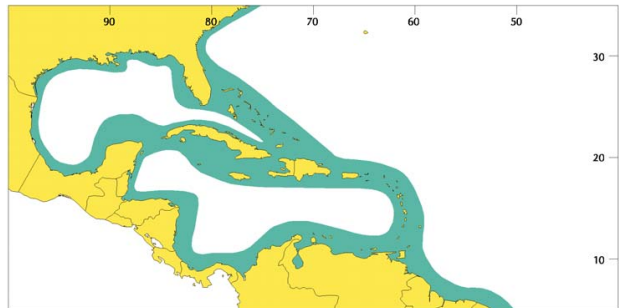


Diagnostic characters: A large, stout shark. Eyes small, internal nictitating lower eyelids present. **Snout very broadly rounded and very short**, preoral length 0.7 to 1.0 times internarial width; nostrils with a low, broadly triangular anterior nasal flap; labial furrows very short. **Teeth in upper jaw triangular, with broad, heavy, serrated cusps**, their outer edges nearly straight in anterior teeth, but becoming increasingly concave to the sides; lower teeth with erect to slightly oblique, heavy cusps with serrated edges and strongly arched bases; anteroposterior tooth row counts 12 to 14/12 to 13 on each side, total tooth row counts 25 to 29/25 to 27. Spiracles absent; gill slits moderately long, height of third gill slit about 3.1 to 4.5% of total length; gill arches without papillae. **First dorsal fin moderately high and broad, height 7.0 to 10.8% of total length, with a broadly convex anterior margin and a pointed or slightly rounded apex, its origin a little in advance of insertion of pectoral fins**, and the midlength of its base close to the pectoral-fin insertions and distant from the pelvic-fin origins; **second dorsal fin high although much smaller than the first dorsal fin, height 3.2 to 4.5% of total length; second dorsal fin with a strongly concave inner margin, an origin slightly in front of that of anal fin, a free rear tip that is hardly attenuated**, and an inner margin shorter than the fin height; anal fin with a deeply notched posterior margin and without long preanal ridges; **pectoral fins large, broad, with narrow pointed tips. No interdorsal ridge between dorsal fins**; no keels on caudal peduncle. Precaudal vertebral centra 101 to 103, total vertebral centra 198 to 227. **Colour:** back greyish, belly white; tips of fins dusky to black, especially in young individuals.

Size: Maximum total length to about 340 cm; common to 260 cm; size at birth between 56 and 81 cm; males maturing at 157 to 226 cm and females maturing between 180 and 230 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Predominantly a coastal and fresh-water species inhabiting shallow waters, especially in bays, river estuaries, rivers, and lakes. An active, bottom-dwelling shark. Number of young 1 to 13 per litter. A very wide food spectrum that includes bony fishes, sharks, rays, invertebrates (crabs, shrimps, sea urchins, etc.), marine and fresh-water turtles, birds, marine and terrestrial mammals, and carrion. Occasionally bites people. However, it is also a popular subject of ecotouristic divers in the Bahamas. Caught mainly with longlines and gill nets and used for its meat, hide, fins, liver oil (which is very rich in Vitamin A), and for fish meal. Sometimes the predominant species in shark catches in the Gulf of Mexico, off the coast of Central America and the Guyanas. Highly vulnerable to overexploitation, protected off the USA.

Distribution: Widespread along the continental coasts of all tropical and subtropical seas; the most wide-ranging cartilaginous fish in fresh water. Ranges from Massachusetts and New York (rare) and Bermuda throughout the area to Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina. Most common from southeast Florida along the continental coast to the Guyanas; less common around the Antilles.

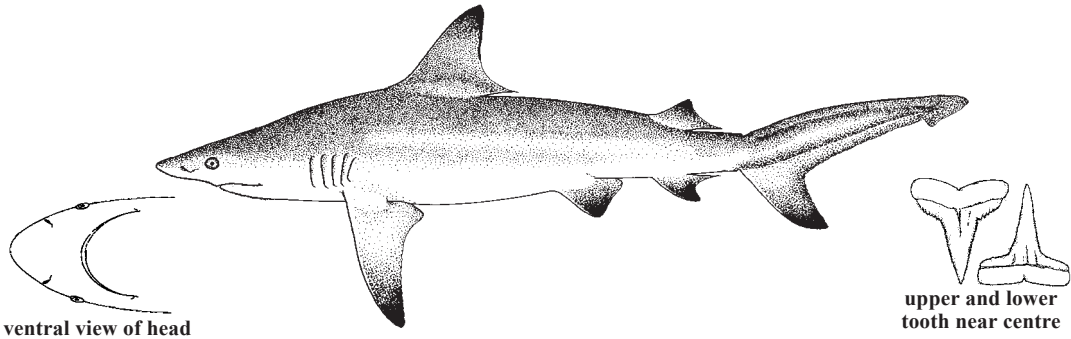


***Carcharhinus limbatus* (Müller and Henle, 1839)**

CCL

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Carcharhinus brevipinna* (Müller and Henle, 1839).

FAO names: En - Blacktip shark; Fr - Requin bordé; Sp - Tiburón macuira.

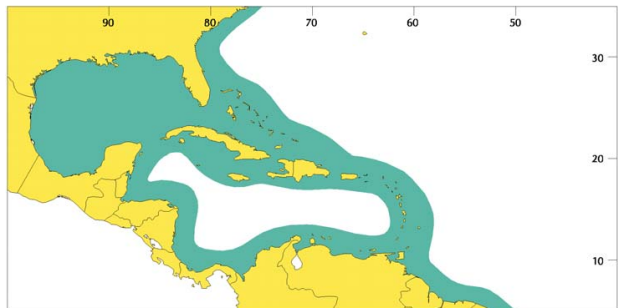


Diagnostic characters: Body fusiform, moderately slender. Eyes small, internal nictitating lower eyelids present. **Snout long**, preoral length 1.3 to 1.7 times internarial width, its tip narrowly rounded to pointed; anterior nasal flaps low and broadly triangular; labial furrows short; spiracles absent; gill slits relatively long, height of third gill slit about 3.8 to 4.9% of total length; gill arches without papillae. **Upper and lower teeth nearly symmetrical and similar, with erect, narrow cusps and serrated edges**; anteroposterior tooth row counts 14 to 16/13 to 15 on each side, total tooth row counts 29 to 35/27 to 33. **First dorsal fin high and broad, height 8.2 to 12.4% of total length; first dorsal fin with a convex or nearly straight anterior margin, a pointed or very narrowly rounded apex, an origin above, or slightly posterior to insertions of pectoral fins**, and the midlength of its base close to the pectoral-fin insertions and far from the pelvic-fin origins; **second dorsal fin high** although much smaller than the first dorsal fin, height 2.5 to 3.6% of total length; second dorsal fin with a shallowly concave posterior margin, an origin over or slightly in front of that of anal fin, a slightly attenuated free rear tip, and an inner margin less than twice the height of the fin; anal fin with a deeply notched posterior margin and without long preanal ridges; pectoral fins long, falcate, narrow, and with narrow pointed tips. **No interdorsal ridge between dorsal fins**; no keels on caudal peduncle. Precaudal vertebral centra 88 to 102, total vertebral centra 174 to 203. **Colour:** back dark grey, ashy blue, or dusky bronze; belly white or yellowish white. **A dark band extending rearward along each side to about over origin of pelvic fin; tips of pelvic fins with a persistent black spot**; tips of dorsal, anal, and pectoral fin and the lower lobe of caudal fin usually black or dusky in young individuals, but these markings fade with growth.

Size: Maximum total length to about 2.5 m; common to 1.5 m; size at birth about 55 to 72 cm; males maturing at about 135 to 180 cm and females 120 to 190 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits coastal as well as offshore surface waters. Occasionally enters brackish waters, but not fresh water. Number of young 1 to 10 per litter. Feeds mainly on small schooling bony fishes; also on rays and squids. Apparently of little hazard to people. Sought for ecotouristic diving in the Bahamas. Caught throughout its range, but especially off the Atlantic coast of the USA, on the shrimp grounds in the Gulf of Mexico and off the northeast coast of South America. Taken with pelagic longlines, gill nets, demersal trawls (especially shrimp trawls), and on hook-and-line. An important bycatch of the offshore swordfish fishery in USA waters. Its meat is excellent and is marketed fresh and salted for human consumption, also caught for its fins and used to produce fish meal. Skin used in manufacture of various subproducts and the liver in production of oil (high in Vitamin A). Highly vulnerable to overexploitation.

Distribution: Widespread in all tropical and subtropical continental waters. Occurring throughout the area, extending northward to New England (rare) and southward to southern Brazil. It has been the most common shark around the Bahamas Islands and off southern Florida; very common also around the Antilles and off the northwest coast of South America.

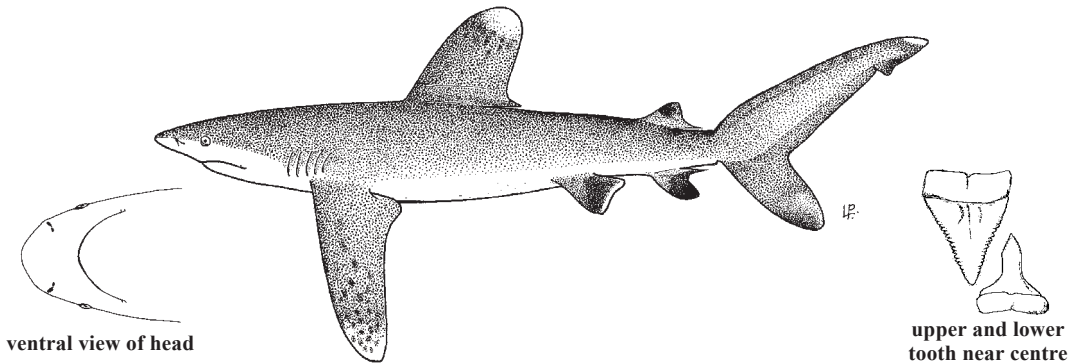


Carcharhinus longimanus (Poey, 1861)

OCS

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Carcharhinus maou* (Lesson, 1831) / None.

FAO names: En - Oceanic whitetip shark; Fr - Requin océanique; Sp - Tiburón oceánico.

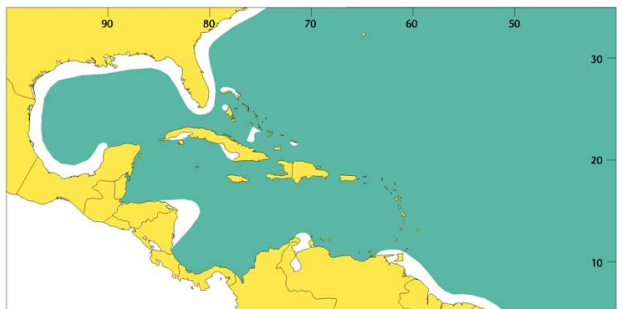


Diagnostic characters: A large, moderately stout oceanic shark. Eyes small, internal nictitating lower eyelids present. **Snout short and broadly rounded**, preoral length 1.0 to 1.1 times internarial width; anterior nasal flaps very low, rudimentary; labial furrows very short. **Teeth with serrated edges, upper anterolateral teeth triangular, with broad, heavy, mostly erect, cusps** nearly symmetrical anteriorly but becoming increasingly oblique at sides; lower teeth with erect, heavy cusps and serrated edges; anteroposterior tooth row counts 13 to 14/13 to 15 on each side, total tooth row counts 28 to 32/27 to 31. Spiracles absent; gill slits relatively long, height of third gill slit about 3.0 to 4.1% of total length; gill arches without papillae. **First dorsal fin very high, height 9.2 to 15.2% of total length; first dorsal fin with a convex anterior margin, a broadly rounded apex**, an origin slightly behind insertions of pectoral fins, and the midlength of its base close to the pectoral-fin insertions and far from the pelvic-fin origins; second dorsal fin high, although much smaller than the first dorsal fin, height 2.7 to 4.2% of total length; second dorsal fin usually with a deeply concave posterior margin, an origin over or slightly in front of that of anal fin, an attenuated free rear tip, and an inner margin less than twice the fin height; anal fin with a deeply notched posterior margin and without long preanal ridges; **pectoral fins very long** (as long as or even longer than head from snout tip to fifth gill slits), not falcate, **with broadly rounded, wide tips. An interdorsal ridge present between dorsal fins**; no keels on caudal peduncle. Precaudal vertebral centra 123 to 131, total vertebral centra 228 to 244. **Colour:** back usually dark grey with a bronze tinge, but sometimes brown or bluish; underside whitish, sometimes with a yellow tinge; **tips of first dorsal fin, pectoral fins, and lower lobe of caudal fin often white or with white spots** (sometimes absent); ventral surface of pelvic fins, apices of anal and second dorsal fins, and ventral lobe of caudal fin often with black spots; also black or dusky saddle-marks in front of second dorsal fin, upper margin of caudal fin, and between dorsal fins (especially in young).

Size: Maximum total length possibly to 350 or even 395 cm, but common to 270 cm or less; size at birth 60 to 65 cm; males maturing at 175 to 198 cm and females at 180 to 200 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Abundant in warm oceanic waters. Occasionally enters coastal waters, but more typically found from edges of continental or insular shelves to far beyond land. Number of young 6 to 9 per litter. Feeds mainly on fishes (especially scombrids and carangids) and squids; also crustaceans (especially portunid crabs), turtles, and carrion. Occasionally bites humans. Caught mostly with floating longlines and primarily as bycatch of fisheries targeting scombrids. Separate statistics are not reported for this species. Meat utilized fresh and salted for human consumption, also processed for fins and probably liver oil. Vulnerable to overexploitation.

Distribution: Circumglobal in all tropical and subtropical offshore waters. Occurs throughout the area including Bermuda, extending northward to New Jersey and southward to Uruguay and Argentina, and often caught in the Caribbean Sea.

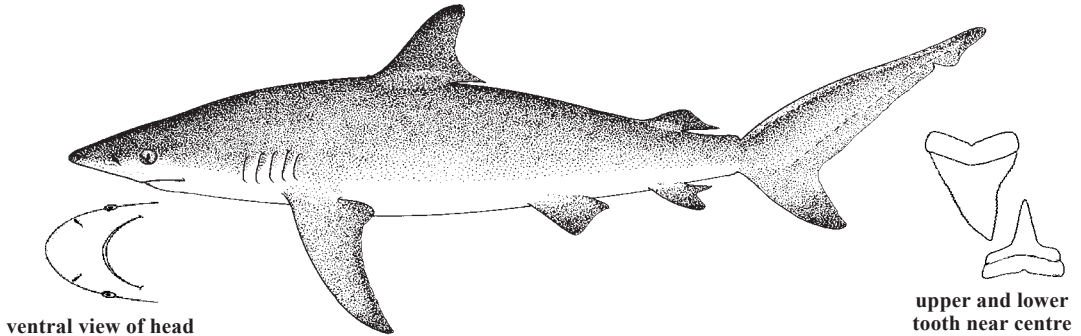


***Carcharhinus obscurus* (LeSueur, 1818)**

DUS

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Carcharhinus falciformis* (Bibron, 1839), *C. galapagensis* (Snodgrass and Heller, 1905).

FAO names: En - Dusky shark; Fr - Requin sombre; Sp - Tiburón arenero.

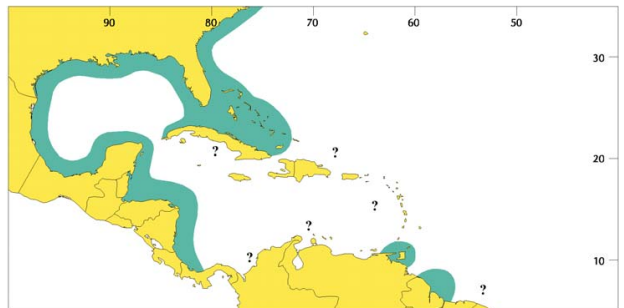


Diagnostic characters: Body slender to moderately stout. Eyes small, internal nictitating lower eyelids present. Snout moderately long to short and broad (adults), preoral length 1.0 to 1.4 times internarial width; **anterior nasal flaps rudimentary**; labial furrows short. **Upper teeth broadly triangular**, erect to moderately oblique, anterior teeth with strongly serrated broad cusps not delimited from the bases; lower teeth with low, narrow, serrated cusps; anteroposterior tooth row counts 14 to 15/13 to 15 on each side, total tooth row counts 29 to 33/29 to 33. Gill slits relatively short, height of third gill slit about 2.7 to 4.0% of total length; gill arches without papillae. **First dorsal fin relatively low, height 6.0 to 9.1% of total length; first dorsal fin with a broadly arched anterior margin**, a narrowly rounded or pointed apex, **an origin over or slightly behind free rear tips of pectoral fins**, and the midlength of its base much closer to the pectoral-fin insertions than the pelvic-fin origins; **second dorsal fin low and much smaller than first dorsal fin, height 1.8 to 2.3% of total length; second dorsal fin with a nearly straight posterior margin, an origin about over that of anal fin, an elongated free rear tip, and an inner margin about twice the fin height**; anal fin with a deeply notched posterior margin and without long preanal ridges; pectoral fins long, falcate, and apically pointed. **A low interdorsal ridge present between the dorsal fins**; no keels on caudal peduncle. Precaudal vertebral centra 86 to 97, total vertebral centra 173 to 194. **Colour:** blue-grey or lead grey above, white below. Tips of pectoral and pelvic fins, lower lobe of caudal fin, and dorsal fins often dusky in young, plain in adults.

Size: Maximum total length possibly over 400 cm but largest adults recently measured were 340 to 365 cm; size at birth about 69 to 100 cm; males maturing at about 280 cm, females between 257 and 300 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Active, pelagic, from close inshore to the outer continental shelf, and semioceanic in the epipelagic zone off the continental slopes. Number of young 6 to 14 per litter. Feeds chiefly on bony fishes, including scombrids, clupeids, serranids, trichiurids, bluefish, wrasses, anchovies, grunts, barracudas, and other sharks (including rays); also eats squids, octopi, gastropods, shrimps, crabs, and carrion. An important fisheries species off the north coast of Cuba, off the USA Atlantic coast, in the Gulf of Mexico, and in the Caribbean. Mainly caught with longlines and gill nets, in targeted shark fisheries and as bycatch of offshore longline fisheries targeting scombrids. Its meat is utilized fresh, dried-salted, frozen, and smoked; its hides are used for leather; fins are used for shark-fin soup; liver oil extracted for vitamins. Highly vulnerable to overfishing because of its long maturation time, low fecundity, and longevity. It is protected off the east coast of the USA.

Distribution: Wide-ranging, but with a patchy distribution in all tropical and subtropical to temperate seas. In the western Atlantic occurs from Georges Bank south to Florida, the Gulf of Mexico (Texas and Mexico), Nicaragua, the Bahamas, Cuba, Trinidad, Guyana, and northern and southern Brazil. Also known from the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea, western Indian Ocean, and western and eastern Pacific. Bermuda and some southern records may in part refer to *Carcharhinus galapagensis*.

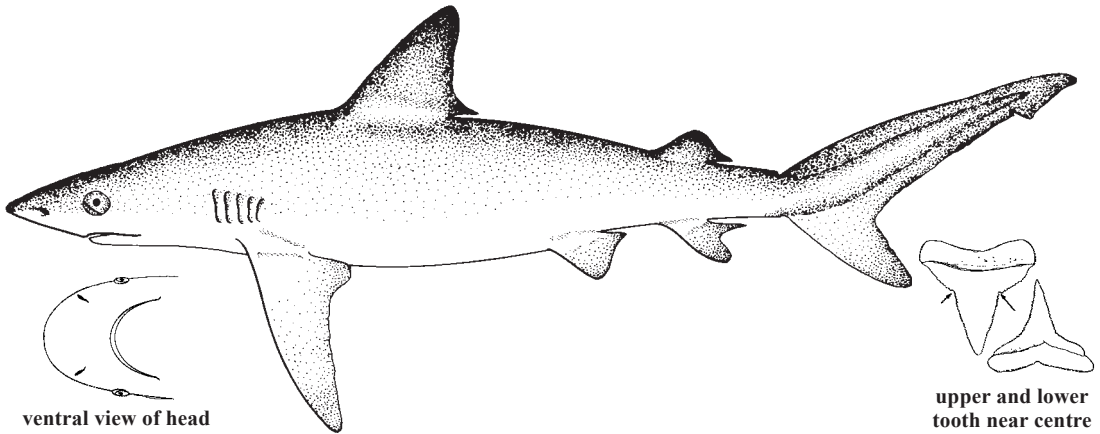


***Carcharhinus perezii* (Poey, 1876)**

CCV

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Eulamia springeri* Bigelow and Schroeder, 1944 / *Carcharhinus obscurus* (Lesueur, 1818).

FAO names: **En** - Caribbean reef shark (AFS: Reef shark); **Fr** - Requin de récif; **Sp** - Tiburón coralino.

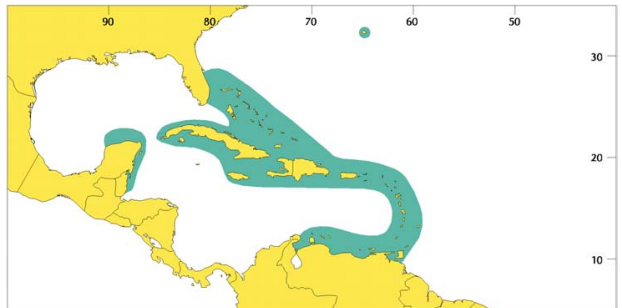


Diagnostic characters: Body fusiform, moderately stout. Eyes small, internal nictitating lower eyelids present. **Snout broadly rounded and short, preoral length 1.0 to 1.1 times internarial width;** nostrils with a low triangular anterior nasal flap; labial folds short; spiracles absent; gill slits relatively short, height of third gill slit about 2.8 to 4.0% of total length; gill arches without papillae. **Teeth with edges serrated, those in upper jaw oblique except the anterior 2 to 4 rows on each side, with moderately narrow cusps; those in lower jaw nearly erect;** anteroposterior tooth row counts 12 to 13/11 to 12 on each side, total tooth row counts 26 to 28/25 to 26. **First dorsal fin high, height 10.3 to 11.3% of total length;** first dorsal fin with a slightly convex anterior margin, a narrowly rounded apex, an origin over inner margins of pectoral fins, and the midlength of its base much closer to the pectoral-fin insertions than the pelvic-fin origins; second dorsal fin fairly high but much smaller than the first dorsal fin, height 2.9 to 3.2% of total length; second dorsal fin with a shallowly concave posterior margin, an origin about over that of anal fin, a moderately elongated free rear tip, and an inner margin nearly or quite as long as the fin height; anal fin with a deeply notched posterior margin and without long preanal ridges; pectoral fins long, narrow, and falcate with narrowly rounded tips. **A dermal ridge present between dorsal fins;** no keels on caudal peduncle. Precaudal vertebral centra 103 to 108, total vertebral centra 208 to 213. **Colour:** back greyish brown or greyish olive; underside white or yellowish olive.

Size: Maximum total length about 295 cm, common to 150 cm; size at birth about 70 to 73 cm; maturing at about 152 to 168 cm (both sexes).

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Abundant around the Bahamas and the Antilles. Inhabits shallow coastal waters down to at least 30 m. Bottom-dwelling mainly in coral reef areas, but also on calcareous algae and mud bottoms off river deltas. Number of young 4 to 6 per litter. Feeds primarily on bony fishes. The most popular ecotouristic dive shark in the area. Fished in coastal waters around the Antilles, especially off Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Separate statistics are not reported for this species, which is caught mainly with longlines. Its meat is marketed salted for human consumption and made into fish meal in some localities (Cuba); its skin is utilized for leather, livers are used for liver oil, and its fins probably enter the oriental-fin trade. Its conservation status is unknown.

Distribution: Western Atlantic: From the USA (east coast of Florida) and Bermuda through the Antilles to southern Brazil, including the Gulf of Mexico (USA and Mexico), Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Bahamas, Barbados, Colombia (rare), Venezuela, and northern and southern Brazil.

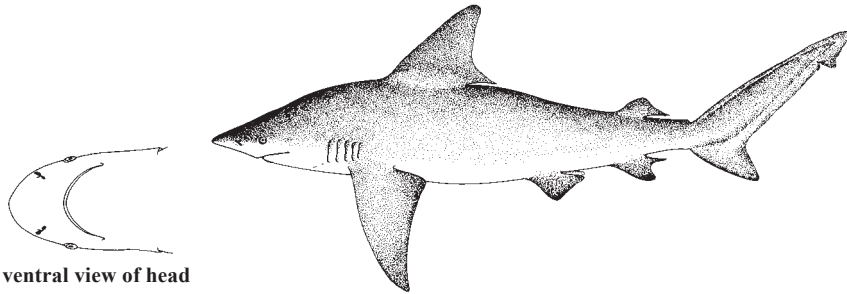


***Carcharhinus plumbeus* (Nardo, 1827)**

CCP

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Carcharhinus milberti* (Müller and Henle, 1839) / *Carcharhinus altimus* (Springer, 1950), *Carcharhinus galapagensis* (Snodgrass and Heller, 1905), *Carcharhinus obscurus* (Lesueur, 1818), *Carcharhinus leucas* (Müller and Henle, 1834).

FAO names: **En** - Sandbar shark; **Fr** - Requin gris; **Sp** - Tiburón tozo.

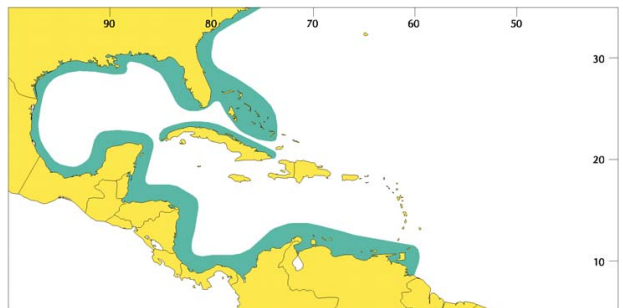


Diagnostic characters: A medium-sized, stout-bodied shark. Eyes small, internal nictitating lower eyelids present. **Snout broadly rounded and short**, preoral length 0.9 to 1.3 times internarial width; anterior nasal flaps low and broadly triangular. **Teeth finely serrate, those in upper jaw broadly triangular** and erect to slightly oblique, with broad, heavy cusps; lower teeth with narrow, erect cusps; anteroposterior tooth row counts on each side 13 to 15/12 to 15, total tooth row counts 28 to 32/27 to 32. Spiracles absent; gill slits relatively short, height of third gill slit about 2.4 to 3.7% of total length; gill arches without papillae. **First dorsal fin triangular, very high** (especially in adults), height 8.4 to 15.0% of total length; **first dorsal fin with a weakly convex or nearly straight anterior margin, a pointed or narrowly rounded apex, an origin over insertions of pectoral fins** and the midlength of its base close to the pectoral-fin insertions and far from the pelvic-fin origins; second dorsal fin moderately high although much smaller than first dorsal fin, height 2.6 to 3.3% of total length; second dorsal fin with a shallowly concave or nearly straight posterior margin, an origin about opposite origin of anal fin, a slightly elongated free rear tip, and an inner margin less than twice the fin height; anal fin with a deeply notched posterior margin and without long preanal ridges; pectoral fins long, broad, and falcate, with narrowly rounded or pointed apices. Precaudal vertebral centra 82 to 97, total vertebral centra 152 to 189. **Interdorsal ridge present**; no keels on caudal peduncle. **Colour:** back grey, or rarely brown; belly whitish.

Size: Maximum total length to about 239 cm, records of specimens to 300 cm uncertain; size at birth 56 to 75 cm; males maturing at 131 to 178 cm and females 144 to 183 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Coastal, usually found over sandy or muddy bottoms; often coming near estuaries but sometimes occurring in oceanic waters to depths of 280 m. Number of young 1 to 14 per litter. Feeds mainly on bottom-dwelling animals, including flatfishes, rays, crabs, and snails; also on schooling fishes and squids. Mostly caught off the east coast of the USA, off Mexico, and off Venezuela. Separate statistics not reported. Caught with longlines, hook-and-line, and set bottom gill nets; also fished with rod-and-reel. It is utilized fresh, fresh-frozen, smoked, and dried-salted for human consumption; the hides are prized for leather and other products; the fins are of high value for shark-fin soup; the liver is extracted for oil (rich in vitamin A). Declined catastrophically off the east coast of the USA over the last 2 decades, and gill-net fisheries catching juveniles were specifically banned by state governments. Highly vulnerable to overexploitation, protected off the east coast of the USA.

Distribution: Wide-ranging in coastal waters of most tropical to warm-temperate seas, but possibly absent from the eastern Pacific. In the western Atlantic from southern New England to southern Brazil. Common off the east and Gulf of Mexico coasts of the USA and Mexico, and off Venezuela; only occasionally found off the north coast of Cuba, around the Bahamas, off Nicaragua and Costa Rica, and off Venezuela.

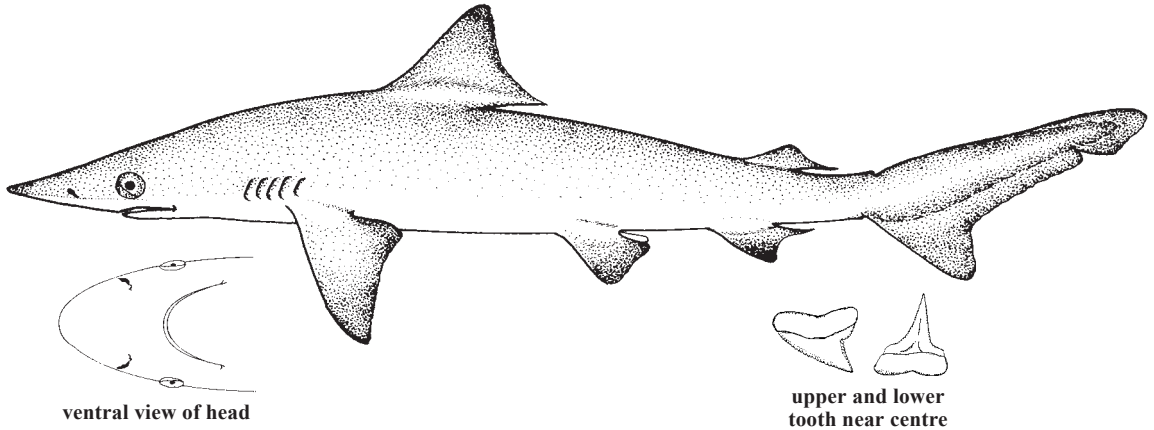


Carcharhinus porosus (Ranzani, 1840)

CCR

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Rhizoprionodon terraenovae* (Richardson, 1836), *Rhizoprionodon porosus* (Poey, 1861), *Rhizoprionodon lalandii* (Müller and Henle, 1839).

FAO names: **En** - Smalltail shark; **Fr** - Requin tiqueue; **Sp** - Tiburón poroso.

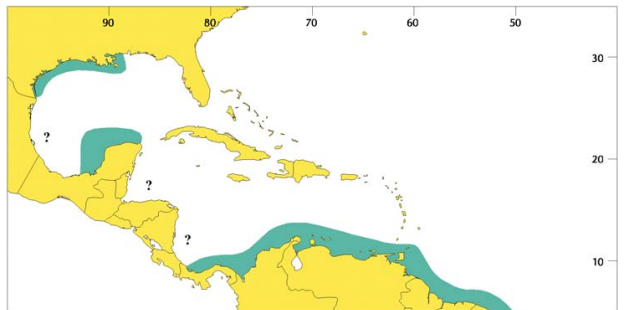


Diagnostic characters: Body slender and fusiform. Eyes large, internal nictitating lower eyelids present. Snout long, preoral length 1.2 to 1.8 times internarial width, and narrowly rounded to pointed; nostrils with a pointed, narrow-based anterior nasal flap; upper labial folds short. Teeth with serrated edges, those in upper jaw with narrow cusps, becoming progressively oblique towards the sides, those in lower jaw with high narrow cusps, erect in front, oblique posteriorly; anteroposterior tooth row counts on each side 13 to 15/12 to 15, total tooth row counts 29 to 32/26 to 32. Spiracles absent; gill slits relatively short, height of third gill slit about 2.8 to 3.4% of total length; gill arches without papillae. First dorsal fin moderately low, height 6.9 to 9.9% of total length; first dorsal fin with a broadly convex anterior margin, a narrowly rounded apex, an origin over pectoral fin inner margins, and the midlength of its base much closer to the pectoral-fin insertions than the pelvic-fin origins; second dorsal fin high although much smaller than first dorsal fin, height 2.2 to 2.8% of total length; **second dorsal fin** with a nearly straight or shallowly concave posterior margin, an **origin over or slightly behind midpoint of anal-fin base**, a somewhat elongated free rear tip, and an inner margin much less than twice the fin height; anal fin with a deeply notched posterior margin and without long preanal ridges; pectoral fins short, slightly falcate, and with narrowly rounded apices. **Interdorsal ridge absent between dorsal fins**; no keels on caudal peduncle. Precaudal vertebral centra 41 to 61, total vertebral centra 96 to 135. **Colour:** back greyish blue or leaden, belly paler; sides and pelvic fins tinged with reddish in some individuals.

Size: Maximum total length to 134 cm; common to 90 cm; size at birth between 31 and 40 cm; males maturing between 72 and 78 cm, females at 84 cm or below.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Coastal, common in shallow waters (16 to 32 m) over muddy bottoms, especially in estuaries. Number of young 2 to 7 per litter. Feeds on bony fishes, other small sharks, and small invertebrates, mainly crabs and shrimp. Caught throughout its range. Separate statistics are not reported. Caught mainly with gill nets and longlines. Important catches occur off Trinidad in the area and off northern Brazil. Marketed fresh-frozen and salted for human consumption, also for liver oil and fish meal. Conservation status uncertain.

Distribution: Western Atlantic from the Gulf of Mexico to southern Brazil; also along the Pacific coast of the Americas from Mexico (Baja, California) to Peru. Recorded from Gulf of Mexico (USA, Mexico), Trinidad and Tobago, and Panama, Suriname, and Venezuela, apparently absent from the Bahamas and the Greater and Lesser Antilles; also northern and southern Brazil.

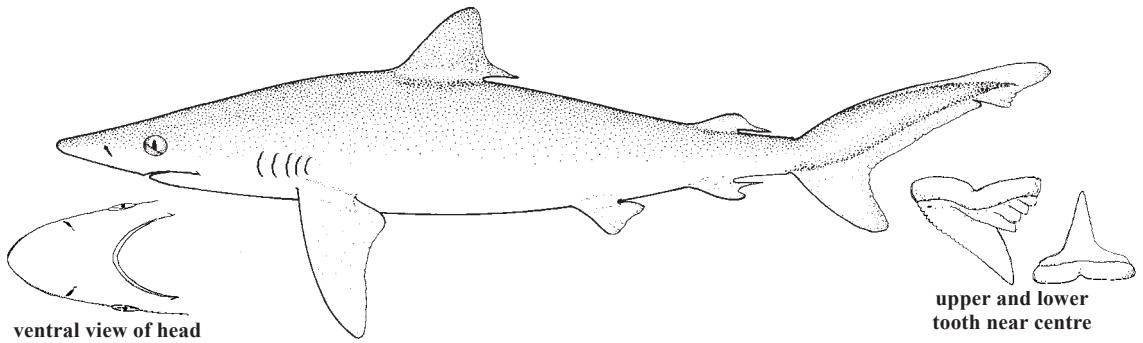


***Carcharhinus signatus* (Poey, 1868)**

CCS

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Hypoprion bigelowi* Cadenat, 1956 / None.

FAO names: En - Night shark; Fr - Requin de nuit; Sp - Tiburón de noche.

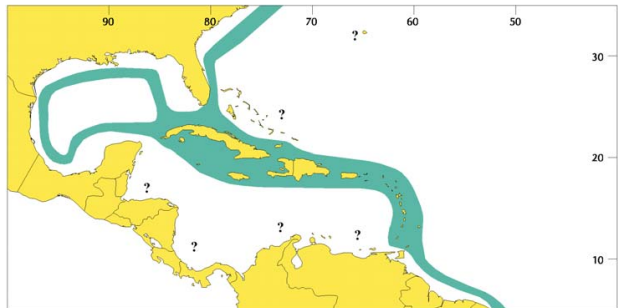


Diagnostic characters: Body fusiform and rather stout. **Eyes relatively large**, internal nictitating lower eye-lids present. **Snout noticeably elongated**, preoral length 1.7 to 1.9 times internarial width, narrow and pointed; nostrils with a short, narrow-based anterior nasal flap; labial folds very short. **Teeth with smooth-edged or weakly serrated cusps**, those in upper jaw increasingly oblique toward sides, their bases with 2 to several very prominent cusplets or strong serrations; teeth in lower jaw narrow, nearly erect and without denticulations at their bases; anteroposterior tooth row counts 15 to 16/14 to 16 on each side, total tooth row counts 31 to 34/29 to 32. Spiracles absent; gill slits relatively short, height of third gill slit about 2.7 to 3.3% of total length; gill arches without papillae. **First dorsal fin relatively low**, height 6.4 to 8.4% of total length; first dorsal fin with a shallowly convex anterior margin, a narrowly rounded apex, an origin over or slightly behind free rear tips of pectoral fins, and the midlength of its base much closer to the pectoral-fin insertions than the pelvic-fin origins; **second dorsal fin very low** and much smaller than first dorsal fin, height 1.6 to 1.9% of total length; second dorsal fin with a shallowly concave or nearly straight posterior margin, an origin about opposite origin of anal fin, an elongated free rear tip, and an inner margin about equal to twice the height of fin; anal fin with a deeply notched posterior margin and without long preanal ridges; pectoral fins long, narrow, slightly falcate and with pointed to narrowly rounded tips. **A low interdorsal ridge present between dorsal fins**; no keels on caudal peduncle. Precaudal vertebral centra 101 to 104, total vertebral centra 184 to 192. **Colour:** back greyish blue with some scattered black spots; belly greyish white; eyes green; lining of mouth white.

Size: Maximum total length about 280 cm; size at birth about 60 to 72 cm: males maturing between about 160 to 190 cm, and females maturing between about 159 and 194 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Deep-water semioceanic, usually found below 275 to 366 m in the day and rising to about 183 m at night, rarely occurring above 160 m. Number of young 4 to 18 per litter. Feeds on fishes, squids, and shrimps. Separate statistics are not reported. At present only caught in any numbers off north-central Brazil in the western Atlantic. Caught mainly with floating longlines, only at night, also by sports anglers with rod-and-reel. The flesh is consumed fresh or has been made into fish meal; the liver used for oil. The conservation status of this shark is problematical, declined catastrophically off the USA and Cuba over the past few decades and is now rare; probably overfished.

Distribution: Restricted to the Atlantic Ocean, from the Atlantic coast of the USA (Delaware) south to Brazil and Argentina, also Senegal to Namibia in the eastern Atlantic. Occurs off the USA (Atlantic coast south to Florida and in the Gulf of Mexico), the Gulf and Atlantic coasts of Mexico, the Bahamas, Cuba (formerly very abundant off the north coast), the lesser Antilles, Guyana, and off the north and south coasts of Brazil.

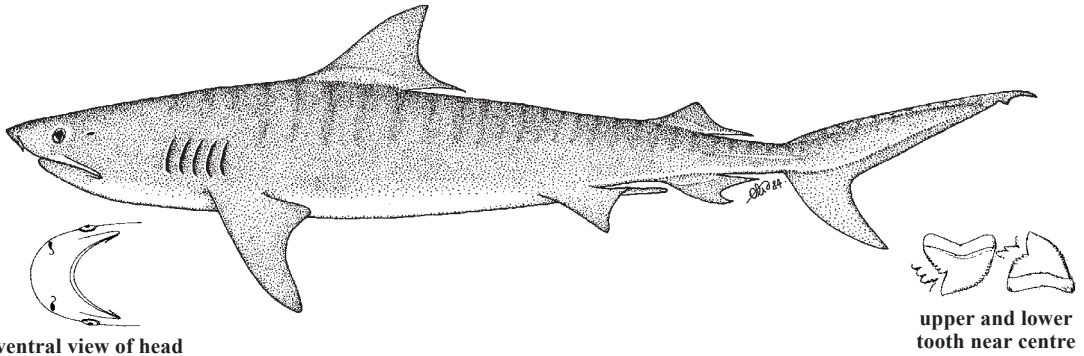


Galeocerdo cuvier (Péron and LeSueur, 1822)

TIG

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Tiger shark; Fr - Requin tigre commun; Sp - Tintorera tigre.

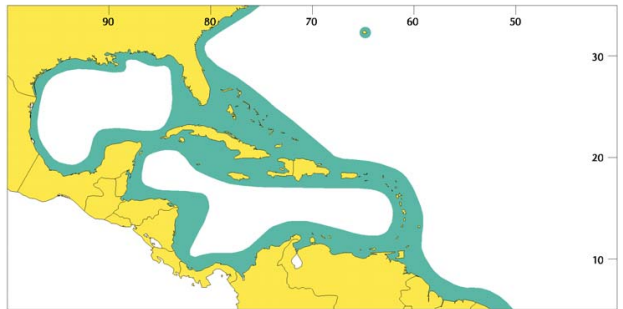


Diagnostic characters: A large, fusiform, broad-headed shark. **Eyes large, with internal nictitating lower eyelids.** Snout very short and bluntly rounded, preoral length 0.7 to 1.1 times internarial width; anterior nasal flaps short and broadly triangular; upper labial furrows about as long as snout, reaching to front of eyes. **Teeth coarsely serrated and with strong distal cusplets, their outer edges deeply notched and the tips directed obliquely outward, and their inner edges broadly convex;** anteroposterior tooth row counts 9 to 12/8 to 11 on each side, total tooth row counts 18 to 26/18 to 25. Spiracles present, these small, slit-like, and conspicuous; gill slits moderately long, height of third gill slit about 2.9 to 3.4% of total length; gill arches without papillae. First dorsal fin moderately high, height 6.4 to 9.1% of total length; first dorsal fin with a broadly convex anterior margin, an angular or narrowly rounded apex, an origin over the pectoral fin insertions or inner margins, and the midlength of its base much closer to the pectoral-fin insertions than to the pelvic-fin origins; second dorsal fin high although much smaller than first dorsal fin, height 1.9 to 3.8% of total length; second dorsal fin with a shallowly concave or sometimes nearly straight posterior margin, an origin slightly anterior to origin of anal fin, a moderately elongated free rear tip, and an inner margin somewhat less than twice its height; anal fin with a deeply notched posterior margin and without long preanal ridges; pectoral fins moderately large, broad and falcate and with pointed or narrowly rounded tips. A strong interdorsal ridge present between dorsal fins; **a low rounded lateral keel present on each side of caudal peduncle.** Precaudal vertebral centra 100 to 112, total vertebral centra 216 to 234. **Colour:** back dark grey or greyish brown with **dark brown or black rectangular vertical bars and spots on sides and fins,** conspicuous in young but fading with growth and obscure in adults.

Size: Maximum total length at least 5.5 m and possibly to 7.4 m; common to 4 m; size at birth between 68 and 85 cm; males mature between 226 and 290 cm and females between 250 and 350 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Coastal as well as offshore, near surface and bottom, on the continental and insular shelves and semioceanic over the continental slopes. Often found in shallow waters close inshore, including river estuaries. Possibly ovoviviparous or aplacental viviparous (unlike other carcharhinids) and very prolific with 10 to 82 young per litter, gestation period possibly a year. A voracious, indiscriminate predator feeding on all kinds of fish (including other sharks and rays), marine mammals, turtles, seabirds, sea snakes, squids, conchs, crabs, undigestible and non-nutritive items, and carrion. Considered hazardous to people. Caught off Cuba and the southern USA with line gear. Utilized for its hide, fins, liver oil (with high Vitamin A content), and meat (utilized dried-salted in some places), while offal is made into fish meal. Conservation status poorly known.

Distribution: Circumglobal in most tropical seas, with seasonal migrations into warm-temperate and temperate seas. Throughout Area 31 including Bermuda, the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the USA and Mexico, and the Greater and Lesser Antilles south to northern Brazil.

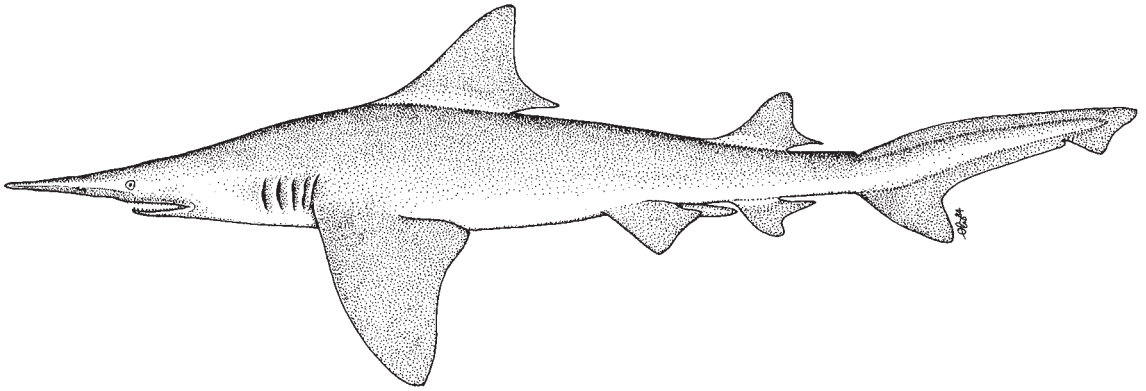


***Isogomphodon oxyrhynchus* (Müller and Henle, 1839)**

CIO

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Carcharhinus oxyrhynchus* (Müller and Henle, 1839) / None.

FAO names: **En** - Daggernose shark ; **Fr** - Requin bécune; **Sp** - Cazón picudo sudamericano.

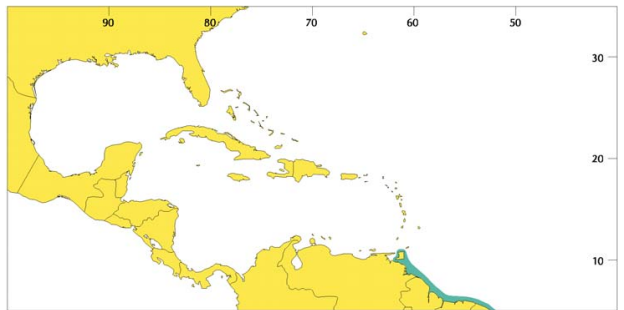


Diagnostic characters: Body moderately stout. **Eyes extremely small**, with internal nictitating lower eyelids present. **Snout very long**, preoral length 1.8 to 2.8 times internarial width, **flattened, and acutely pointed, narrowly triangular in dorsal view**; anterior nasal flaps very low, vestigial; **labial folds short but well developed, not hidden by lips when mouth is closed**. Teeth similar in both jaws, **with very narrow, slender, long, erect cusps on broad bases, serrated in upper jaw and usually smooth in lower**; **anteroposterior tooth row counts 24 to 28/24 to 28 on each side**, total tooth row counts 49 to 60/49 to 56. Spiracles absent; gill slits moderately long, height of third gill slit about 2.8 to 3.6% of total length; gill arches without papillae. First dorsal fin moderately high, height 8.9 to 10.1% of total length; first dorsal fin with a broadly convex anterior margin, a pointed or narrowly rounded apex, an origin far forward over the pectoral-fin insertions, and the midlength of its base close to the pectoral-fin insertions and far from the pelvic-fin origins; **second dorsal fin relatively large** but somewhat smaller than first dorsal fin, height 4.6 to 4.8% of total length; second dorsal fin with a concave posterior margin, an origin about over anal-fin origin, a slightly attenuated free rear tip, and an inner margin less than fin height; anal fin with a deeply notched posterior margin and without long preanal ridges; **pectoral fins very large and broad**, not falcate. **No interdorsal ridge between dorsal fins**; no keels on caudal peduncle. Precaudal vertebral centra 71 to 72, total vertebral centra 147 to 157. **Colour:** grey or yellow-grey above, white below, no conspicuous markings on fins.

Size: Maximum total length to at least 152 cm, recorded at 200 to 244 cm but not verified and possibly based on some other species; size at birth 38 to 43 cm; males mature between 90 and 110 cm and females between 105 and 112 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Relatively common inshore, associated with hot, humid climates, turbid waters, mangrove coasts, and river mouths, often entering estuaries, and confined to coastal waters in 4 to 40 m. Number of young 3 to 8 per litter. Feeds on small schooling fishes, including herring, anchovies, catfish, and croakers. Caught incidentally in coastal waters off Trinidad and possibly the Guyanas, but an important fisheries species off northern Brazil where it comprises 10% of the catch. Separate statistics are not reported for this species. Caught with gill nets and longlines. Marketed occasionally; not highly appreciated as food. The conservation status is unknown but of concern.

Distribution: Western Atlantic: Only found off Trinidad, Venezuela, Guayana, Suriname, French Guiana, and northern Brazil, and possibly central Brazil.

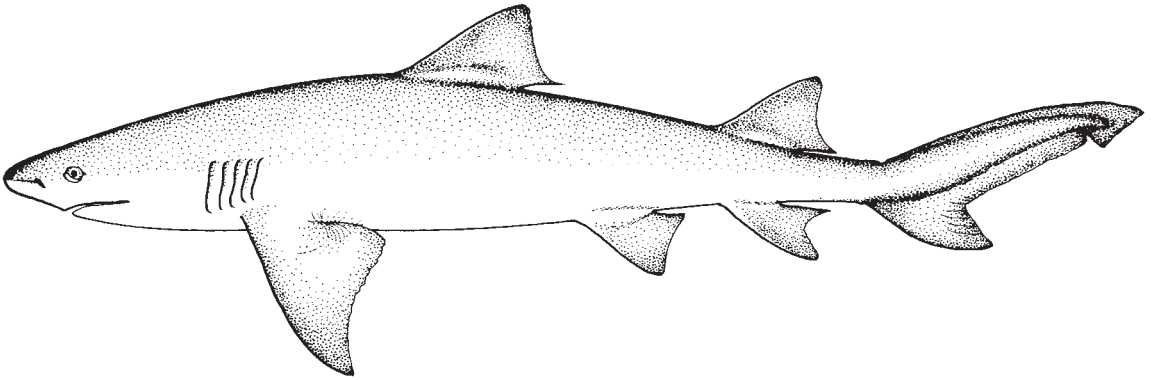


Negaprion brevirostris (Poey, 1868)

NGB

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Lemon shark ; Fr - Requin citron; Sp - Tiburón galano.

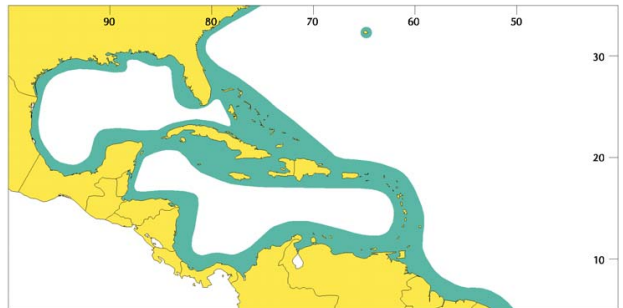


Diagnostic characters: Body stout. Eyes small, with internal nictitating lower eyelids present. **Snout short and broad, rounded or obtusely wedge-shaped**, preoral length 0.7 to 1.1 times internarial width; anterior nasal flaps short and broadly triangular; labial folds short. **Teeth narrow, their cusps smooth-edged, erect in anterior part of jaws, but becoming progressively oblique toward the sides; serrations present on bases of upper teeth**; anteroposterior tooth row counts 15/14 to 15 on each side, total tooth row counts 30 to 33/29 to 33. Spiracles usually absent; gill slits moderately long, height of third gill slit about 3.4 to 4.1% of total length; inner gill arches without gill-raker papillae. First dorsal fin moderately high, height 6.6 to 8.9% of total length; first dorsal fin with a narrowly rounded apex, an origin behind pectoral-fin free rear tips, and the midlength of its base closer to the pelvic-fin origins than the pectoral-fin insertions; **second dorsal fin nearly as large as first dorsal fin**, height 5.4 to 8.0% of total length; second dorsal fin with a shallowly to deeply concave posterior margin, an origin somewhat anterior to anal-fin origin, a slightly attenuated free rear tip, and an inner margin less than fin height; anal fin with a deeply notched posterior margin and without long preanal ridges; pectoral fins moderately large, broad, and falcate. **No interdorsal ridge between dorsal fins**; no keels on caudal peduncle. Precaudal vertebral centra 117 to 121, total vertebral centra 197 to 206. **Colour: olive grey or yellowish brown**, but often darker; belly yellowish or whitish.

Size: Maximum total length to about 340 cm; common to 240 cm, most individuals under 300 cm; size at birth 60 to 65 cm; males maturing at about 224 cm and females at about 239 cm.

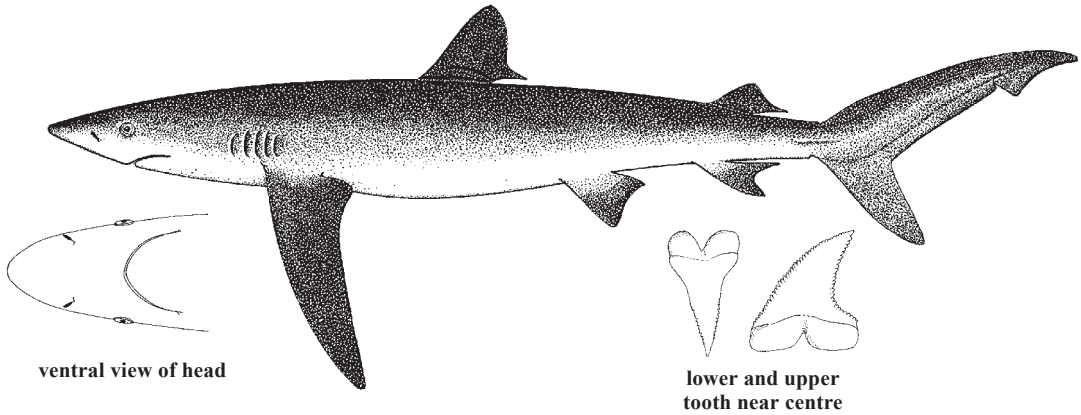
Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Sluggish, common to abundant, demersal in coastal waters from the intertidal down to at least 92 m, occasionally present in the open ocean near the surface over the continental slopes; occasionally enters river mouths. Feeds mainly on bony fishes (catfish, mullets, mojarras) and rays; also on crabs, shrimps, and carrion. Number of young 4 to 17 per litter, gestation period about 10 to 12 months. Occasionally bites people. An important ecotouristic dive shark off Florida and in the Bahamas. Caught wherever it occurs. Used for human consumption, for fish meal, liver oil, crab bait, hides for leather, and fins for soup-base. Separate statistics not reported. Conservation status uncertain but there is cause for concern.

Distribution: In the western Atlantic from New Jersey south to southern Brazil; also found in the eastern Pacific, and recorded from tropical West Africa. Found throughout the area, extending northward to New Jersey and southward to southern Brazil; most abundant in the Caribbean Sea.



***Prionace glauca* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

BSH

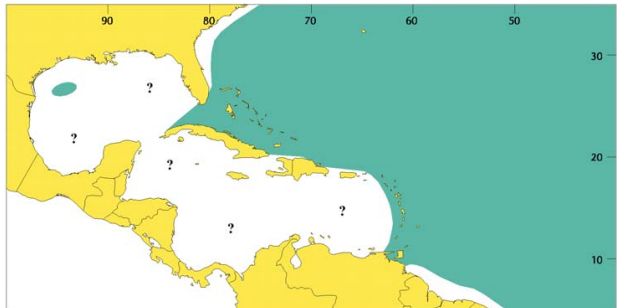
Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.**FAO names:** En - Blue shark; Fr - Peau bleue; Sp - Tiburón azul.

Diagnostic characters: Very slender, fusiform. Snout very long, preoral length 2.3 to 2.6 times internarial width, and narrowly rounded; upper labial furrows very short. Teeth serrated, broadly triangular and curved in upper jaw, narrower in lower jaw; upper medial tooth very large, nearly the size of teeth on either side of it (but sometimes absent); anteroposterior tooth row counts 12 to 15/12 to 13 on each side, total tooth row counts 27 to 30/27 to 30. Spiracles absent; gill slits moderately long, height of third gill slit about 2.9 to 3.4% of total length; inner gill arches with gill-raker papillae (visible through open mouth). First dorsal fin low, height 5.6 to 7.6% of total length; first dorsal fin with a convex anterior margin, a narrowly rounded apex, an origin well posterior to free rear tips of pectoral fins, and the midlength of its base closer to pelvic-fin origins than the pectoral-fin insertions; second dorsal fin relatively high but much smaller than first dorsal fin, height 2.1 to 3.1% of total length; second dorsal fin with a shallowly concave posterior margin, an origin slightly posterior to anal-fin origin, an attenuated free rear tip, and its inner margin between 1 and 1.5 times fin height; anal fin with a deeply notched posterior margin and without long preanal ridges; pectoral fins very long, narrow and somewhat falcate, with narrowly rounded tips. No interdorsal ridge between dorsal fins; a weak keel present on each side of caudal peduncle. Precaudal vertebral centra 142 to 151, total vertebral centra 237 to 252. **Colour:** in life, dark blue above, bright blue on sides, white below, fading to purple blackish after death, tips of pectoral and anal fins dusky.

Size: Maximum total length to about 380 cm; most specimens below 335 cm; size at birth about 34 to 48 cm; males maturing between 182 and 218 cm, females maturing between 166 and 221 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Slow-cruising, very common, oceanic, usually well offshore and in the open sea near or at the surface, but sometimes penetrating coastal waters. Number of young per litter highly variable, 1 to 135, but usually over 20. Feeds on a wide variety of bony fishes, small sharks, squids, pelagic crustaceans and occasionally sea birds and carrion. Uncommonly bites people. Usually caught with pelagic longlines but also other gear. Its meat easily spoils unless properly bled and refrigerated, but it can be used dried-salted for human consumption. Its hides are used for leather; fins for shark-fin soup base; liver for vitamin oil; and offal for fish meal. Considered a game fish and taken in large numbers by sports anglers with rod-and-reel, particularly in the USA. Enormous numbers caught as bycatch of high-seas longline fisheries. Expanding targeted fisheries threaten it.

Distribution: Among the most wide-ranging of cartilaginous fishes, circumglobal in all tropical and temperate seas, but commoner in temperate waters. Occurs throughout the area, extending northward to Newfoundland and southward to Argentina, but uncommon or rare in Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean.

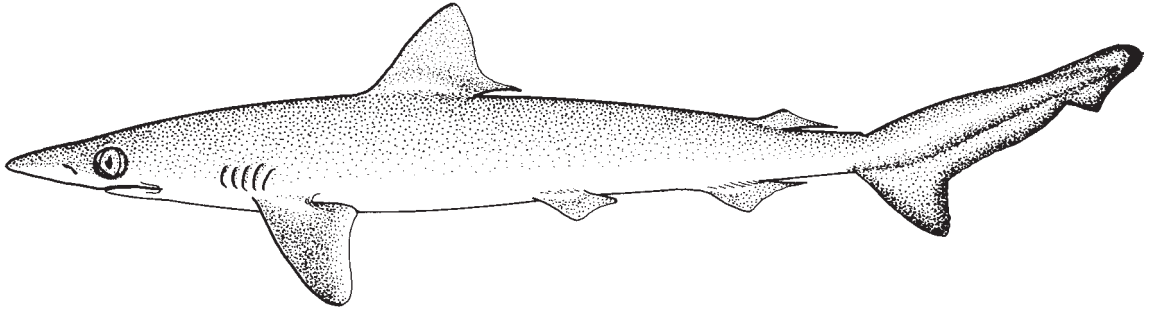


Rhizoprionodon lalandii (Müller and Henle, 1841)

RHL

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Rhizoprionodon porosus* (Poey, 1861).

FAO names: **En** - Brazilian sharpnose shark; **Fr** - Requin aiguille brésilien; **Sp** - Cazón picudo chino.

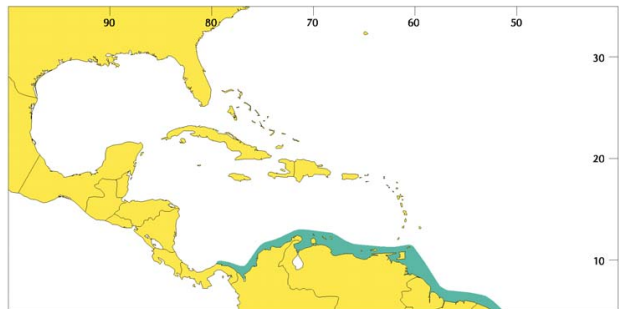


Diagnostic characters: Body fusiform and slender. Eyes large, with internal nictitating lower eyelids present. **Snout long and depressed**, preoral length 1.6 to 1.8 times internarial width, tip narrowly rounded; **labial folds well developed (slightly shorter than eye diameter), upper labial folds ending well behind eye. Teeth strongly oblique with smooth edges**; anteroposterior tooth row counts 12/11 to 12 on each side, total tooth row counts 25/23 to 24. Spiracles absent; gill slits short, height of third gill slit about 1.9 to 2.3% of total length; gill arches without papillae. First dorsal fin moderate-sized, height 6.9 to 8.1% of total length; first dorsal fin with a narrowly rounded apex, an origin opposite or slightly posterior to free rear tips of pectoral fins, and the midlength of its base about equidistant between the pelvic-fin origins and the pectoral-fin insertions; **second dorsal fin very low** and much smaller than first dorsal fin, height 1.6 to 1.9% of total length; **second dorsal fin** with a nearly straight or weakly concave posterior margin, an **origin far posterior and over or slightly in front of the anal-fin insertion**, an attenuated free rear tip, and an inner margin over twice the fin height; **anal fin with a shallowly concave posterior margin and long paired preanal ridges**; **pectoral fins relatively short**, broad and not falcate, not reaching to below midpoint of first dorsal-fin base when appressed. A low interdorsal ridge present between dorsal fins; no keels on caudal peduncle. **Precaudal vertebral centra 79 to 90 and mostly above 84, outnumbering caudal centra by 5 to 20 centra**, total vertebral centra 153 to 168. **Colour:** back greyish brown, underside white, pectoral fins dark with white rear margins, caudal fin dark with margins of both lobes blackish.

Size: Maximum total length to about 77 cm, common to 55 cm; size at birth 33 to 34 cm; males maturing between 45 and 50 cm, females adult at 54 cm or more.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits shallow coastal waters, usually between 40 and 70 m depth, on sandy and muddy bottoms. Feeds on small fishes and shrimps. Fished in shallow waters throughout its range. Separate statistics not reported. Caught mainly with bottom longlines and trammel nets. Marketed salted.

Distribution: Northern and eastern coasts of South America, from Colon (Panama) to Florianópolis, southern Brazil.

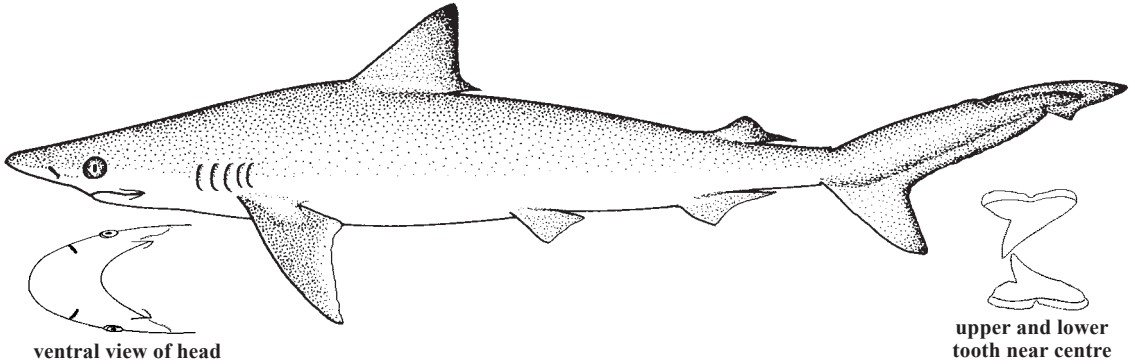


***Rhizoprionodon porosus* (Poey, 1861)**

RHR

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Rhizoprionodon terraenovae* (Richardson, 1836), *R. lalandei* (Valenciennes, 1841).

FAO names: **En** - Caribbean sharpnose shark; **Fr** - Requin aiguille antillais; **Sp** - Cazón picudo antillano.

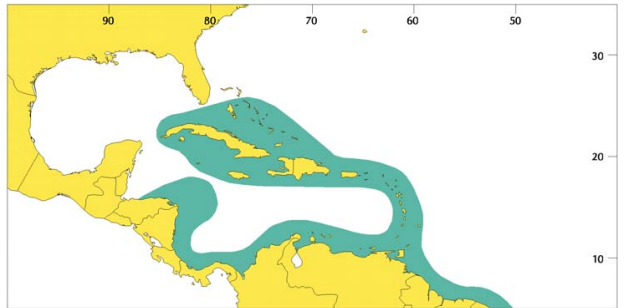


Diagnostic characters: Body slender and fusiform. Eyes large, with internal nictitating lower eyelids present. Snout long and depressed, preoral length 1.4 to 1.6 times internarial width, tip narrowly rounded; labial folds well developed, the upper pair about equal in length to eye diameter and ending well behind eyes. Teeth strongly oblique, their edges smooth to finely serrated in adults; anteroposterior tooth row counts 11 to 13/12 on each side, total tooth row counts 24 to 27/24. Spiracles absent; gill slits short, height of third gill slit about 2.0 to 2.5% of total length; gill arches without papillae. First dorsal fin moderate-sized, height 7.3 to 9.1% of total length; first dorsal fin with a narrowly rounded apex, an origin opposite the pectoral-fin inner margins, and the midlength of its base slightly closer to the pectoral-fin insertions than the pelvic-fin origins; second dorsal fin low and much smaller than first dorsal fin, height 1.9 to 2.5% of total length; second dorsal fin with a slightly concave posterior margin, an origin opposite the space between the midpoint of the anal-fin base and the anal-fin insertion, an attenuated free rear tip, and an inner margin over twice the fin height; anal fin with a shallowly concave posterior margin and long paired preanal ridges; pectoral fins relatively short, broad and not falcate, extending to below midpoint of first dorsal-fin base when adpressed. A low interdorsal ridge present or absent between dorsal fins; no keels on caudal peduncle. Precaudal vertebral centra 66 to 75, usually above 66, equal or less in number than caudal centra, total vertebral centra 136 to 159. **Colour:** back usually brown or greyish brown (occasionally violaceous), apparently without light spots, underside whitish, posterior margins of pectoral fins white, posterior margins of dorsal and caudal fins blackish.

Size: Maximum total length to about 110 cm, common to 75 cm; size at birth about 31 to 39 cm; males maturing at about 60 cm, females at about 80 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Primarily coastal, tropical, common in bays and estuaries and often enters the mouths of rivers; may also be found in offshore waters at considerable depths (to 500 m) and occasionally in the epipelagic zone. Number of young 1 to 4 per litter. In the Bahamas an ecotouristic dive shark despite its small size. Feeds mainly on small fishes; also on gastropods and shrimps. Fished throughout its range. Off Cuba it is one of the most important species in shark catches. Separate statistics not reported. Caught mainly with floating longlines; also with bottom trawls (especially shrimp trawls) and trammelnets. Marketed salted or frozen, made into fish meal in Cuba.

Distribution: From the Bahamas throughout the Antilles and from Honduras along the Atlantic coast of America to southern Brazil and Uruguay (Maldonado). Most abundant in the Antilles off Cuba, Jamaica, Hispanola, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Martinique, and along the northeast coast of Brazil, less abundant off Central America (Honduras, Panama) and the Caribbean coast of Colombia and Venezuela.

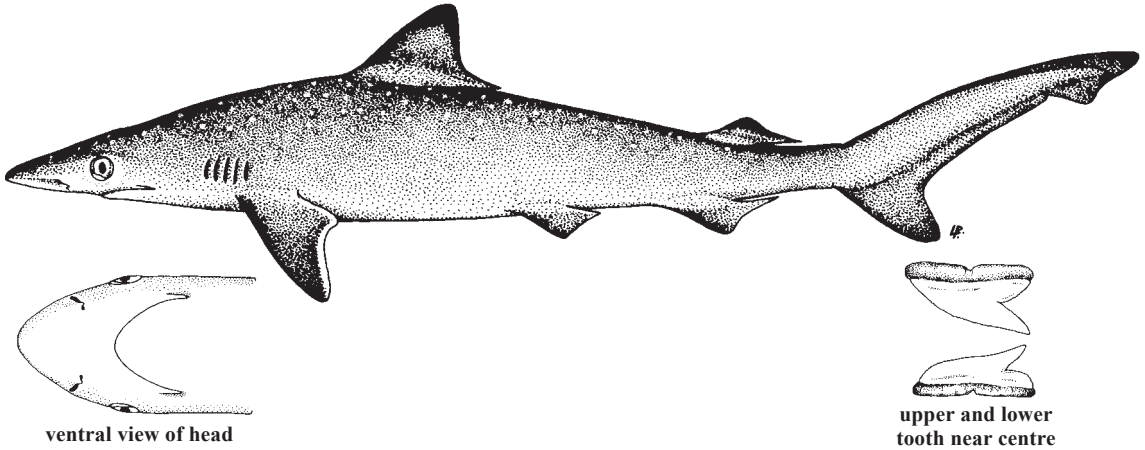


Rhizoprionodon terraenovae (Richardson, 1836)

RHT

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Rhizoprionodon porosus* (Poey, 1861).

FAO names: En - Atlantic sharpnose shark; Fr - Requin aiguille gussi; Sp - Cazón picudo atlántico.



Diagnostic characters: Body slender and fusiform. Eyes large, internal nictitating lower eyelids present. Snout long and depressed, preoral length 1.5 to 1.7 times internarial width, tip narrowly rounded; labial folds well developed, the upper pair about equal in length to eye diameter and ending well behind eyes. Teeth strongly oblique, their edges smooth to finely serrated in adults; anteroposterior tooth row counts 11 to 13/12 to 13 on each side, total tooth row counts 24 to 27/24 to 27. Spiracles absent; gill slits short, height of third gill slit about 2.2 to 2.5% of total length; gill arches without papillae. First dorsal fin moderate-sized, height 7.4 to 9.2% of total length, with a narrowly rounded apex, an origin opposite the pectoral-fin inner margins, and the midlength of its base slightly closer to the pectoral-fin insertions than the pelvic-fin origins; second dorsal fin low and much smaller than first dorsal fin, height 1.9 to 2.5% of total length; second dorsal fin with a shallowly concave posterior margin, an origin opposite the space between the midpoint of the anal-fin base and the anal-fin insertion, an attenuated free rear tip, and an inner margin over twice the fin height; anal fin with a shallowly concave posterior margin and long paired preanal ridges; pectoral fins relatively short, broad and not falcate, extending to below midpoint of first dorsal-fin base when adpressed. A low interdorsal ridge present between dorsal fins; no keels on caudal peduncle. Precaudal vertebral centra 56 to 66, usually below 66, and equal or less in number than caudal centra, total vertebral centra 126 to 144. Colour: grey or grey-brown above, large specimens with small light spots on the dorsal surface, white below; pectoral fins with white margins, dorsal fins with dusky tips.

Size: Maximum total length at least 110 cm, common to 90 cm; size at birth about 29 to 37 cm; males maturing between 65 and 80 cm and females at 85 to 90 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits waters from the intertidal to possibly 280 m deep, but usually in water less than 10 m deep. Often occurring in the surf zone off sandy beaches, and in enclosed bays, sounds, harbors, estuaries, and river mouths. Tolerates reduced salinities but does not penetrate far into fresh water. A common to abundant shark where it occurs. Migratory, moving inshore in summer and offshore in winter. Number of young 1 to 7 per litter. Feeds primarily on small bony fishes, shrimps, crabs, worms, and molluscs. Fished wherever it occurs, caught commercially in Mexico. Caught in gill nets and targeted by sports anglers using rod-and-reel; and a major bycatch of the USA shrimp trawling fishery. Despite heavy fishing pressure numbers in the Gulf of Mexico seem to be stable.

Distribution: Western North Atlantic: Canada (New Brunswick), Canada, USA (New England to Florida and the Gulf of Mexico), Mexico, and Honduras.

