

RIVO-Netherlands Institute for Fisheries Research

P.O. Box 68
NL 1970 AB Ymuiden
The Netherlands
Phone: +31 255 564646
Fax: +31 255 564644
Internet: postmaster@rivo.wag-ur.nl

P.O. Box 77
NL 4400 AB Yerseke
The Netherlands
Phone: +31 113 672300
Fax: +31 113 573477

Internal RIVO report

Number: 03.020

Identification document for large by-catch species in the Mauritanian Exclusive Economic Zone.

R. ter Hofstede

Project number: 3131230001

Date: November 2003

Number of copies: 10
Number of pages: 80
Number of tables:
Number of figures: 2
Number of annexes:

Since the first of June 1999 the foundation DLO (Agricultural Research Department) is no longer part of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries. We are registered in trade register of the Chamber of Commerce Centraal Amsterdam nr. 34135929
VAT nr. NL

The management of the RIVO-Netherlands Institute for Fisheries Research accepts no responsibility for the follow-up damage as well as detriment originating from the application of operational results, or other data acquired from the RIVO-Netherlands Institute for Fisheries Research from third party risks in connection with this application.

This report is drafted at the request of the commissioner indicated above and is his property. Nothing from this report may be reproduced and/or published by print, photoprint microfilm or any other means without the previous written consent from the commissioner of the study.

Index

Summary.....	4
Order Tetradontiformes – Puffers and filefishes	5
Family Molidae – Molas	6
Order Perciformes - Billfishes	7
Family Istiophoridae – Perch-likes.....	8
Family Xiphias gladius – Swordfishes.....	12
Order Hexanchiformes – Frilled and Cow sharks	13
Family Chlamydoselachidae – Frilled sharks	14
Family Hexanchidae – Cowsharks, Sixgill sharks, Sevengill sharks	15
Order Squaliformes – Dogfish sharks	16
Family Echinorhinidae – Bramble sharks	17
Family Squalidae – Dogfish sharks	18
Family Oxynotidae – Rough sharks	25
Order Squatiniformes – Angelsharks	26
Family Squatinidae – Angelsharks, Sand devils	27
Order Orectolobiformes – Carpet sharks.....	30
Family Rhiniodontidae – Whale sharks.....	31
Order Lamniformes – Mackerel sharks.....	32
Family Odontaspidae – Sand tiger sharks	33
Family Alopiidae – Thresher sharks	34
Family Lamnidae – Mackerel sharks, Porbeagles, White sharks	35
Order Carcharhiniformes – Ground sharks.....	37
Family Scyliorhinidae - Catsharks	38
Family Pseudotriakidae – False catsharks	41
Family Leptochariidae – Barbeled houndsharks	42
Family Triakidae – Houndsharks	43
Family Hemigaleidae – Weasel sharks	45
Family Carcharhinidae - Requiem sharks	46
Family Sphyrnidae – Bonnethead sharks, Hammerhead sharks, Scoophead sharks.....	55
Order Cetacea	59
Suborder Mysticeti - Baleen Whales	59
Family Balaenopteridae	60

Suborder Odontoceti - Toothed whales	63
Family Physeteridae	64
Family Kogiidae	65
Family Ziphiidae	66
Family Delphinidae	67
Family Phocoenidae	77
References	78

Summary

The coastal waters of Mauritania (Northwest Africa) contain large numbers of pelagic fish such as sardinella, sardine, mackerel and horse mackerel. Freezer-trawlers from the European Union (EU), mainly of Dutch origin, have exploited these resources since 1996.

In 1998 the Dutch ship owners commissioned a study by the Netherlands Institute for Fisheries Research (ASG-WUR) into the long-term potential of pelagic species in this area. This study has gradually expanded into a joint research project with the Mauritanian Institute for Research on Oceanography and Fishery (IMROP), funded by the Dutch government.

In order to collect precise and reliable data the catch of the EU pelagic trawlers, a scientific observer program was established. Observers record species composition of catches and discards, and they collect biological information on the target species. In addition they monitor accidental by-catches of large animals such as rays, sharks and dolphins.

The purpose of this document is to facilitate the determination of these large by-catch species. From FAO identification guides, a selection has been made of species that are potentially present in the Mauritanian Exclusive Economic Zone. For each species, a picture and a brief description of the characteristics are given.

Order Tetradontiformes – Puffers and filefishes

Family Molidae – Molas

Mola mola (Linnaeus, 1758)

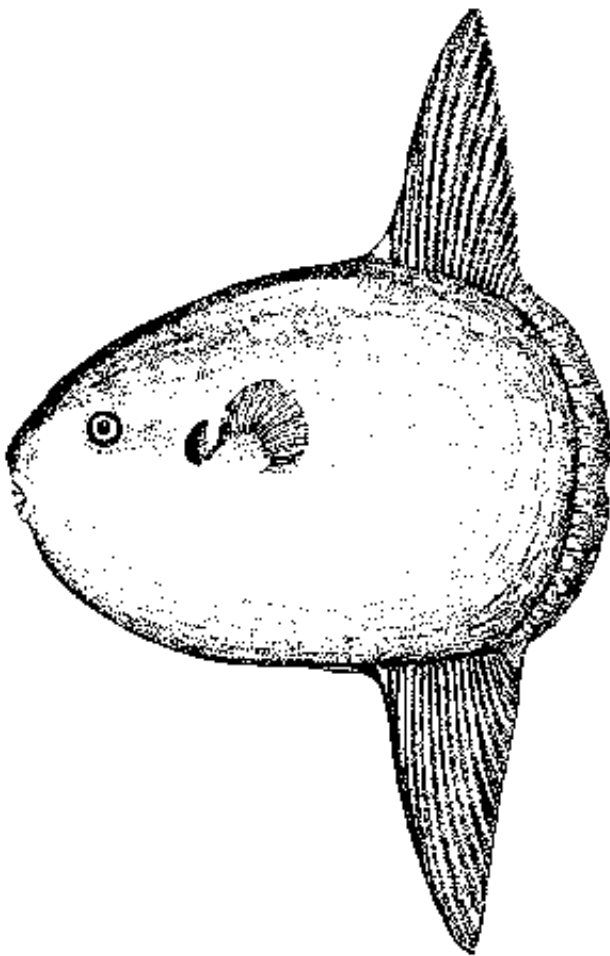
Synonyms: *Tetraodon mola*, *Orthroriscus mola*, *Diodon mola*, *Mola rotunda*, *Aledon capensis*

Common names: **En-** Ocean sunfish; **Fr-** Poisson-lune; **NL-** Maanvis

Body characteristics: Striking body shape, body high, lateral compressed. Terminal small mouth, parrot-like beak. Body covered with extremely thick, elastic skin. Dorsal and anal fins very high with short base; pectorals small and rounded, directed upward. Caudal fin replaced by a rudder-like structure (clavus).

Colour: -

Size: adults up to 333 cm TL.



Order Perciformes - Billfishes

Family Istiophoridae – Perch-like

Istiophorus albicans (Latreille, 1804)

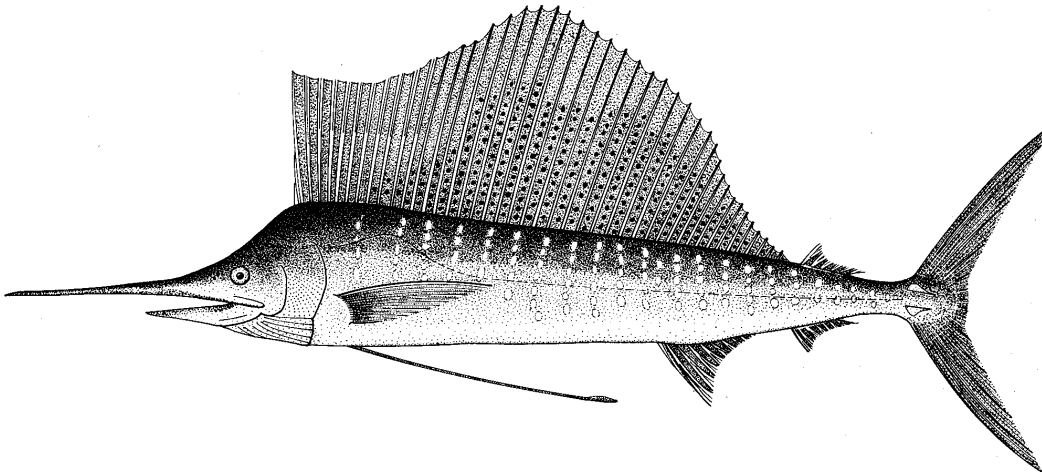
Synonyms: *Histiophorus americanus*, *Histiophorus pulchellus*, *Makaira velifera*, *Skeponopodus guebucu*, *Histiophorus granulifer*, *Xiphias velifer*, *Istiophorus americanus*, *Istiophorus wrightii*, *Istiophorus maguirei*, *Istiophorus volador*, *Histiophorus albicans*

Common names: **En-** Atlantic sailfish; **Fr-** Voilier de l'Atlantique; **NL-** Zeilvis

Body characteristics: Body fairly compressed. Bill long, slender and round in cross section. Two dorsal fins; first dorsal fin sail-like and remarkably higher than greatest body depth, base long and close to that of small second dorsal fin. Pelvic fins very long, nearly reaching the anus. Two anal fins, position of the second slightly more forward than second dorsal fin.

Colour: Body dark blue dorsally, light blue splattered with brown laterally, and silvery white ventrally. About 20 rows of longitudinal stripes on sides, each stripe composed of many light blue round dots. Bases of first and second anal fins often tinged with silvery white; membrane of first dorsal fin dark blue or blackish blue, with scattered small round black dots; remaining fins blackish blue, sometimes tinged with dark brown.

Size: adults 150-210 cm BL, up to 315 cm TL.



Maikara nigricans (Lacepede, 1802)

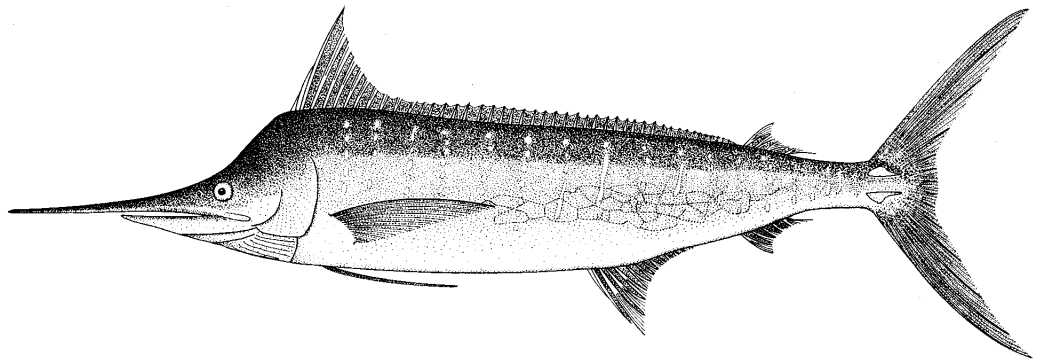
Synonyms: *Tetrapturus herschellii*, *Histiophorus herschellii*, *Tetrapturus amplus*, *Tetrapturus heschellii*, *Makaira herschellii*, *Makaira ampla*, *Makaira ensis*, *Makaira bermudae*, *Makaira nigricans nigricans*, *Makaira nigricans ampla*, *Makaira ampla ampla*, *Makaira perezii*, *Orthocraeros bermudae*, *Makaira herschellii*

Common names: **En-** Atlantic blue marlin; **Fr-** Makaire bleu de l'Atlantiqu; **NL-** Blauwe marlijn

Body characteristics: Body not strongly compressed. Bill long, very stout and round in cross section; nape conspicuously elevated. Two dorsal fins, the first lower than maximum body depth, with a pointed anterior lobe and a long base ending near the small second dorsal fin. Pectoral fins long and narrow. Pelvic fins shorter than pectorals. Two anal fins, position of the second slightly more forward than second dorsal fin. Lateral line system chickenwire-shaped.

Colour: Body blue-black dorsally and silvery white ventrally. About 15 rows of pale cobalt-coloured stripes, each consisting of round dots and/or narrow bars. First dorsal fin membrane blackish or dark blue without any dots or marks; other fins usually brown black, sometimes tinged with dark blue; bases of first and second anal fins tinged with silvery white.

Size: adults 200-275 cm BL, 230-345 TL.



Tetrapturus albidus (Poey, 1860)

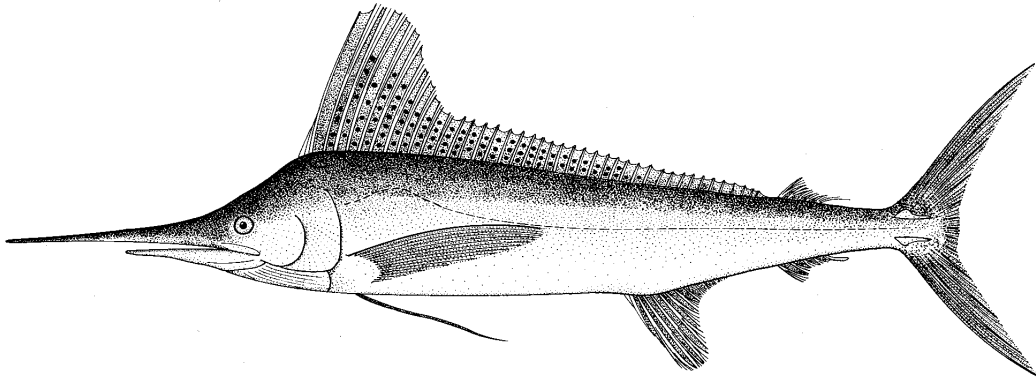
Synonyms: *Tetrapturus lessonae*, *Makaira lessonae*, *Makaira albida*, *Lamontella albida*

Common names: **En-** Atlantic white marlin; **Fr-** Makaïre blanc de l'Atlantique; **NL-** Witte marlijn

Body characteristics: Body elongate and fairly compressed. Bill stout and long, round in cross section; nape fairly elevated. Two dorsal fins; the first with a rounded anterior lobe and higher than body depth anteriorly, then abruptly decreasing in height at first and gently decreasing further backward; first dorsal fin base long, extending to near the small second dorsal fin origin. Pectoral fins long and wide, round-tipped. Pelvic fins slender and almost equal to or slightly shorter than the pectorals. Two anal fins, position of the second very similar in size and shape to the second dorsal fin.

Colour: Body blue-black dorsally, silvery white splattered with brown laterally, and silvery white ventrally. Usually no blotches or marks on the body, but sometimes more than 15 rows of obscure whitish stripes. First dorsal fin dark blue with many black dots; second dorsal fin dark blue; pectoral fins blackish brown, sometimes tinged with silvery white; pelvic fins blue-black with a black fin membrane; caudal fin blackish brown.

Size: adults 130-210 cm BL, up to 280 cm TL.



Tetrapturus pfluegeri (Robin & de Silva, 1963)

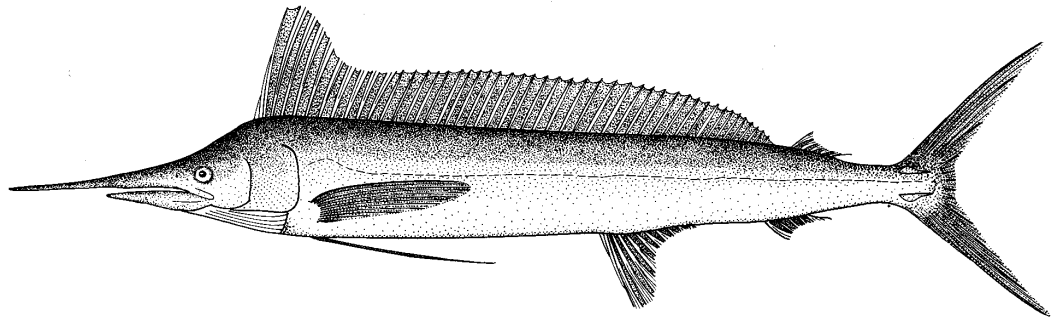
Synonyms: *Tetrapturus belone*, *Tetrapterus belone*, *Tetrapturus beloni*

Common names: **En-** Longbill spearfish; **Fr-** Makaire bécune; **NL-**

Body characteristics: Body elongate and remarkably compressed. Bill slender and rather long, round in cross section; nape nearly straight. Two dorsal fins; the first with a rounded anterior lobe and higher than body depth anteriorly, then abruptly decreasing in height at first and remaining at almost the same height further backward, except at the posterior end; first dorsal fin base long, extending to just in front of origin of the small second dorsal fin. Pectoral fins long and wide, round-tipped. Pelvic fins slender and almost equal to or slightly longer than the pectorals. Two anal fins, position of the second slightly in front of the origin of the second dorsal fin.

Colour: Body blue-black dorsally, silvery white, splattered with brown laterally, and silvery white ventrally. First dorsal fin dark blue without dots or blotches; second dorsal fin dark blue; pectoral fins blackish brown, sometimes tinged with greyish white; pelvic fins blue-black with a black fin membrane; first anal fin dark blue, its base tinged with silvery white; second anal fin blackish brown.

Size: adults about 165 cm BL.



Family *Xiphias gladius* – Swordfishes

Xiphias gladius (Linnaeus, 1758)

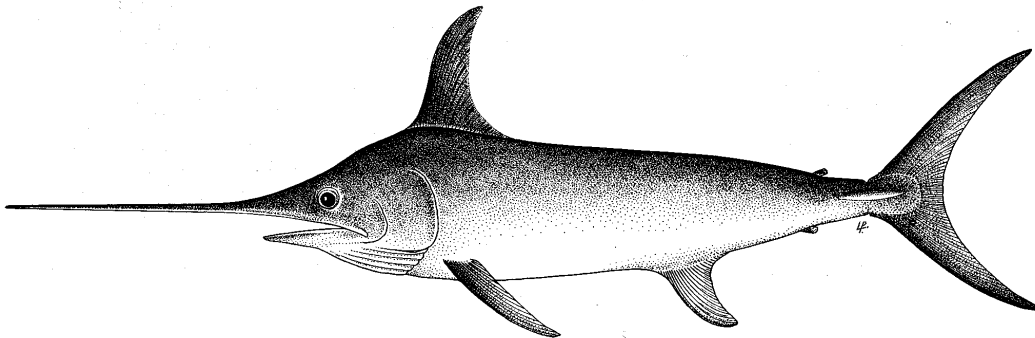
Synonyms: *Xiphias imperator*, *Xiphias rondeletti*, *Phaethonichthys tuberculatus*, *Xiphias estara*, *Tetrapterus imperator*, *Xiphias thermaicus*, *Xiphias gladius estara*

Common names: **En-** Swordfish; **Fr-** Espadon; **NL-** Zwaardvis

Body characteristics: Body elongate and cylindrical. Bill extremely long, its cross-section flat. Eyes large. Two widely separate dorsal fins in adults, the first much larger than the second. Pectoral fins falcate, situated low on body side. No pelvic fins. Two separate anal fins, the first much larger than the second; position of the second anal fin slightly more forward than that of second dorsal fin. Body without scales.

Colour: Back and sides of body blackish-brown, gradually fading to light-brown on ventral side. Fin membrane of first dorsal fin dark blackish-brown; other fins brown or blackish-brown.

Size: adults up to 445 cm TL.



Order Hexanchiformes – Frilled and Cow sharks

Family Chlamydoselachidae – Frilled sharks

Chlamydoselachus anguineus (Garman, 1884)

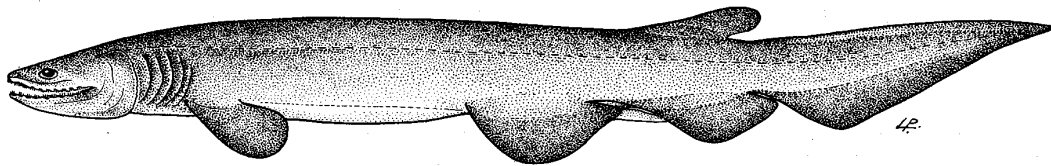
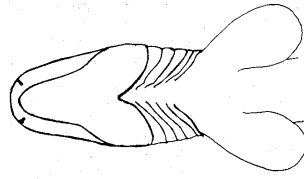
Synonyms: -

Common names: **En-** Frilled shark; **Fr-** Requin lézard; **NL-** Franjehai

Body characteristics: Body slender and eel-like. Head with 6 pairs of gill slits; snout extremely short with terminal very long mouth. One dorsal fin. Anal fin larger, larger than dorsal fin; caudal fin without a subterminal notch.

Colour: -

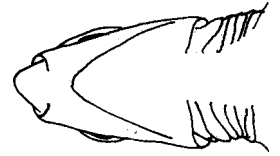
Size: newborns about 39 cm, adults 97-135 cm.



Family Hexanchidae – Cowsharks, Sixgill sharks, Sevengill sharks

Heptranchias perlo (Bonnaterre, 1788)

Synonyms: *Squalus cinereus*, *Heptranchias anchio*, *Notidanus (Heptanchus) cinereus*, *Heptranchias deani*, *Heptranchias dakini*

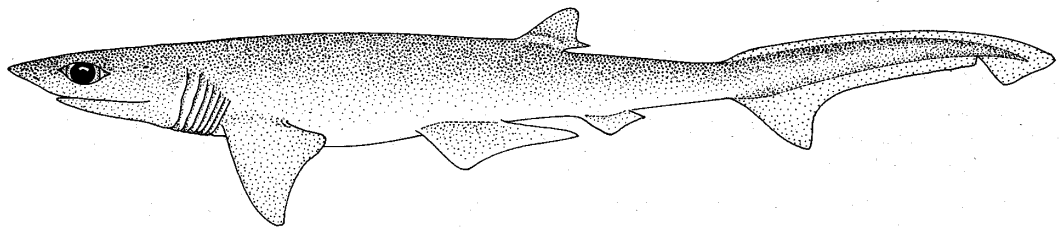


Common names: **En-** Sharpnose sevengill shark; **Fr-** Requin perlon; **NL-** Spitsesnuitzevenkieuwshaai

Body characteristics: Head narrow and pointed; 7 pairs of gill slits; eyes very large; mouth very narrow and parabolic. One dorsal fin.

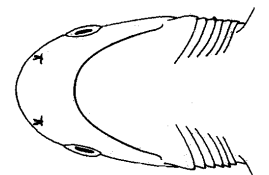
Colour: Spots absent from body, dorsal fin and upper caudal lobe with black tips, faded and absent in adults, but prominent in young.

Size: newborns about 26 cm, adults 85-93 cm.



Hexanchus griseus (Bonnaterre, 1788)

Synonyms: *Squalus vacca*, *Notidanus monge*, *Hexanchus corinus*, *Notidanus vulgaris*, *Hexanchus griseus australis*

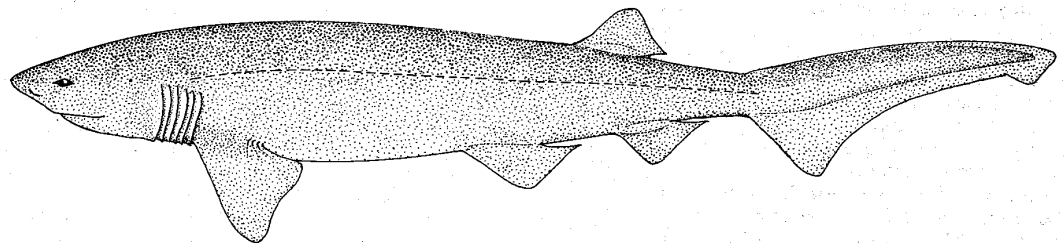


Common names: **En-** Bluntnose sixgill shark; **Fr-** Requin gris; **NL-** Stompsnuitzeskieuwshaai

Body characteristics: Body rather stout, very large. Head broad and rounded to bluntly pointed; eyes small; six pairs of gill slits. One dorsal fin.

Colour: Body without spots, no black tips on fins.

Size: newborns about 26 cm, adults 85-93 cm.

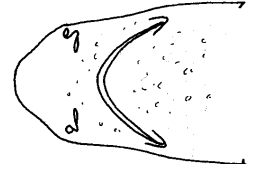


Order Squaliformes – Dogfish sharks

Family Echinorhinidae – Bramble sharks

Echinorhinus brucus (Bonnaterre, 1788)

Synonyms: *Squalus spinosus*, *Echinorhinus obesus*, *Echinorhinus (Rubusqualus) mccoysi*

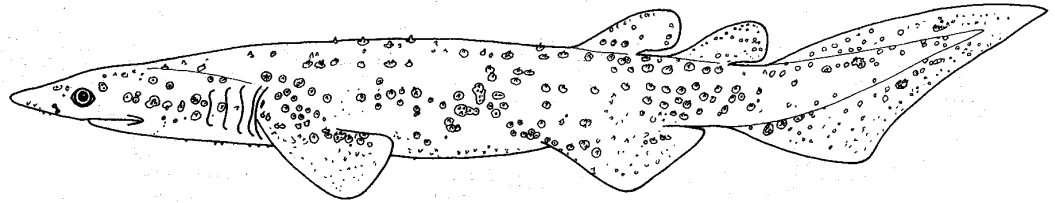


Common names: **En-** Bramble shark; **Fr-** Squale bouclé; **NL-** Braamhaai

Body characteristics: Body stout and cylindrical. Head moderately depressed; 5 gill slits; mouth broadly arched. Dermal denticles on body and fins varying from small to very large, with many large, widely spaced, thorn or buckler-like denticles with bases not stellate and over a centimetre wide. Two small dorsal fins spineless and far back, origin first behind origin pelvic fins. No anal fin.

Colour: -

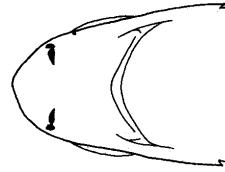
Size: newborns 29-90 cm, adults 150-230 cm.



Family Squalidae – Dogfish sharks

Centrophorus granulosus (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)

Synonyms: *Centrophorus brangancae*, *Centrophorus atromarginatus*, *Centrophorus machenquensis*

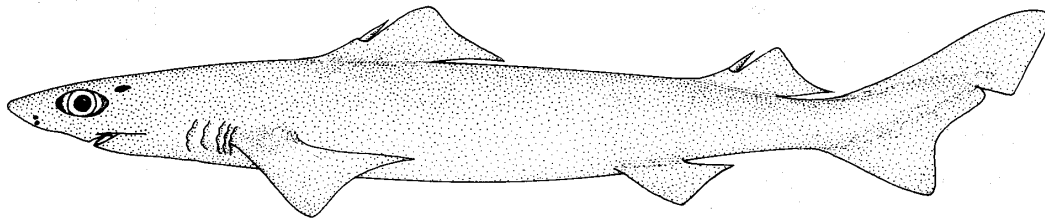


Common names: **En-** Gulper shark; **Fr-** Squale-chagrín commun; **NL-** Ruwe zweelghaai

Body characteristics: Snout moderately long and parabolic. Two dorsal fins with large spines; first dorsal fin moderately high and short; second dorsal fin moderately large, nearly as high as first. Pectoral fins narrowly angular and strongly extended. No anal fin.

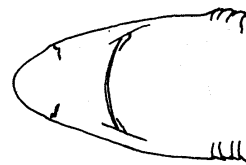
Colour: -

Size: newborns 30-42 cm, adults at least 150 cm.



Centrophorus lusitanicus (Bocage & Capello, 1864)

Synonyms: *Centrophorus ferrugineus*

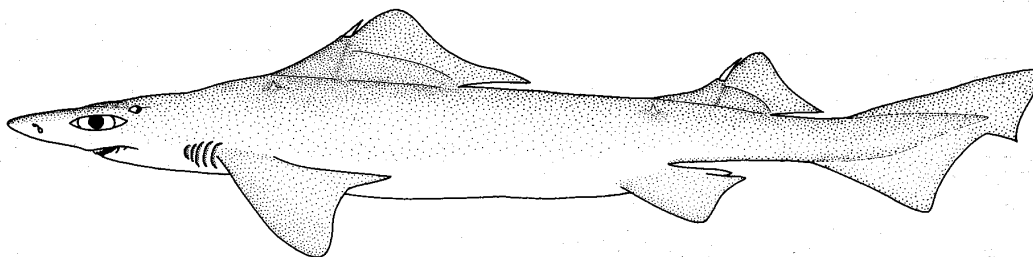


Common names: **En-** Lowin gulper shark; **Fr-** Squale-chagrín à longue dorsale; **NL-** Portugese zweelghaai

Body characteristics: Snout moderately long and parabolic. Two dorsal fins with large spines; first dorsal fin very high and long; second dorsal fin high, nearly as high as first. Pectoral fins narrowly angular and strongly extended. No anal fin.

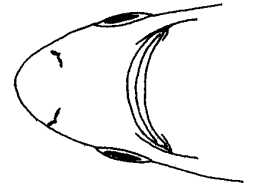
Colour: -

Size: newborns about 36 cm, adults 72-144 cm.



Centrophorus squamosus (Bonnaterre, 1788)

Synonyms: *Machephilus dumerili*, *Centrophorus foliaceus*, *Centroscymnus fuscus*, *Centrophorus nilsoni*, *Enchiriodon hendersoni*, *Lepidorhinus kinbei*

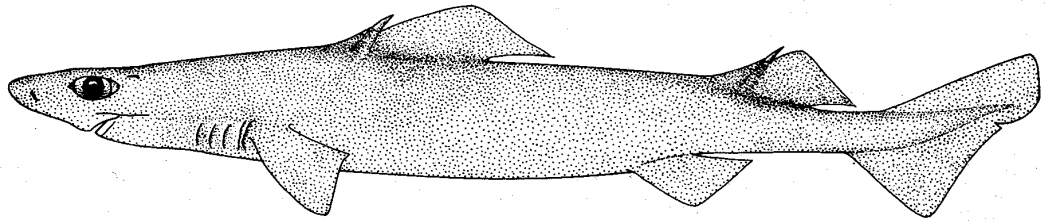


Common names: **En-** Leafscale gulper shark; **Fr-** Squale-chagrin de l'Atlantique; **NL-** Schubzweelghaai

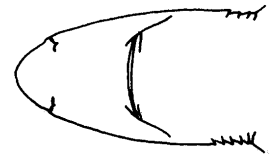
Body characteristics: Snout moderately long and broadly parabolic. Two dorsal fins with large spines; first dorsal fin relatively low and long; second dorsal fin moderately large, as high or higher than first. Pectoral fins broadly angular and not strongly extended. No anal fin.

Colour: -

Size: maximum about 158 cm.

***Centrophorus uyato*** (Rafinesque, 1810)

Synonyms: *Squalus infernus*, *Acanthias nigrescens*, *Centrophorus armatus barbatus*

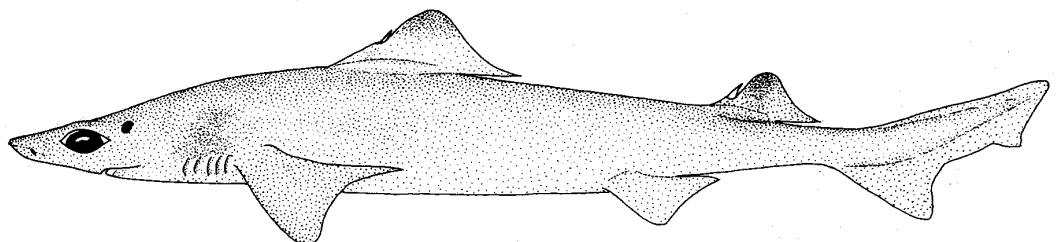


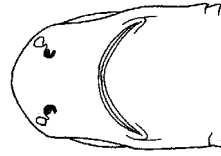
Common names: **En-** Little gulper shark; **Fr-** Petit squale-chagrin; **NL-**

Body characteristics: Snout rather long and narrowly parabolic. Two dorsal fins with large spines; first dorsal fin moderately high and short; second dorsal fin moderately large, nearly as high as first. Free rear tips of pectoral fins narrowly angular and strongly extended. No anal fin.

Colour: -

Size: newborns 40-50 cm, adults about 100 cm.

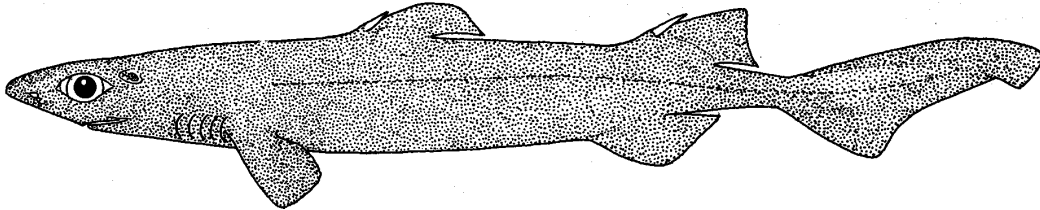
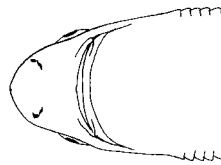


Centroscyllium fabricii (Reinhardt, 1825)**Synonyms:** -**Common names:** **En-** Black dogfish; **Fr-** Aiguillat noir; **NL-** Zwarte lantaarnhaai

Body characteristics: Body moderately stout and compressed. Pre-oral snout moderately long; mouth moderately arched. Two dorsal fins with two grooved spines; second dorsal fin considerably larger than first. Pectoral apices when laid back ending well anterior to first dorsal spine origin. No anal fin.

Colour: Blackish-brown, without conspicuous black markings on ventral surface or sides of tail; fins without markings.

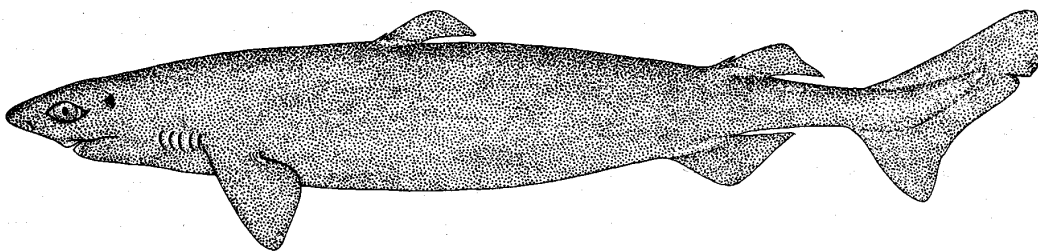
Size: adults 58-107 cm.

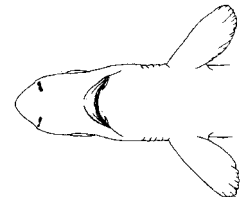
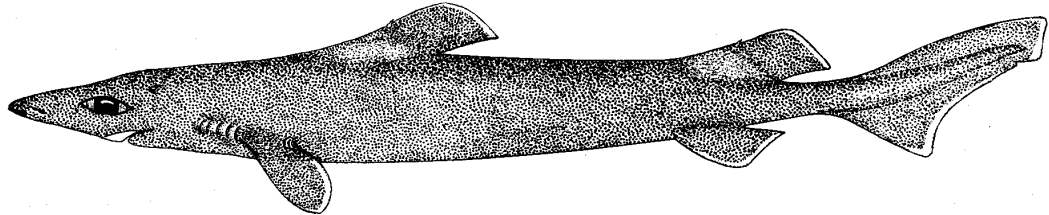
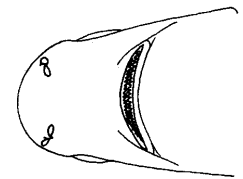
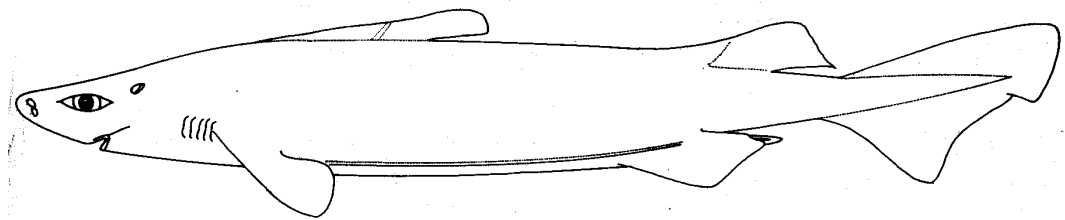
***Centroscymnus coelolepis*** (Bocage & Capello, 1864)**Synonyms:** *Scymnodon melas*, *Centroscymnus macrops***Common names:** **En-** Portuguese dogfish; **Fr-** Pailona commun; **NL-** Portugese ijshaai

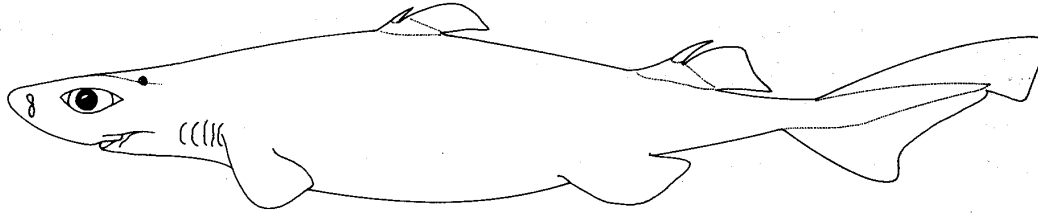
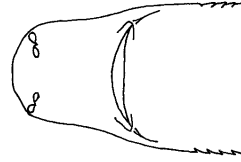
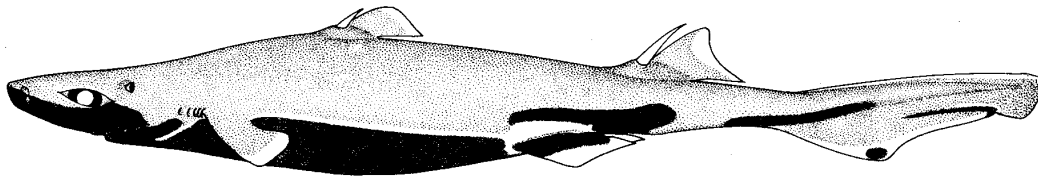
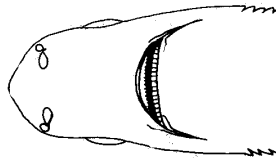
Body characteristics: Body stocky, not strongly tapering back from pectoral region. Snout very short. Dorsal fins about equal in size and height, with fine and very small spines. Pectoral fins moderately large, apices falling well in front of first dorsal spine when laid back. No anal fin.

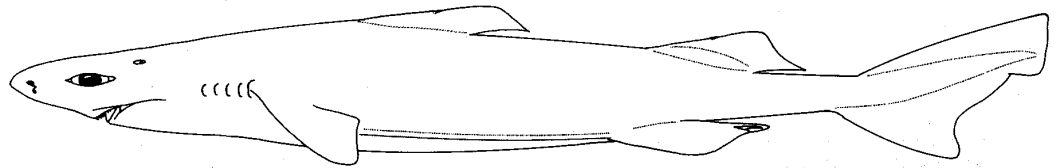
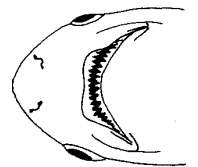
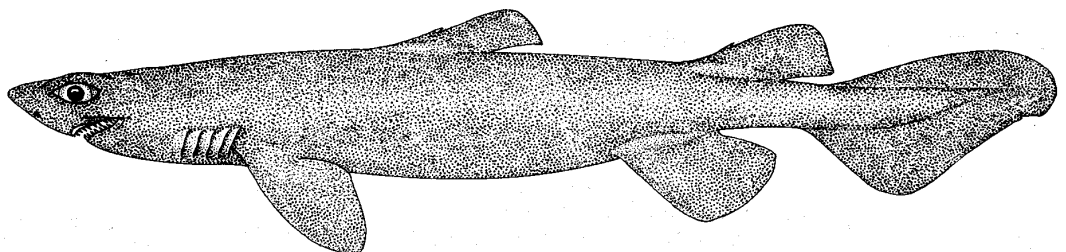
Colour: Blackish brown.

Size: adults 90-95 cm.



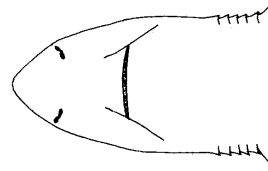
Centroscymnus crepidater (Bocage & Capello, 1864)**Synonyms:** *Centrophorus rossi*, *Centrophorus jonsonii***Common names:** **En-** Longnose velvet dogfish; **Fr-** Pailona à long nez; **NL-** Langsnuitijshaai**Body characteristics:** Body fairly slender, not strongly tapering back from pectoral region. Snout very long. Dorsal fins about equal in size and height, very small fin spines; first dorsal fin base expanded forward as a prominent ridge. Pectoral fins moderately large, apices falling well in front of first dorsal spine when laid back. No anal fin.**Colour:** Black or blackish brown.**Size:** adults about 90 cm.***Centroscymnus cryptacanthus*** (Regan, 1906)**Synonyms:** -**Common names:** **En-** Shortnose velvet dogfish; **Fr-** Pailona sans épine; **NL-** Kortsnuitijshaai**Body characteristics:** Body stocky, not strongly tapering back from pectoral region. Snout moderately long. Second dorsal fin considerably higher than first, fin spines small and usually buried in fins; first dorsal fin base expanded forwards as a prominent ridge, origin over pectoral bases. Pectoral fins moderately large, apices falling well in front of first dorsal spine when laid back. No anal fin.**Colour:** Blackish or dark brown.**Size:** adults 72-104 cm.

Etmopterus princeps (Collett, 1904)**Synonyms:** -**Common names:** **En-** Great lanternshark; **Fr-** Sagre rude; **NL-** Grote lantaarnhaai**Body characteristics:** Body stout with a short tail. Body fairly slender, not strongly tapering back from pectoral region. Two spined dorsal fins; origin of first dorsal fin well behind free rear tips of pectoral fins; second dorsal fin much larger than first; caudal fin moderately long and very broad. No anal fin.**Colour:** Blackish above and below, conspicuous dark markings.**Size:** adults about 75 cm.***Etmopterus spinax*** (Linnaeus, 1758)**Synonyms:** *Squalus niger*, *Etmopterus aculeatus*, *Squalus (Acanthias) infernos*, *Spinax gunneri*, *Spinax vitalinus*, *Spinax linnei***Common names:** **En-** Velvet belly; **Fr-** Sagre commun; **NL-** Donkerbuiklantaarnhaai**Body characteristics:** Body moderately stout with a fairly long tail. Two spined dorsal fins; origin of first behind free rear tips of pectoral fins; second dorsal fin much larger than first. No anal fin.**Colour:** Brown above, underside of snout and abdomen abruptly black; elongated narrow black mark running above and behind pelvic fins, and other elongated black marks at caudal fin base and along its axis.**Size:** newborns 12-14 cm, adults about 60 cm.

Scymnodon obscurus (Vaillant, 1888)**Synonyms:** -**Common names:** **En-** Smallmouth velvet dogfish; **Fr-** Squale-grogneur à queue échancrée; **NL-****Body characteristics:** Head rather low and flat; snout rather narrow and long; mouth fairly narrow, short and transverse. Two dorsal fins with small spines. Pectoral fins narrow and leaf-shaped; apices of pectoral fins falling well in front of first dorsal spine. Pelvic fins small, about equal to second dorsal fin. Caudal fin with a strong subterminal notch and a short lower lobe. No anal fin.**Colour:** Black.**Size:** adults 51-59 cm.***Scymnodon ringens*** (Bocage & Capello, 1864)**Synonyms:** -**Common names:** **En-** Knifetooth dogfish; **Fr-** Squale-grogneur commun; **NL-** Mestandijshaai**Body characteristics:** Head rather thick and high; snout broad and short; mouth very wide and broadly arched. Two dorsal fins with small spines. Pectoral fins narrow and leaf-shaped; apices of pectoral fins nearly reaching base of first dorsal spine. Caudal fin with a weak subterminal notch and no short lower lobe. No anal fin.**Colour:** Black.**Size:** adults about 110 cm.

Squalus blainvillei (Risso, 1826)

Synonyms: *Spinax fernandezianus*, *Squalus fernandinus*, *Squalus acanthias*, *Squalus blainvillii*

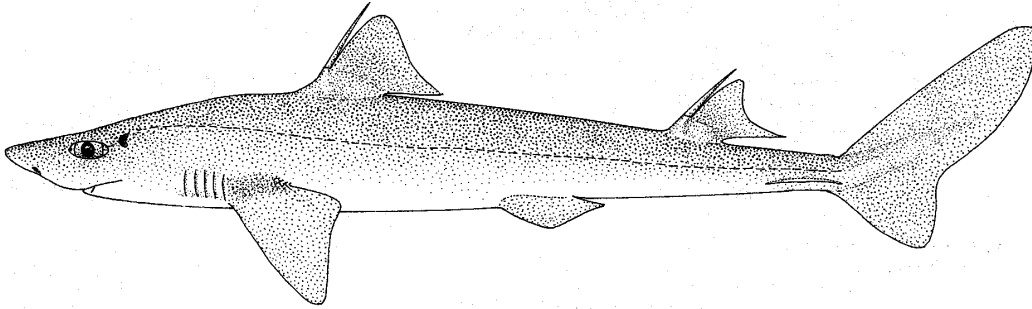


Common names: **En-** Longnose spurdog; **Fr-** Aiguillat coq (= Aiguillat galludo); **NL-** Blainville's doornhaai

Body characteristics: Body fairly stout. Snout parabolic-rounded, broad, and moderately long; eyes nearer to the snout tip than to the first gill slits. Two large dorsal fins with ungrooved, very large spines; second dorsal fin smaller than first; first dorsal fin quite anteriorly situated, with fin origin about over pectoral insertions. No subterminal notch on caudal fin. No anal fin.

Colour: No white spots present on sides of body, dorsal fins with white edges, caudal with dark markings.

Size: adults about 110 cm.



Family Oxynotidae – Rough sharks

Oxynotus centrina (Linnaeus, 1758)

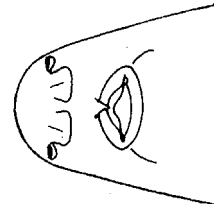
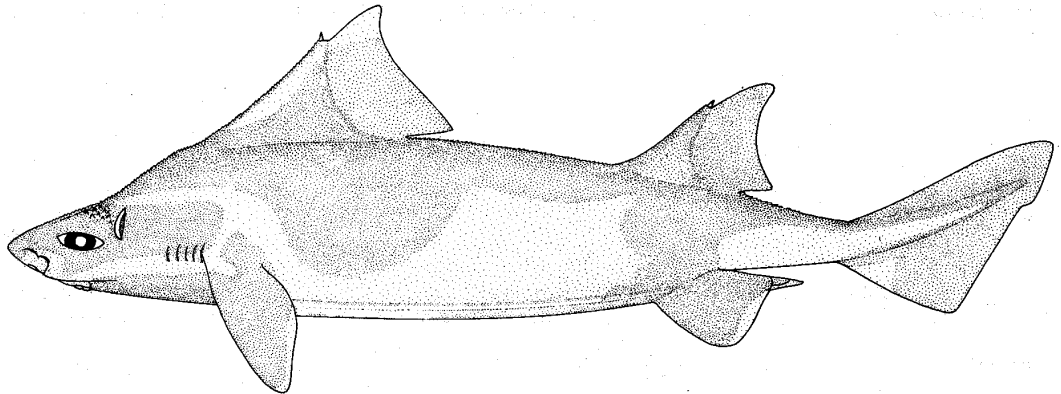
Synonyms: *Centrina salviani*, *Centrina oxynotus*, *Centrina vulpecula*

Common names: **En-** Angular roughshark; **Fr-** Centrine commune; **NL-** Grootvinruwhai

Body characteristics: Body high, thick and triangular. Short, blunt snout; supra-orbital ridges enlarged over eyes, with a knoblike posterior expansion. Two high, sail-like dorsal fins with spines; first dorsal spine inclined forward; apices of dorsal fins broadly triangular. No anal fin.

Colour: Grey or grey-brown above and below, with darker blotches on head and sides; a light horizontal line separates dark areas on head and another crosses cheeks below eyes.

Size: adults about 150 cm.



Oxynotus paradoxus (Frade, 1929)

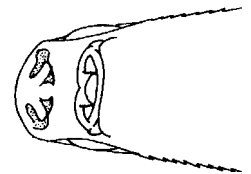
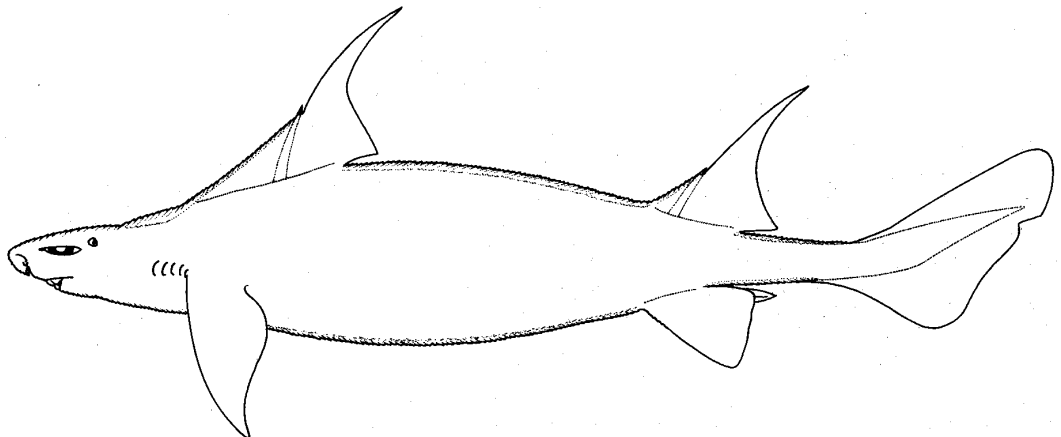
Synonyms: -

Common names: **En-** Sailfin roughshark; **Fr-** Humantin; **NL-** Zeilvinruwhai

Body characteristics: Body high, thick and triangular. Short, blunt snout; supra-orbital ridges not greatly expanded. Two high, sail-like dorsal fins with spines; first dorsal spine inclined backward; apices of dorsal fins narrowly triangular. No anal fin.

Colour: Blackish or dark-brown, without prominent markings

Size: newborns about 25 cm, adults about 118 cm.

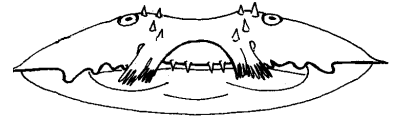


Order Squatiniformes – Angelsharks

Family Squatinidae – Angelsharks, Sand devils

Squatina aculeata (Dumeril, 1829)

Synonyms: *Squatina fimbriata*

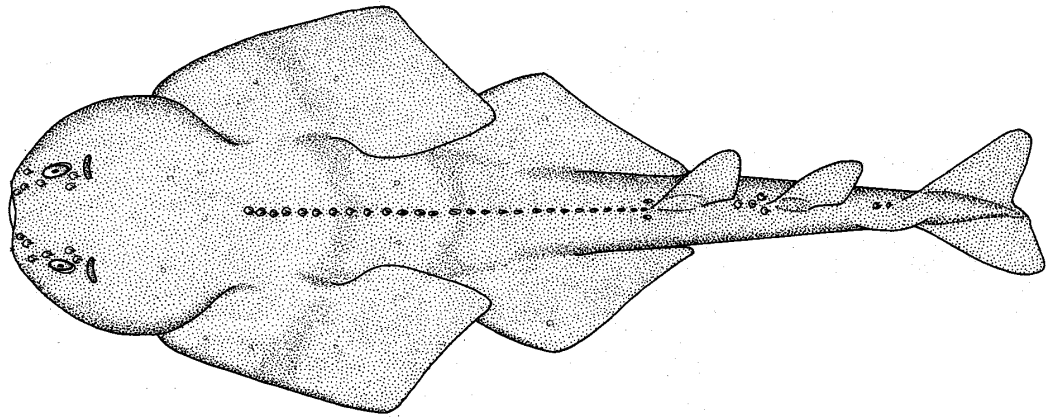


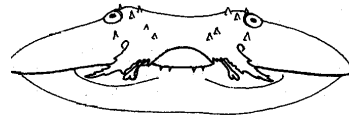
Common names: **En-** Sawback angelshark; **Fr-** Ange de mer épineux; **NL-** Gestekelde zeeengel

Body characteristics: Body relatively slender. Heavily fringed nasal barbels and anterior nasal flaps. Origin of first dorsal fin usually about opposite pelvic rear tips. Pectoral fins rather long and low, free rear tips narrowly subangular. Large spines present on midline of back and tail from head to dorsal fins and between the fin bases, also on snout and above eyes.

Colour: No ocelli on body.

Size: adults about 188 cm.



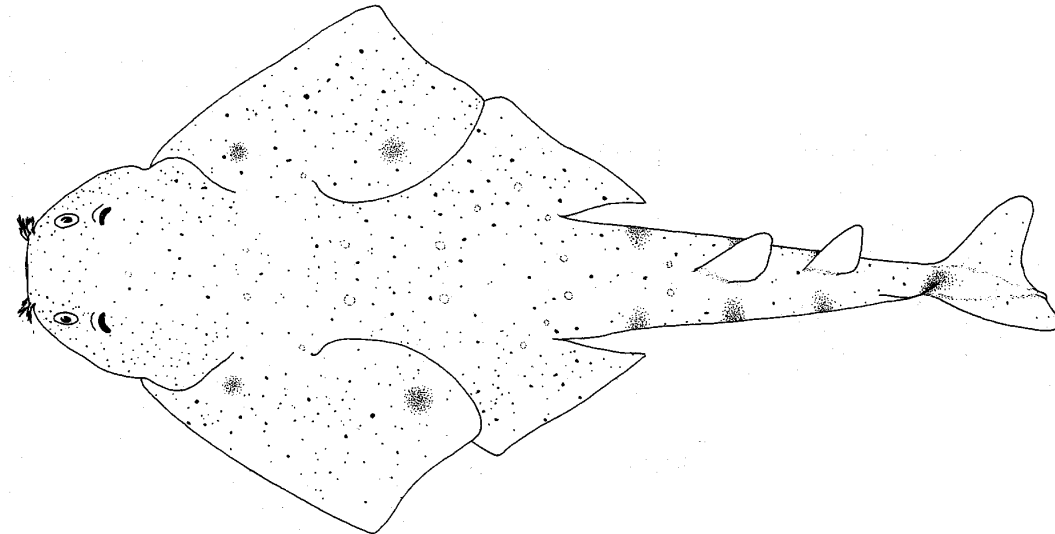
Squatina oculata (Bonaparte, 1840)**Synonyms:** -

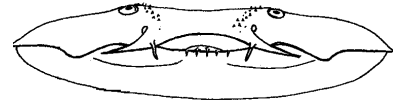
Common names: **En-** Smoothback angelshark; **Fr-** Ange de mer ocellé (=Ange de mer de Bonaparte); **NL-** Gevlekte zee-engel

Body characteristics: Body rather slender. Weakly bifurcated nasal barbels and weakly fringed anterior nasal flaps. Origin of first dorsal fin usually about opposite pelvic rear tips. Pectoral fins low and angular, rear tips broadly subangular. Large spines on snout and above eyes, but not on midback.

Colour: No large brown ocelli, but prominent white spots present in a symmetrical pattern on pectoral fins and on body.

Size: newborns 24-27 cm, adults 140-160 cm.



Squatina squatina (Bonaparte, 1840)

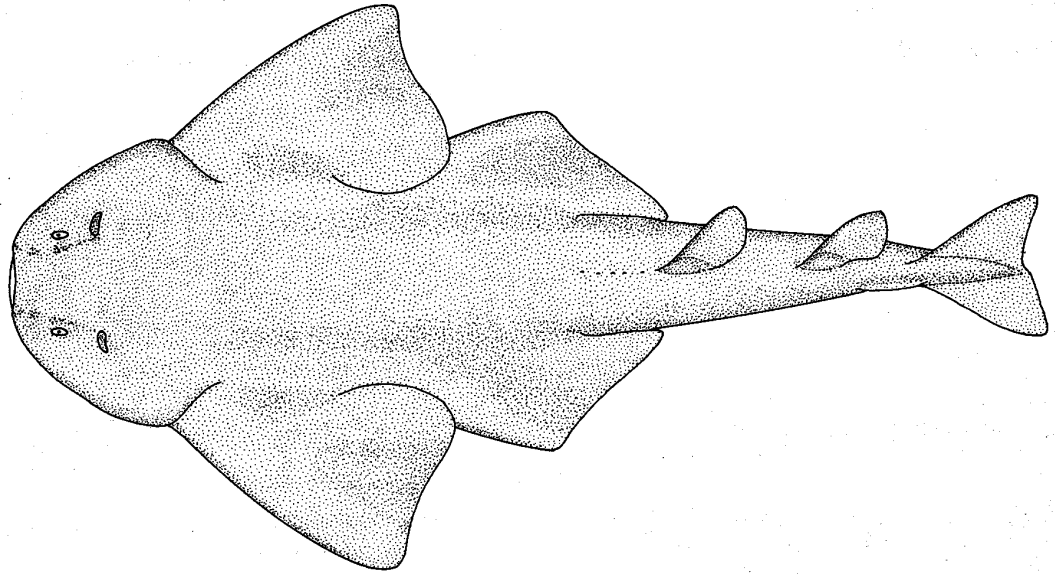
Synonyms: *Squatina vulgaris*, *Squatina angelus*, *Squatina laevis*, *Squatina lewis*, *Squalraia acephala*, *Squalraia cervicata*, *Squatina europaea*

Common names: **En-** Smoothback angelshark; **Fr-** Ange de mer ocellé (=Ange de mer de Bonaparte); **NL-** Zee-engel

Body characteristics: Body very broad. Simple, conical nasal barbels and smooth or weakly fringed anterior nasal flaps. Dermal flaps on sides of head with an angular lobe. Pectoral fins very high and broad, with broadly rounded rear tips. Small spines present or absent on midline of back and tail from head to dorsal fins and between the fin bases, and patches of small spines on snout and above eyes.

Colour: No ocelli on body.

Size: newborns 24-27 cm, adults 140-160 cm.

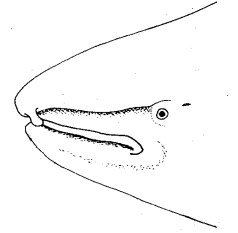


Order Orectolobiformes – Carpet sharks

Family Rhinodontidae – Whale sharks

Rhinodon typus (Smith, 1828)

Synonyms: *Rhinodon typicus*, *Micristodus punctatus*, *Rhinodon pentalineatus*, *Rhincodon typus*, *Rhineodon typus*

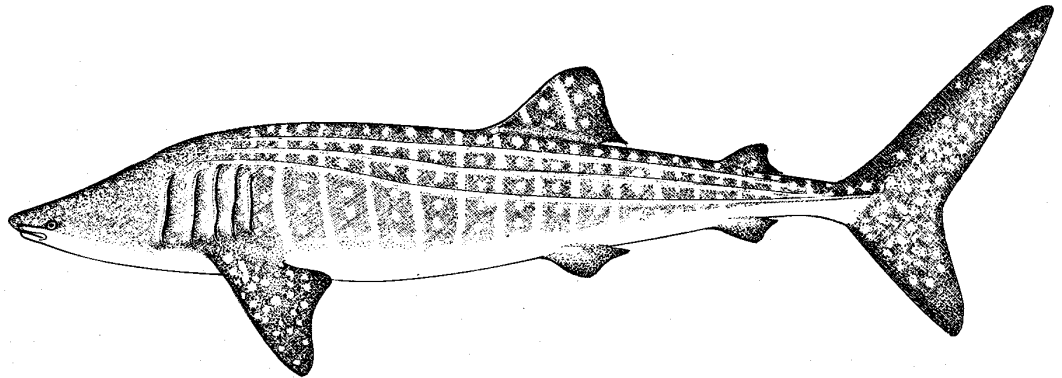


Common names: **En-** Whale shark; **Fr-** Requin baleine; **NL-** Walvishaai

Body characteristics: Body cylindrical or moderately depressed, with prominent ridges on sides. Head very broad and flattened, without lateral flaps of skin, snout truncated; eyes laterally situated on head; terminal mouth, extremely large, in front of eyes. Large first dorsal fin, small second dorsal fin and anal fin. Lunate or semilunate caudal fin without a prominent subterminal notch.

Colour: Unique checkerboard pattern of light spots, horizontal and vertical stripes on a dark background.

Size: adults about 188 cm.

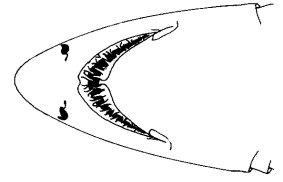


Order Lamniformes – Mackerel sharks

Family Odontaspidae – Sand tiger sharks

Eugomphodus taurus (Rafinesque, 1810)

Synonyms: *Squalus americanus*, *Squalus littoralis*, *Squalus macrodus*, *Carcharias griseus*, *Odontaspis americanus*, *Odontaspis cinerea*, *Lamna ecarinata*, *Carcharias arenarius*, *Carcharias owstoni*, *Squalus lixa*, *Odontaspis platensis*, *Odontaspis Taurus*, *Carcharias platensis*

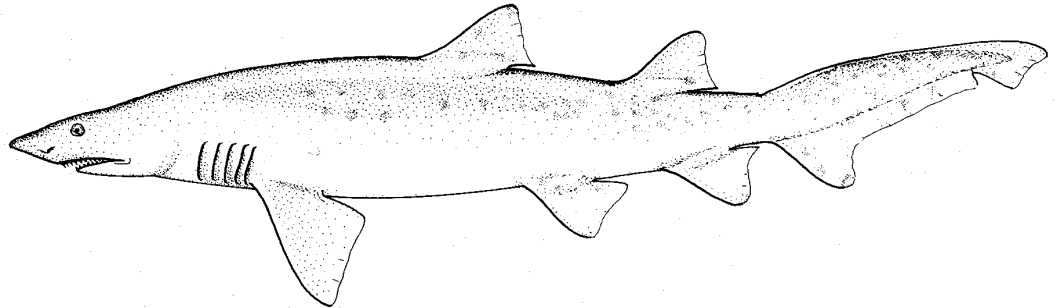


Common names: **En-** Sandtiger shark; **Fr-** Requin taureau; **NL-** Zandtijgerhaai

Body characteristics: Body large and bulky. Head with a flattened-conical snout; mouth long and extending behind eyes. Anal fin and both dorsal fins equally large and broad-based; first dorsal fin closer to pelvic fins than to pectoral fins.

Colour: Light brown, often with darker reddish or brownish spots scattered on body.

Size: newborns 95-105 cm, adults 257-300+ cm.



Family Alopiidae – Thresher sharks

Alopias superciliosus (Lowe, 1839)

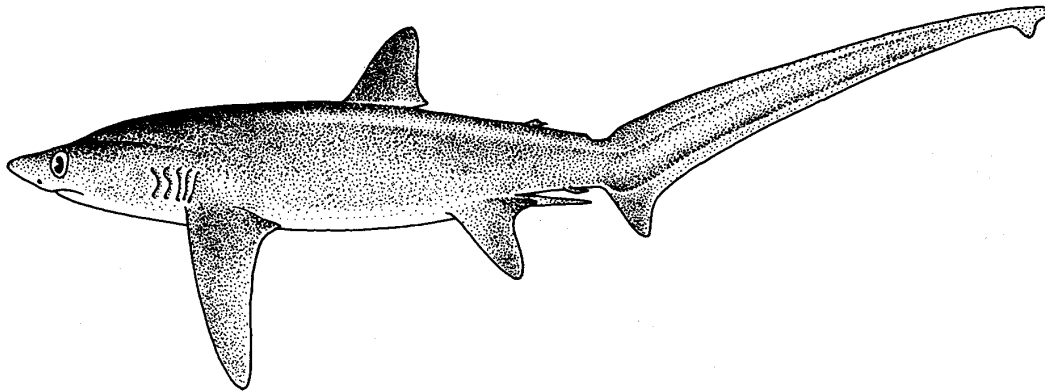
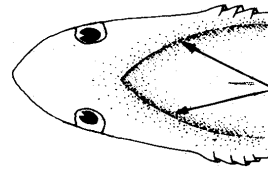
Synonyms: *Alopias profundus*

Common names: **En-** Bigeye thresher; **Fr-** Renard à gros yeux; **NL-** Grootoogvashaai

Body characteristics: Dorsal profile of the head indented and forehead weakly convex in lateral view; eyes very large; snout moderately long, bulbous. Deep horizontal groove present on each side of head above gills. Pectoral fins falcate with broad apices. Terminal lobe of caudal fin moderately large. Long dorsal lobe nearly as long as rest of shark.

Colour: Light colour of abdomen not extending over pectoral fin bases.

Size: newborns 64-106 cm, adults 400-430 cm.



Alopias vulpinus (Bonnaterre, 1788)

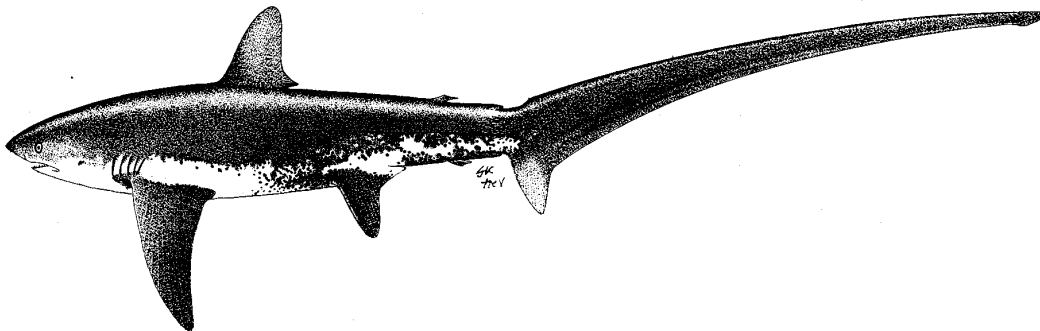
Synonyms: *Squalus vulpes*, *Alopias macrourus*, *Galeus vulpecula*, *Squalus alopecias*, *Alopecias barrae*, *Alopecias chilensis*, *Alopecias longimana*, *Vulpecula marina*, *Alopias caudatus*, *Alopias greyi*

Common names: **En-** Thresher shark; **Fr-** Renard; **NL-** Vashaai

Body characteristics: Dorsal profile of head convex and forehead strongly convex in lateral view. Relatively small eyes; snout relatively short, conical and pointed. No grooves on head above gills. Pectoral fins falcate and narrow-tipped. Terminal lobe of caudal fin moderately large. Long curving dorsal caudal lobe about as long as rest of shark.

Colour: White colour of abdomen extending over pectoral fin bases as a conspicuous patch.

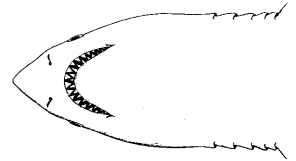
Size: newborns 114-150 cm, adults 420-549 cm.



Family Lamnidae – Mackerel sharks, Porbeagles, White sharks

Carcharodon carcharias (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms: *Carcharias lamia*, *Carcharias verus*, *Carcharias rondeletti*, *Squalus (Carcharias) vulgaris*, *Carcharodon smithii*, *Carcharias atwoodi*, *Carcharodon capensis*, *Carcharias vorax*, *Carcharias maso*, *Carcharodon albimors*

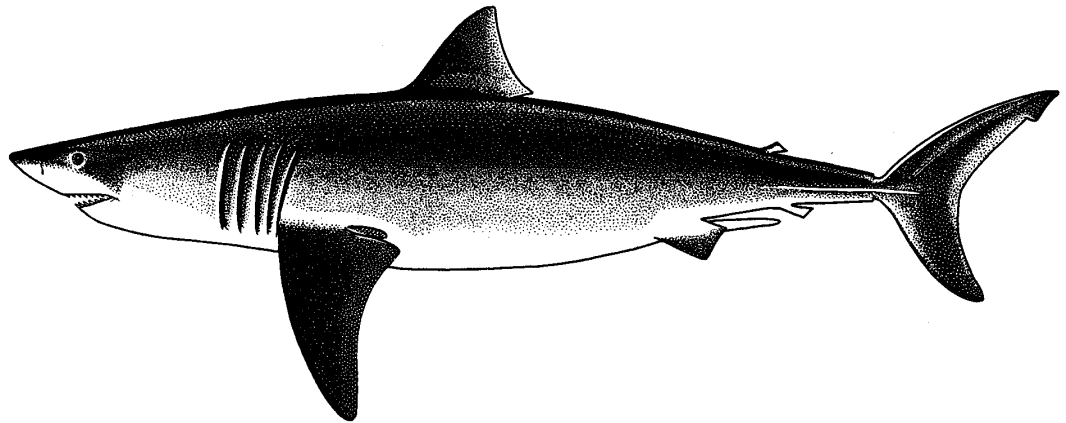


Common names: **En-** Great white shark; **Fr-** Grand requin blanc; **NL-** Witte haai

Body characteristics: Body heavy spindle-shaped. Snout conical and rather short; mouth broadly parabolic. Long gill slits. Large first dorsal fin, origin usually over the pectoral margins; pivoting second dorsal and anal fins; caudal fin crescentic.

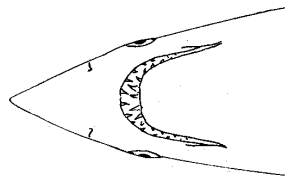
Colour: Ventral surface of body white.

Size: adults over 800 cm, more common between 140 and 600 cm.



Isurus oxyrinchus (Rafinesque, 1809)

Synonyms: *Isurus spallanzanii*, *Squalus (Lamna) cepedii*, *Lamna oxyrhina*, *Oxyrhina gomphodon*, *Oxyrhina glauca*, *Lamna punctata*, *Lamna latro*, *Carcharias tigris*, *Lamna guentheri*, *Lamna huidobrii*, *Isurus mako*, *Isurus bideni*, *Isurus tigris africanus*

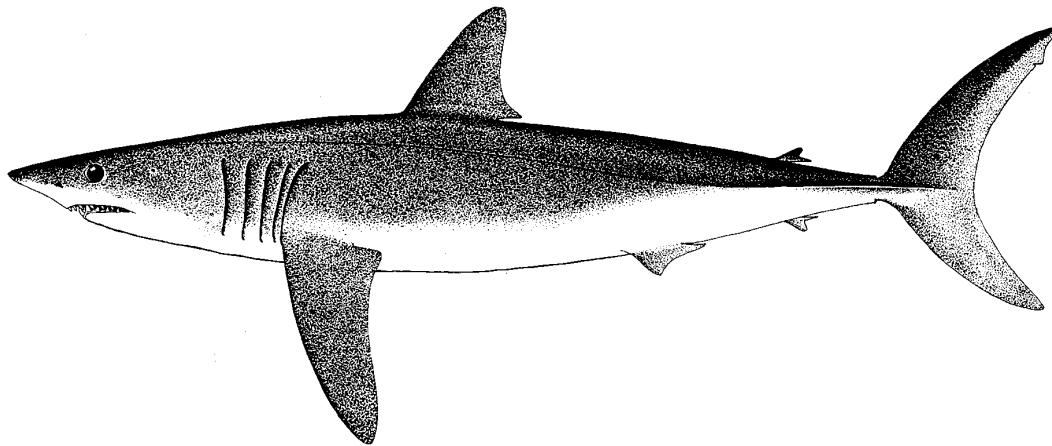


Common names: **En-** Shortfin mako; **Fr-** Taupe bleu; **NL-** Kortvinmakreelhaai/Haringhaai

Body characteristics: Body moderately slender. Snout acutely conical; eyes moderately large. Large first dorsal fin; minute, pivoting second dorsal and anal fins. Pectoral fins moderately long and broad, rather narrow tipped, shorter than head.

Colour: Ventral surface of body white.

Size: newborns 60-70 cm, adults 284-394 cm.



Order Carcharhiniformes – Ground sharks

Family Scyliorhinidae - Catsharks

Apristurus profundorum (Goode & Bean, 1896)

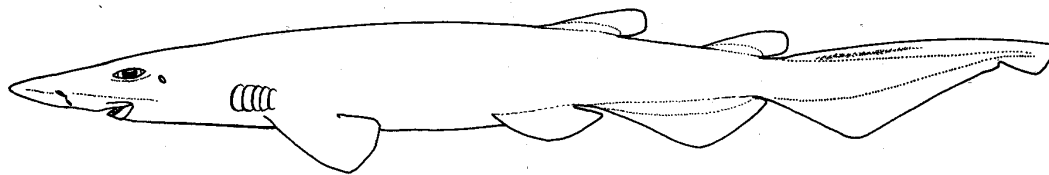
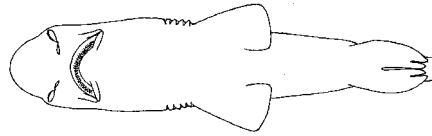
Synonyms: -

Common names: **En-** Deepwater catshark; **Fr-** Holbiche papoila; **NL-** Diepwaterkathai

Body characteristics: Body relatively slender, trunk slightly tapering toward head. Snout, moderately long (pre-oral 9% of TL), very broad, and bell-shaped. Eyes rather small (3% of TL). Rather large gill slits. First and second dorsal fin of same size, bases about equally long. Origin of first dorsal fin slightly behind pelvic midbases; second dorsal insertion about opposite anal insertion. Anal fin subangular, caudal fin broader.

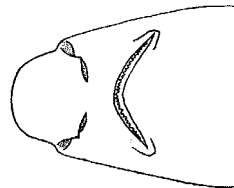
Colour: Brownish, probably darkbrown in life.

Size: adolescent at 51 cm, maximum unknown.



Galeus melastomus (Rafinesque, 1810)

Synonyms: *Squalus (Scyliorhinus) delarochianus*, *Scyllium artedii*, *Squalus prionurus*, *Squalus annulatus*, *Scyllium melanostomum*, *Pristiurus souverbiei*, *Pristiurus atlanticus*

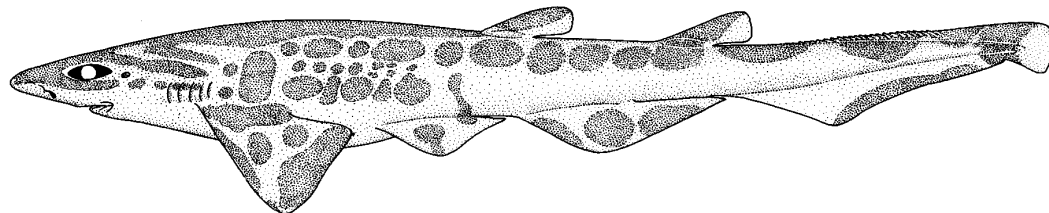


Common names: **En-** Blackmouth catshark; **Fr-** Chien espagnol; **NL-** (Spaanse) Hondshaai

Body characteristics: Compressed precaudal tail. Snout moderately long and pointed (pre-oral 6-8% of TL); mouth fairly large, broadly arched. Pelvic fins small, low and angular. Long anal fin (13-18% of TL).

Colour: Striking colour pattern of numerous dark saddles and circular spots on body and caudal fin.

Size: adolescent at 34-45 cm, adults 61-90 cm.



Galeus polli (Cadenat, 1959)

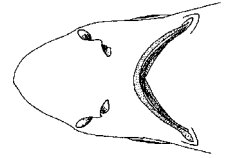
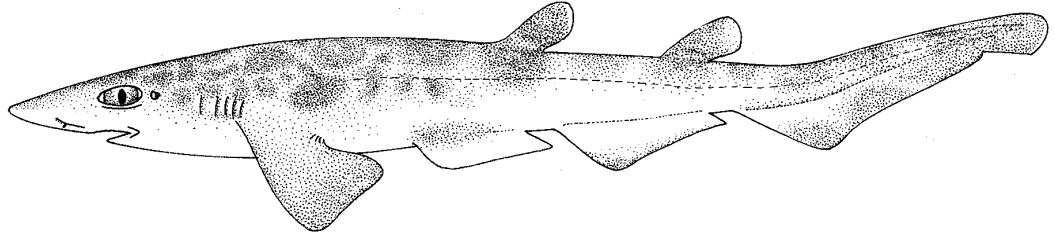
Synonyms: *Pristiurus atlanticus*

Common names: **En-** African sawtail catshark; **Fr-** Chien râpe; **NL-** Afrikaanse zaagstaartkathaai

Body characteristics: Precaudal tail with base somewhat compressed. Snout long and pointed (pre-oral 7-9% of TL); mouth fairly large and long, broadly arched. Pelvic fins small, low, and angular. Anal fin long (14-17% of TL).

Colour: Colour pattern of variegated dark well-defined saddle blotches on body and caudal fin.

Size: newborns 12 cm, adults up to 35-42 cm.



Scylliorhinus canicula (Linnaeus, 1758)

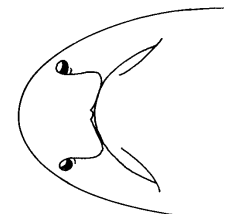
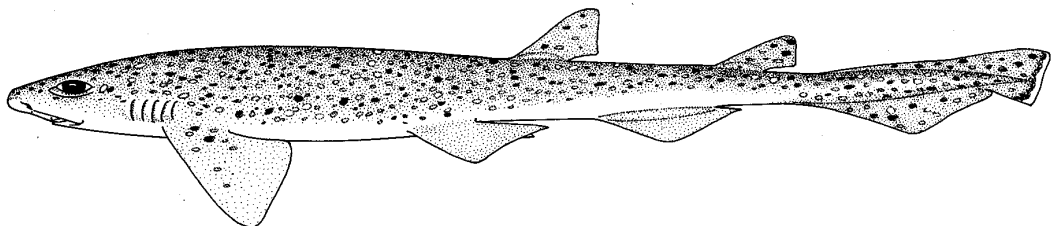
Synonyms: *Squalus catulus*, *Squalus elegans*, *Scyllium spinacipellitum*, *Scyllium acutidens*, *Scylliorhinus canicula*, *Catulus duhamelii*

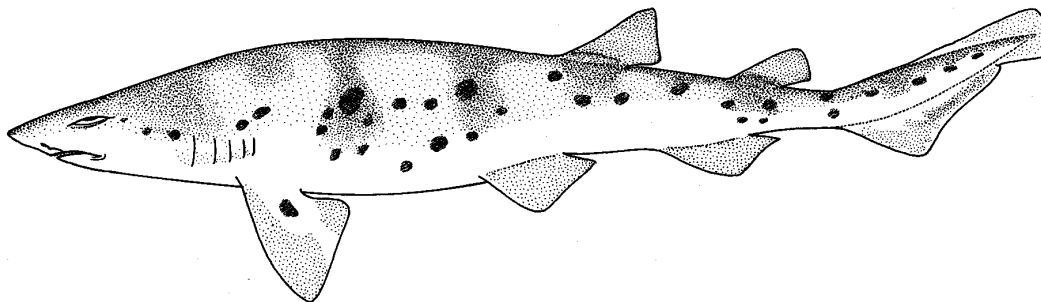
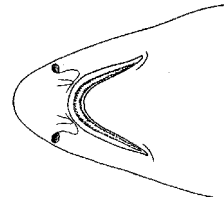
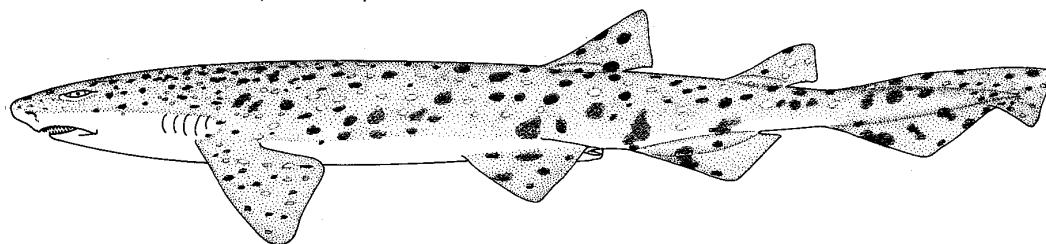
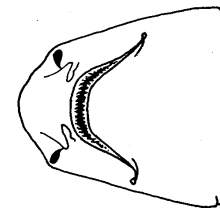
Common names: **En-** Small-spotted catshark; **Fr-** Petite roussette; **NL-** Hondshaai

Body characteristics: Body slender. Anterior nasal flaps greatly expanded and reaching mouth. Nasoral grooves present between nostrils and mouth. Second dorsal fin much smaller than first.

Colour: Pattern of numerous small dark spots, usually about size of eye pupil; sometimes obscure dusky saddle marks present.

Size: newborns 9-10 cm, adults 60-100 cm.



Scyliorhinus cervigoni (Maurin & Bonnet, 1970)**Synonyms:** -**Common names:** **En-** West African catshark; **Fr-** Roussette thalassa; **NL-** West-afrikaanse kathaai**Body characteristics:** Body fairly large and flat, and very stout. Small anterior nasal flaps that barely reach mouth; no nasoral grooves. First dorsal fin origin slightly behind pelvic insertions; second dorsal fin much smaller than first. Skin relatively rough.**Colour:** Relatively few and scattered dark spots; dark saddles centred on dark spots on the midline of the back; no white spots.**Size:** adults 64-76 cm.***Scyliorhinus stellaris*** (Linnaeus, 1758)**Synonyms:** Scyllium acanthotum**Common names:** **En-** Nursehound; **Fr-** Grande roussette; **NL-** Kathaai**Body characteristics:** Body large and fairly stocky; body and head moderately broad. Small anterior nasal flaps that do not reach the mouth; no nasoral grooves. First dorsal fin origin opposite pelvic insertions; second dorsal fin much smaller than first. Skin relatively rough.**Colour:** Pattern of numerous small and large black spots and sometimes white spots covering dorsal surface; the large spots often irregular, sometimes expanding into blotches. Saddle markings indistinct or absent.**Size:** newborns 16 cm, adults up to 125-162 cm.

Family Pseudotriakidae – False catsharks

Pseudotriakis microdon (Capello, 1868)

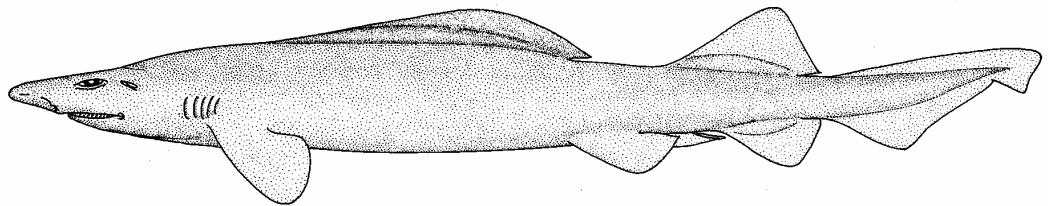
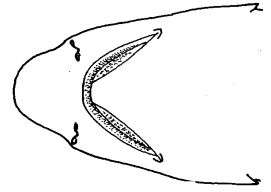
Synonyms: *Pseudotriakis acrales*, *Pseudotriakis acrages*

Common names: **En-** False catshark; **Fr-** Requin à longue dorsale; **NL-** Valse kathaai

Body characteristics: Body large, bulky, and soft. Head without laterally expanded blades; eyes elongated and cat-like; huge, wide, angular mouth that reaches behind eyes. Two large spineless dorsal fins and an anal fin; first dorsal fin very large, low and formed as a rounded keel, about as long as caudal fin.

Colour: Colour plain, except for darker fins.

Size: newborns 70-85 cm, adults 200-295 cm.



Family Leptochariidae – Barbeled houndsharks

Leptocharias smithii (Müller & Henle, 1868)

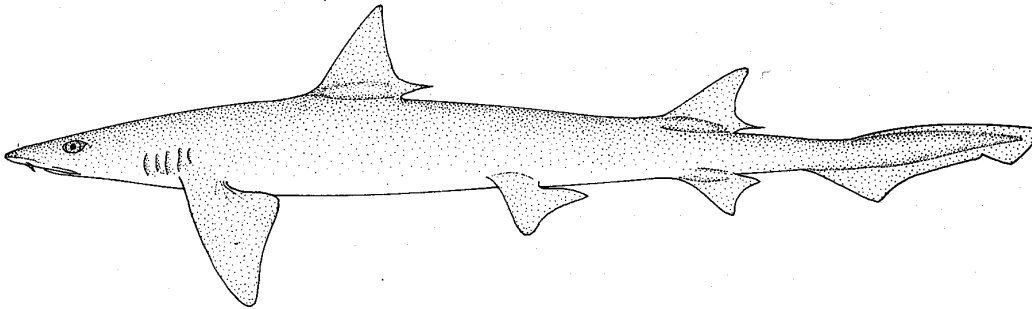
Synonyms: *Mustelus osborni*

Common names: **En-** Barbeled houndshark; **Fr-** Emissole barbue; **NL-** Voeldraadhondshaai

Body characteristics: Small, very slender body. Head without expanded laterally blades. Mouth long, arches and reaching past anterior ends of eyes. Two small, equal sized dorsal fins and an anal fin; first dorsal fin on back between pectoral and pelvic fins.

Colour: Grey above, light below, no colour pattern.

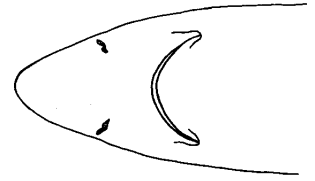
Size: newborns above 20 cm, adults 77-82 cm.



Family Triakidae – Houndsharks

Galeorhinus galeus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms: *Squalus rhinophanes*, *Galeus vulgaris*, *Galeus canis*, *Galeus communis*, *Galeus linnei*, *Galeus australis*, *Galeus zyopterus*, *Galeus chilensis*, *Galeus molinae*, *Cacharhinus cyrano*, *Galeorhinus vitaminicus*

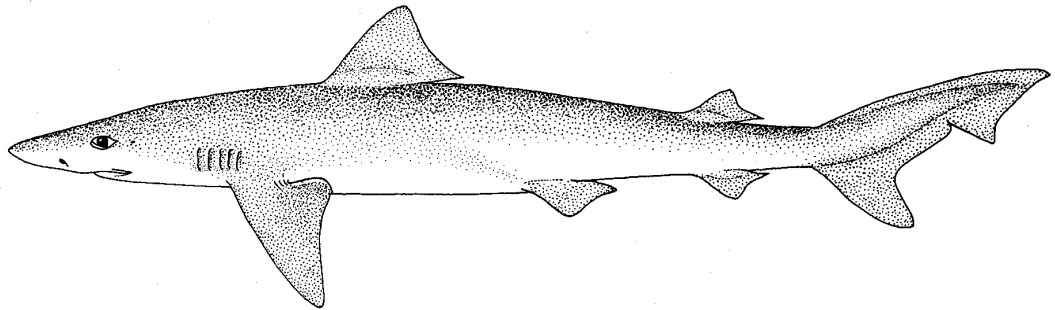


Common names: **En-** Tope shark; **Fr-** Requin-hâ; **NL-** Australische haai

Body characteristics: Body slender, snout moderately long. Mouth broadly arched and long; no nasoral grooves. Second dorsal fin much smaller than first and about as large as anal fin. Extremely long terminal caudal lobe about half the dorsal margin.

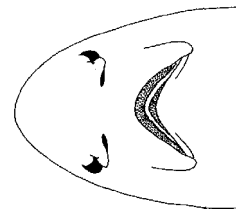
Colour: -

Size: newborns 30-40 cm, adults 155-195 cm.



Mustelus asterias (Cloquet, 1821)

Synonyms: *Squalus hinnulus*, *Mustellus stellatus*, *Mustelus plebejus*, *Mustelus equestris*, *Squalus albomaculatus*, *Squalus edentulus*

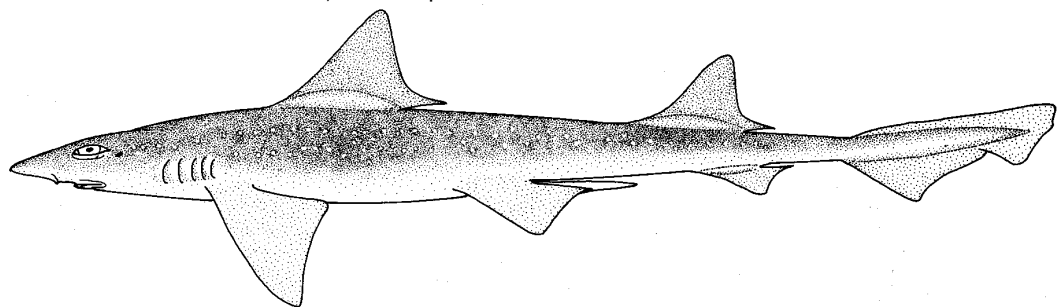


Common names: **En-** Starry smooth-hound; **Fr-** Emissole tachatée; **NL-** Gevlekte toonhaai/Gladde haai

Body characteristics: Body fairly slender. Head short, prepectoral length 13-17% of TL. Snout moderately long, bluntly angular in lateral view. Unfringed dorsal fins, relatively small pectoral and pelvic fins.

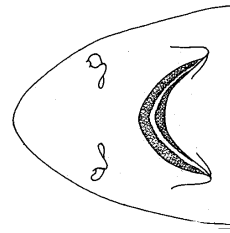
Colour: Grey or grey-brown above, light below; usually with a numerous small white spots on sides and back; no dark spots or dark bars.

Size: newborns about 30 cm, adults up to 140 cm.



Mustelus mustelus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms: *Mustelus laevis*, *Mustelus vulgaris*, *Mustellus levis*, *Mustelus equestris*

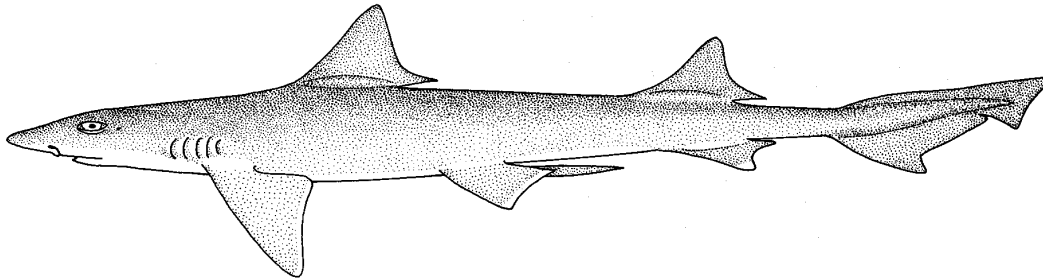


Common names: **En-** Smooth-hound; **Fr-** Emissole lisse; **NL-** Toonhaai/Gladde haai

Body characteristics: Body fairly slender. Head short, prepectoral length 17-21% of TL; snout moderately long and bluntly angular in lateral view; eyes fairly large. Unfringed dorsal fins; pectoral fins moderately large.

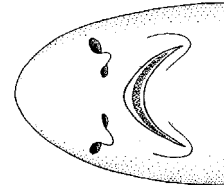
Colour: Uniform grey or grey-brown above, light below; no white spots or dark bars; some specimens with dark spots.

Size: newborns about 39 cm, adults up to 110-164 cm.

***Mustelus punctulatus*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms: *Mustelus mediterraneus*

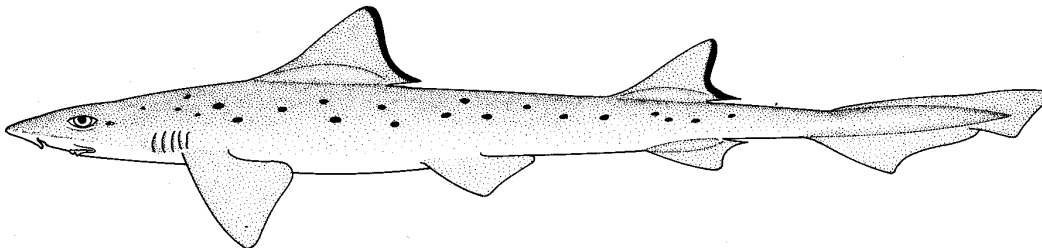
Common names: **En-** Blackspotted smooth-hound; **Fr-** Emissole pointillée; **NL-** Zwartvlektoonhai



Body characteristics: Body fairly slender. Short head and snout; head narrow and internarial, large eyes. Prominently fringed dorsal fins; pelvic fins small.

Colour: Uniform grey or grey-brown above, light below; often with small black spots; without white or dark bars.

Size: newborns about 31 cm, adults up to 95+ cm.



Family Hemigaleidae – Weasel sharks

Paragaleus pectoralis (Garman, 1906)

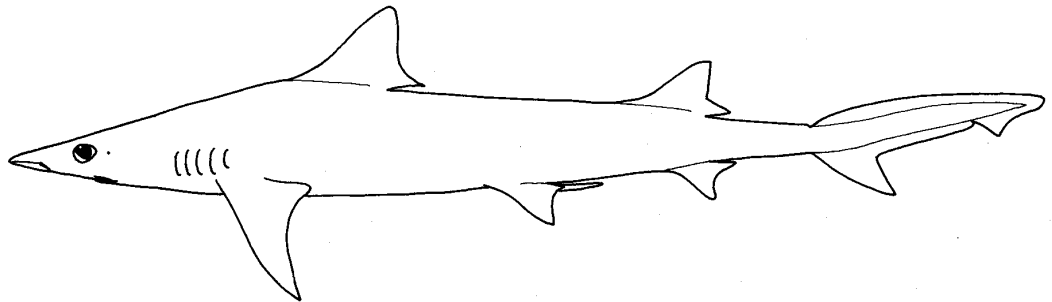
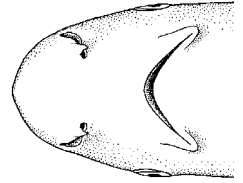
Synonyms: *Paragaleus gruveli*

Common names: **En-** Atlantic weasel shark; **Fr-** Milandre jaune; **NL-** Atlantische wezelhaai

Body characteristics: Body small and slender. Moderately long snout; large lateral eyes. Two spineless dorsal fins, second about 2/3 of first; anal fin smaller than second dorsal fin.

Colour: Light grey or bronze with longitudinal yellow bands on the body and light posterior fin margins.

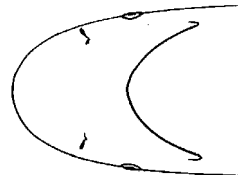
Size: newborns about 47 cm, adults 114-138 cm.



Family Carcharhinidae - Requiem sharks

Carcharhinus brachyurus (Günther, 1870)

Synonyms: *Carcharias lamiella*, *Eulamia ahenea*, *Carcharhinus improvisus*, *Carcharhinus rochensis*, *Carcharhinus remotoides*, *Carcharhinus acarenatus*, *Carcharhinus remotus*

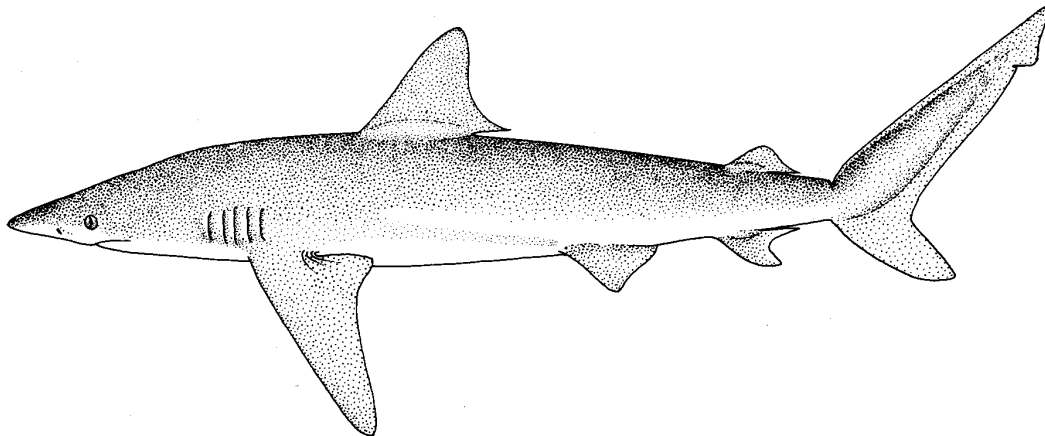


Common names: **En-** Copper shark; **Fr-** Requin cuivre; **NL-** Koperhaai

Body characteristics: Large, fairly slender body. Snout moderately long and narrowly rounded or pointed; eyes circular and moderately large. First dorsal fin large and falcate, origin slightly anterior to pectoral rear tips; second dorsal fin small and fairly low, origin slightly posterior to anal fin origin. Pectoral fins moderately large, falcate, with narrowly rounded or pointed apices.

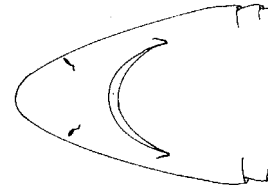
Colour: Bronze to olive grey above, white below; most fins with inconspicuous darker edges and dusky to black tips, but fin markings not conspicuous; a moderately prominent white band on flank.

Size: newborns 59-67 cm, adults 266-292 cm.



Carcharhinus brevipinna (Müller & Henle, 1839)

Synonyms: *Isogomphodon maculipinnis*, *Uranga nasuta*, *Longmania calamaria*, *Aprionodon caparti*, *Carcharhinus johnsoni*

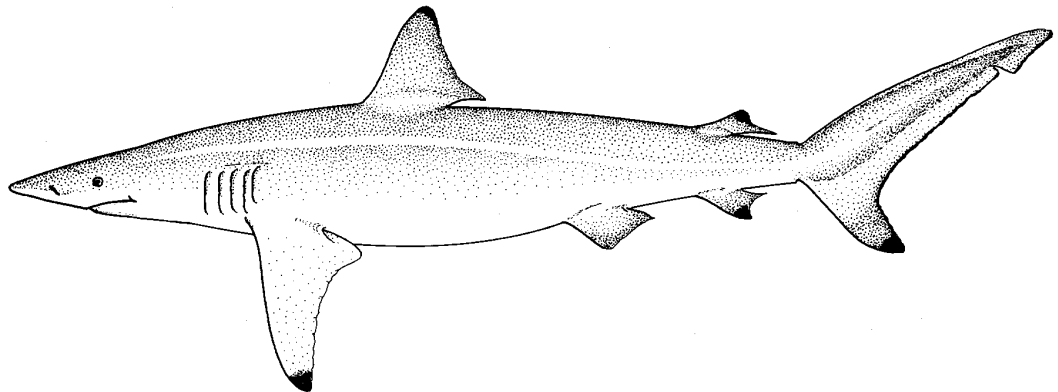


Common names: **En-** Spinner shark; **Fr-** Requin tisserand; **NL-** Tolhaai

Body characteristics: Large, slender to stocky body. Snout long, pointed, and narrowly rounded; small circular eyes. Long upper labial furrows. Small and semifalcate first dorsal fins with a short rear tip, origin slightly posterior to pectoral free rear tip; moderately large second dorsal with a short rear tip, origin over or slightly behind anal fin origin. Pectoral fins falcate, with narrow, pointed or narrowly rounded tips.

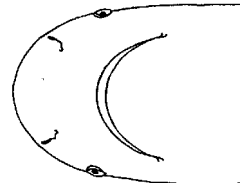
Colour: Black tips usually present on pectorals, second dorsal, anal and ventral caudal lobe, and sometimes on pelvics, first dorsal and dorsal caudal lobe. White band on flanks, but often not conspicuous.

Size: newborns 59-67 cm, adults 266-292 cm.



Carcharhinus leucas (Valenciennes, 1839)

Synonyms: *Carcharias zambezensis*, *Squalus platyodon*, *Squalus obtusus*, *Eulamia nicaraquensis*, *Carcharias azureus*, *Carcharias spenceri*, *Galeolamna bogimba*, *Galeolamnagreyi mckaili*, *Carcharhinus vanrooyeni*

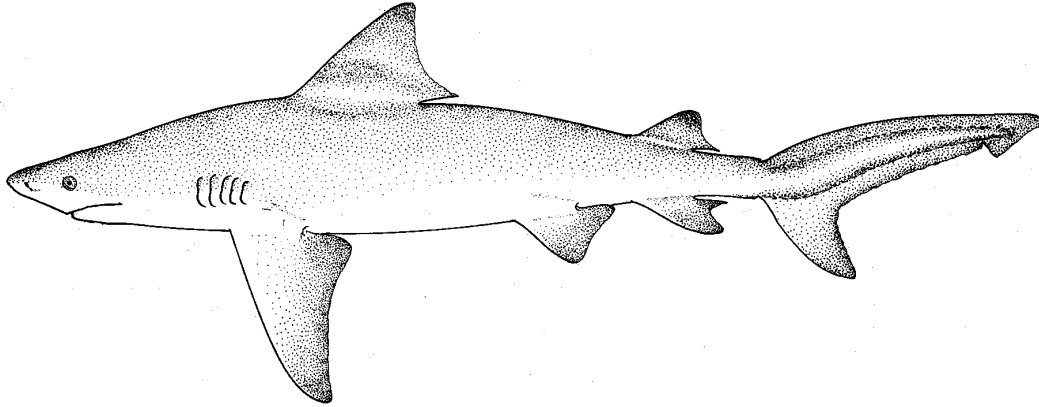


Common names: **En-** Bull shark; **Fr-** Requin bouledogue; **NL-** Stierhaai

Body characteristics: Body stocky to very heavy. Snout very short and bluntly and broadly rounded; eyes small and circular. Large and broadly triangular to somewhat falcate first dorsal fin with short rear tip; moderately large and high second dorsal fin with short rear tip. Large and broad pectoral fins, triangular to semifalcate, with narrow pointed apices.

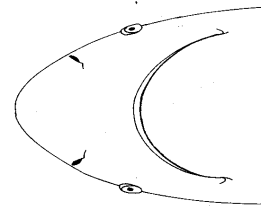
Colour: Fin tips dusky, but not strikingly marked; inconspicuous white band on flank.

Size: newborns 56-81 cm, adults 299-340 cm.



Carcharhinus limbatus (Valenciennes, 1839)

Synonyms: *Carcharias microps*, *Carcharias pleurotaenia*, *Carcharias muelleri*, *Carcharias maculipinna*, *Carcharias ehrenbergi*, *Carcharias aethlorus*, *Carcharias phorcys*, *Gymnorhinus abbreviatus*, *Carcharhinus natator*, *Galeolamna pleurotaenia tilsoni*

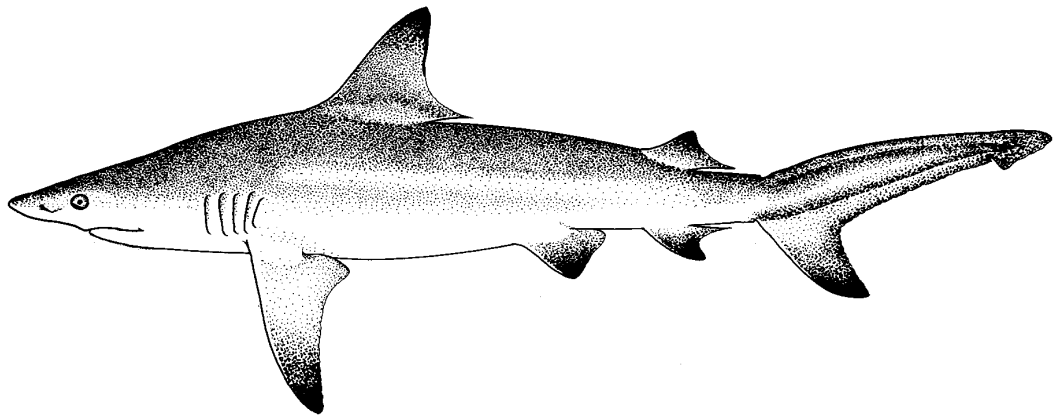


Common names: **En-** Blacktip shark; **Fr-** Requin bordé; **NL-** Zwartpunthaai

Body characteristics: Body large and fairly stocky. Snout moderately long and moderately pointed; eyes circular and moderately large. First dorsal fin large and falcate with short rear tip, origin over or slightly posterior to pectoral insertion; second dorsal fin moderately large and falcate with a short rear tip. Moderately large pectoral fins, with narrowly rounded or pointed apices.

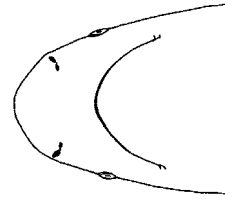
Colour: Grey or grey-brown above, white below. Black tips usually present on pectorals, second dorsal and ventral caudal lobe, and sometimes on pelvic and anal fins. Black edges usually present on first dorsal apex and dorsal caudal lobe. A conspicuous white band on flanks.

Size: newborns 38-72 cm, adults 226-255 cm.



Carcharhinus longimanus (Poey, 1861)

Synonyms: *Squalus (Carcharias) maou*, *Carcharias (Prionodon) obtusus*, *Carcharias insularum*, *Pterolamiops magnipinnis*, *Pterolamiops budkeri*, *Carcharhinus maou*, *Pterolamiops longimanus*

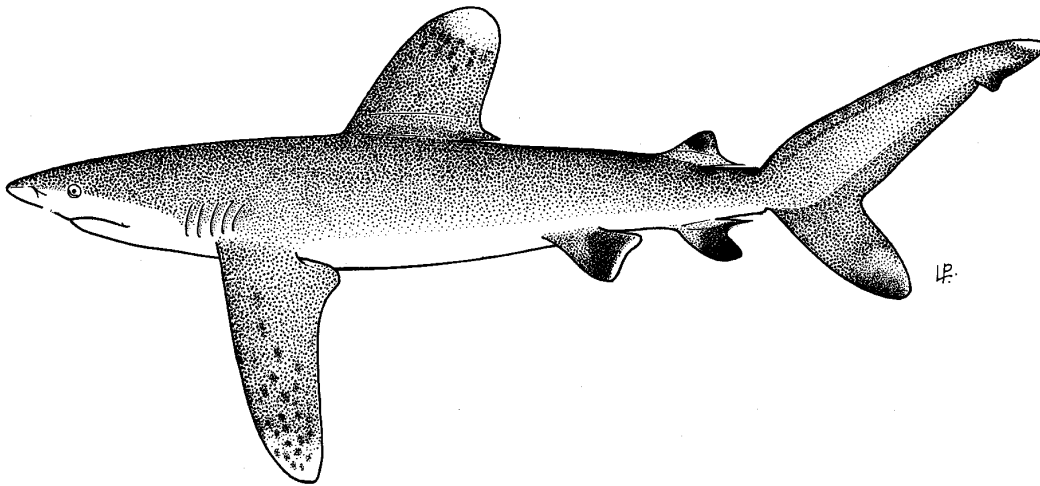


Common names: **En-** Ocean whitetip shark; **Fr-** Requin océanique; **NL-** Oceanische witpunthaai

Body characteristics: Large, stocky body. Snout short and broadly rounded; eyes circular and small. First dorsal fin very large and distally expanded, not falcate, origin just anterior to pectoral free rear tips; second dorsal fin large and high, origin slightly anterior to anal fin origin. Pectoral fins very large, elongated, nearly straight and distally expanded, with broadly rounded apices.

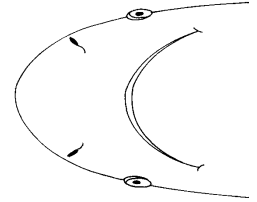
Colour: Grey-bronze above, white below; white mottling usually present on fins, particularly pectorals, first dorsal, pelvics and caudal tips; young also black spots; inconspicuous white band on flank.

Size: newborns 60-65 cm, adults 350-395 cm (but mostly below 300 cm).



Carcharhinus obscurus (LeSueur, 1818)

Synonyms: *Prionodon obvelatus*, *Galeolamna greyi*, *Carcharias macrurus*, *Galeolamna eblis*, *Carcharhinus iranxae*, *Carcharhinus obscurella*, *Carcharhinus lamiella*, *Galeolamna macrurus*

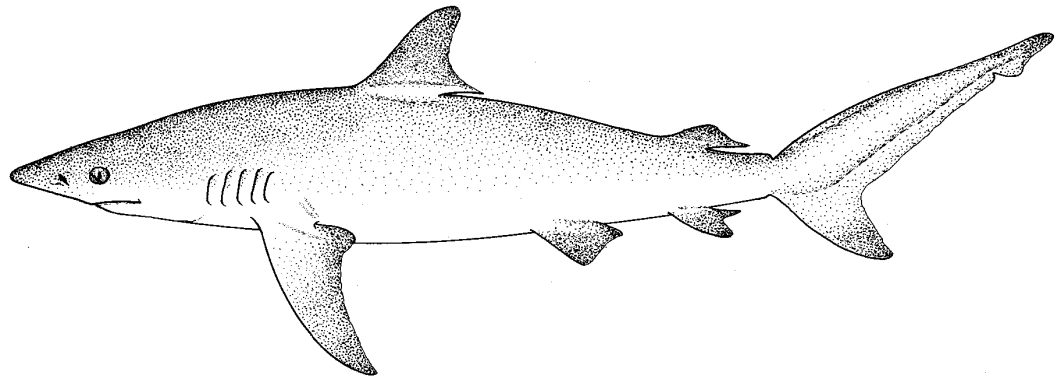


Common names: **En-** Dusky shark; **Fr-** Requin sombre; **NL-** Schemerhaai

Body characteristics: Large, fairly slender body. Snout short to moderately long and broadly rounded; eyes circular and moderately large; anterior nasal flaps low and poorly developed. First dorsal fin moderate-sized and semifalcate, origin just anterior to pectoral free rear tips; second dorsal fin small and low, origin about over anal fin origin. Pectoral fins large and falcate.

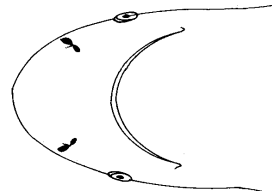
Colour: Tips of most fins dusky but not black or white; inconspicuous white band on flank.

Size: newborns 69-100 cm, adults over 400 cm.



Carcharhinus plumbeus (Nardo, 1827)

Synonyms: *Carcharias (Prionodon) milberti*, *Carcharias ceruleus*, *Lamna caudate*, *Squalus caecchia*, *Carcharias (Prionodon) japonicus*, *Carcharias obtusirostris*, *Carcharias stevensi*, *Carcharias latistomus*, *Galeolamna dorsalis*, *Carcharhinus milberti*, *Eulamia milberti*, *Galeolamna stevensi*, *Carcharhinus bleekeri*, *Carcharhinus platyodon*

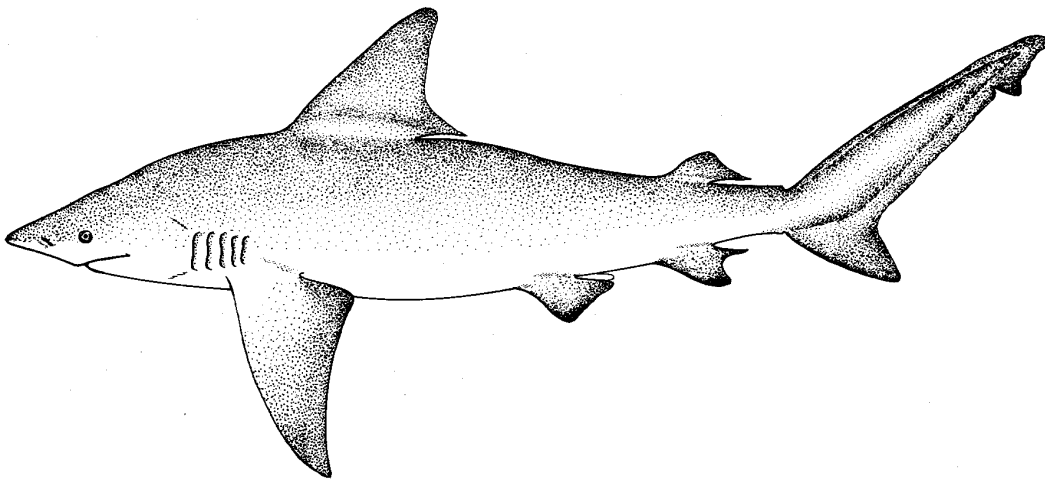


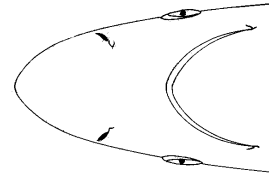
Common names: **En-** Sandbar shark; **Fr-** Requin gris; **NL-** Zandbankhaai

Body characteristics: Fairly stocky body. Snout short and broadly rounded; eyes circular and moderately large. Triangular first dorsal fin very large and semifalcate, origin over or anterior to pectoral insertions; second dorsal fin moderately high, origin over or slightly anterior to anal origin. Pectoral fins large, semifalcate, with narrowly rounded or pointed apices.

Colour: Grey-brown above, white below; tips and posterior edges of fins often dusky, but no conspicuous markings; inconspicuous white band on flank.

Size: newborns 56-75 cm, adults 224-234 cm.

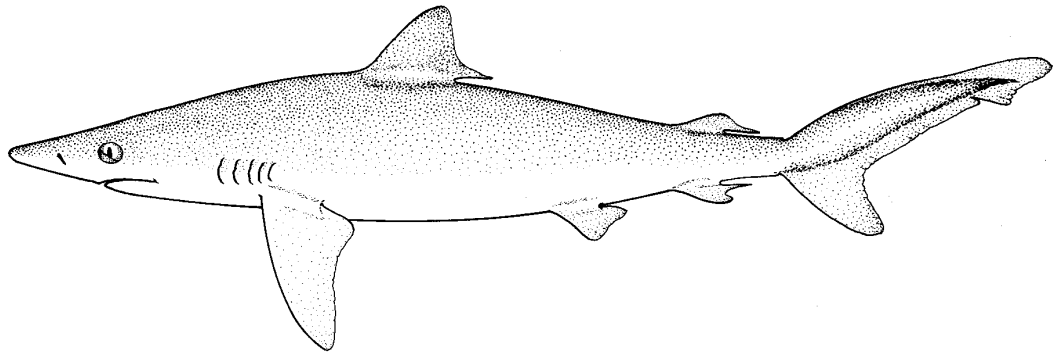


Carcharhinus signatus (Poey, 1868)**Synonyms:** *Hypoprion longirostris*, *Hypoprion bigelowi***Common names:** **En-** Night shark; **Fr-** Requin de nuit; **NL-** Nachthaai

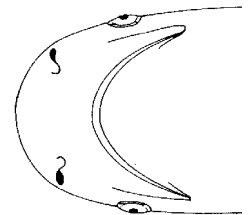
Body characteristics: Fairly slender body. Snout very long and moderately pointed; eyes circular and moderately large. First dorsal fin small and triangular with a moderately long rear tip, origin over pectoral free rear tips; second dorsal fin small and low with a long rear tip, origin over or slightly posterior to anal origin. Pectoral fins moderate-sized, slightly falcate, with narrowly to fairly broadly rounded apices.

Colour: Fins with conspicuous markings, sometimes small black spots scattered on body; an inconspicuous white band on flank.

Size: newborns about 60 cm, adults about 178-179 cm.

***Galeocerdo cuvier*** (Peron & LeSueur, 1822)

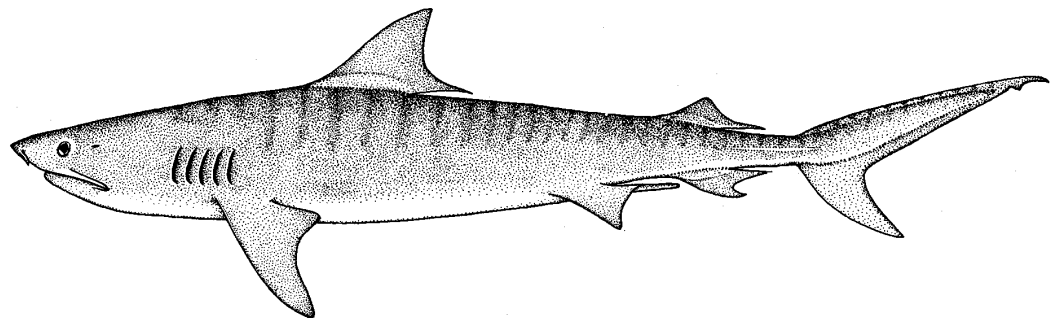
Synonyms: *Squalus arcticus*, *Galeus cepedianus*, *Galeocerdo tigrinus*, *Galeus maculatus*, *Carcharias (Prionodon) fasciatus*, *Galeocerdo rayneri*, *Galeocerdo obtusus*, *Carcharias hemprichii*, *Galeocerdo arcticus*

**Common names:** **En-** Tiger shark; **Fr-** Requin tigre commun; **NL-** Tijgerhaai

Body characteristics: Body fairly stout. Head broad and flat but not trowel-shaped; snout bluntly rounded and very short; eyes fairly large. Second dorsal fin much smaller than first. Pectoral fins moderately broad and semifalcate.

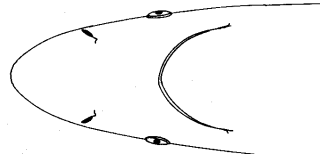
Colour: Grey with a unique colour pattern of black spots and vertical bars on dorsal surface of body (tiger stripe markings).

Size: newborns 51-76 cm, adults 370-550 cm.



Prionace glauca (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms: *Squalus adscentionis*, *Squalus rondeletii*, *Squalus caeruleus*, *Galeus thalassinus*, *Thalassorhinus vulpecula*, *Carcharias (Prionodon) hirundinaceus*, *Thalassinus rondeletii*, *Carcharias pugae*, *Carcharias gracilis*, *Hypoprion / Hemigaleus isodus*, *Carcharias aethiops*, *Prionace macki*

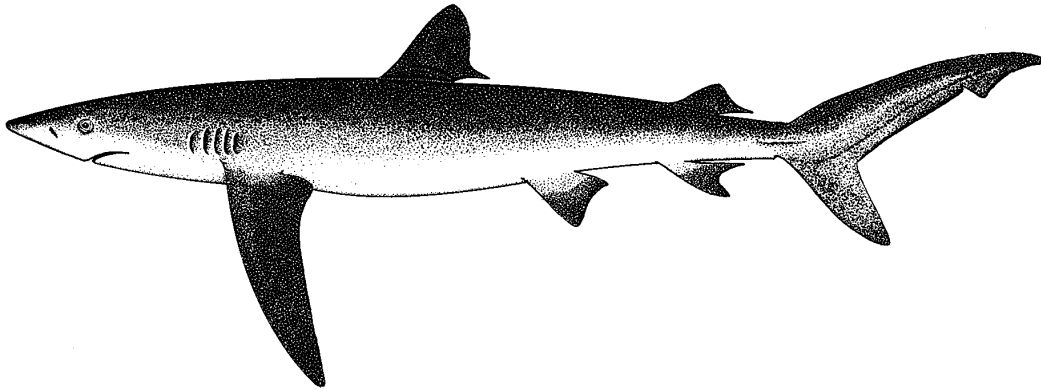


Common names: **En-** Blue shark; **Fr-** Peau bleue; **NL-** Blauwe haai

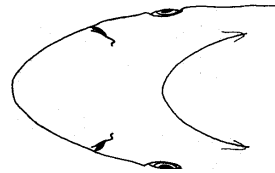
Body characteristics: Body rather slender. Head narrow, snout very long; eyes large. First dorsal fin on back much closer to the pelvic fin bases than to the pectorals; second dorsal fin less than a third size of the first. Long, narrow, pointed pectoral fins.

Colour: Intense blue above, white below, without a colour pattern.

Size: newborns 35-44 cm, adults 311-323 cm.

***Rhizoprionodron acutus*** (Rüppell, 1837)

Synonyms: *Carcharias (Prionodon) sorskowa*, *Carcharias (Scoliodon) walbeehmi*, *Carcharias (Scoliodon) crenidens*, *Carcharias aaronis*, *Scoliodon longmani*, *Scoliodon vagatus*, *Carcharias eumeces*, *Scoliodon sorskowa*, *Scoliodon walbeehmi*

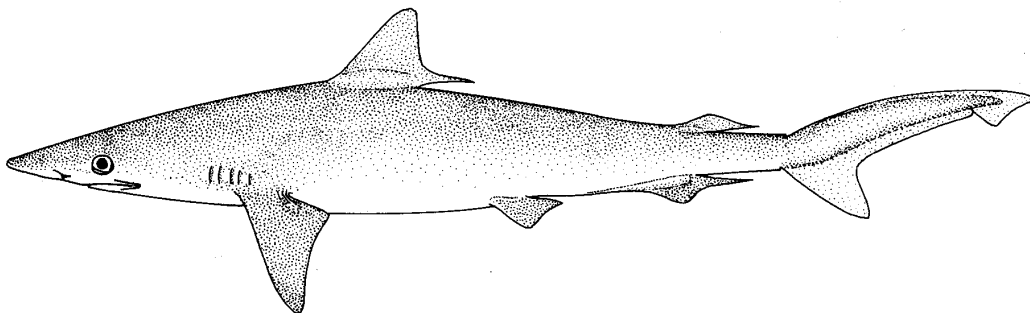


Common names: **En-** Milk shark; **Fr-** Requin à museau pointu; **NL-** Melkhaai

Body characteristics: Prenarial snout 4-5.4% of TL; only requiem shark with long upper and lower labial furrows. First dorsal fin origin usually over or slightly on front of pectoral free rear tips. Long preanal ridges

Colour: Grey, grey-brown or purplish brown above, pale below, pectoral fins with a light margin.

Size: newborns 25-39 cm, adults 165-178 cm.

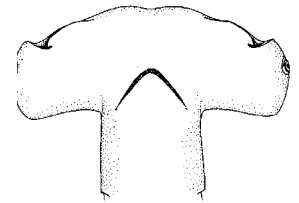


Family Sphyrnidae – Bonnethead sharks, Hammerhead sharks, Scoophead sharks

Sphyrna couardi (Cadenat, 1950)

Synonyms: -

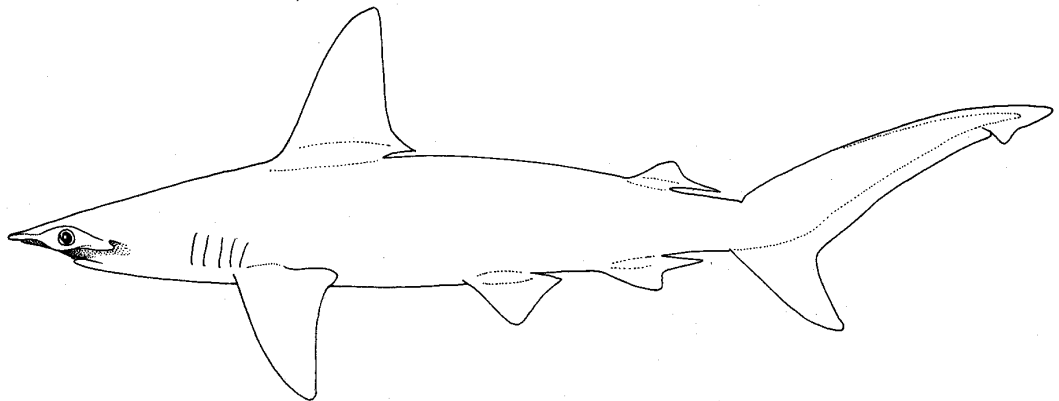
Common names: **En-** White hammerhead; **Fr-** Requin-marteau aile blanche; **NL-**



Body characteristics: Large body. Moderately broad, fairly narrow-bladed head; anterior margin of head very broadly arched in adults and with a prominent median indentation. Moderately falcate first dorsal fin, origin over pectoral midbases and free rear tip in front of pelvic origins; low second dorsal fin, somewhat smaller than anal fin, origin well behind origin of anal fin. Pelvic fins not falcate.

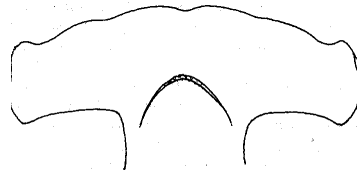
Colour: Blue-grey or grey-brown above, white below; fins unmarked.

Size: newborns 30-32 cm, adults 184-235 cm.



Sphyrna lewini (Griffith & Smith, 1834)

Synonyms: *Zygaena malleus*, *Zygaena indica*, *Cestracion leeuwenii*, *Zygaena erythraea*, *Cestracion oceanica*, *Sphyrna diplana*

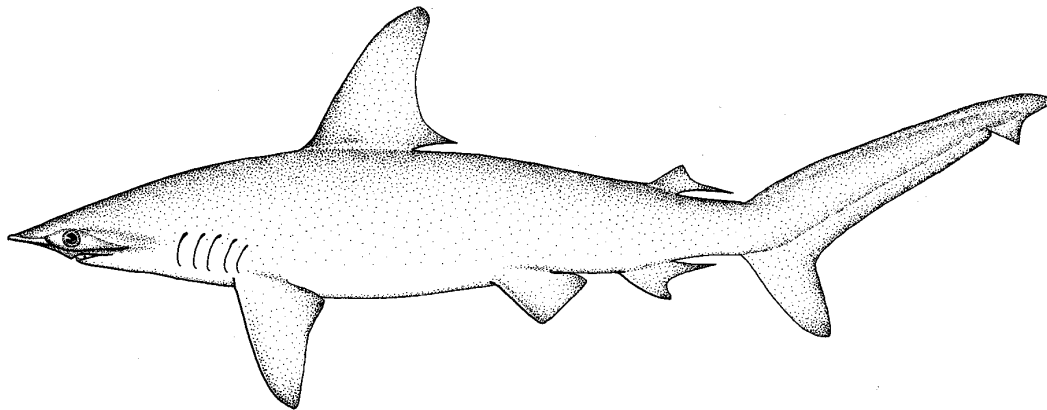


Common names: **En-** Scalloped hammerhead; **Fr-** Requin-marteau halicorne; **NL-** Geschulpte hamerhaai

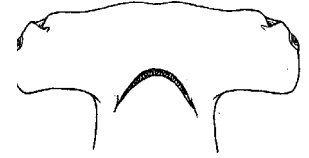
Body characteristics: Large with a broad, narrow-bladed head; anterior margin of head very broadly arched in adults and with a prominent median indentation. Moderately falcate first dorsal fin, origin over or behind pectoral insertions and free rear tip in front of pelvic origins; low second dorsal fin with free rear tip nearly or quite reaching upper caudal origin, less than anal height, origin well behind anal origin. Pelvic fins not falcate.

Colour: Grey-brown above, white below; dusky to black pectoral fin tips.

Size: newborns 42-55 cm, adults 370-420 cm.



Sphyrna mokarran (Rüppel, 1837)



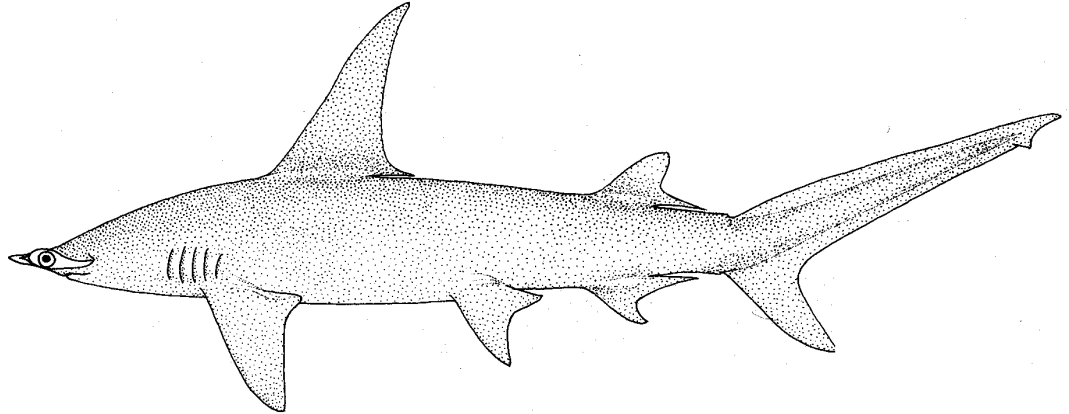
Synonyms: *Zygaena dissimilis*, *Sphyrna ligo*

Common names: **En-** Great hammerhead; **Fr-** Grand requin-marteau; **NL-** Grote hamerhaai

Body characteristics: Large body. Expanded prebranchial head hammer- or axe-shaped and very wide but longitudinally short; anterior margin of head nearly straight in adults and with a medial indentation. Strongly falcate first dorsal fin with rear tip in front of pelvic fins origins, origin over or slightly behind pectoral insertions; high second dorsal fin, about equal to anal fin height, origin well behind anal origin. Pelvic fins strongly falcate.

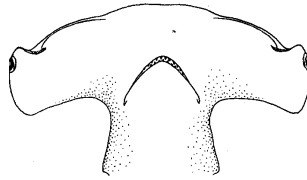
Colour: Grey-brown above, light below; without fin markings

Size: newborns 50-70 cm, adults 341-549+ cm.



Sphyrna zygaena (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms: *Squalus malleus*, *Squalus (Cestrorhinus) caroliniensis*, *Squalus (Cestrorhinus) pictus*, *Zygaena vulgaris*, *Zygaena subarcuata*

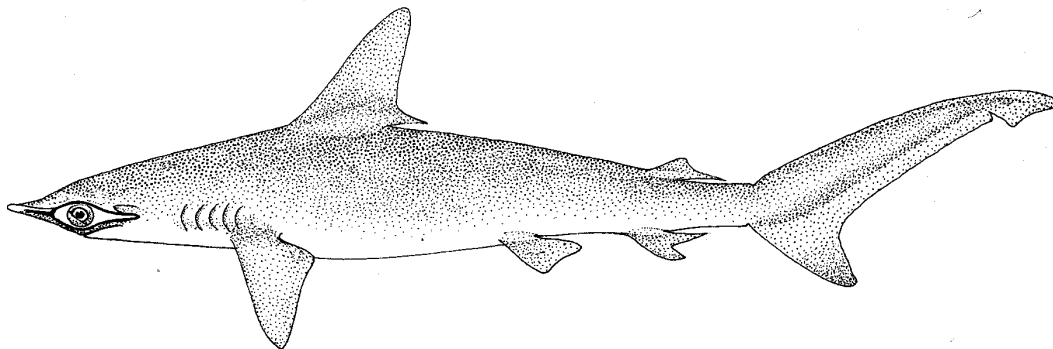


Common names: **En-** Smooth hammerhead; **Fr-** Requin-marteau commun; **NL-** Gladde hamerhaai

Body characteristics: Large body. Expanded prebranchial head hammer- or axe-shaped and very wide but longitudinally short; anterior margin of head very broadly arched with prominent lateral indentations, but no medial indentation. Moderately falcate first dorsal fin with free rear tip well anterior pelvic fins origins, origin over pectoral insertions; second dorsal fin low, less than anal fin height, origin well behind anal origin. Pelvic fins not falcate

Colour: Dark olive or dark-grey brown above, white below; undersides of pectoral fin tips dusky.

Size: newborns 50-61 cm, adults 256-304 cm.



Order Cetacea

Suborder Mysticeti - Baleen Whales

Family Balaenopteridae

Balaenoptera musculus (Linnaeus, 1758)

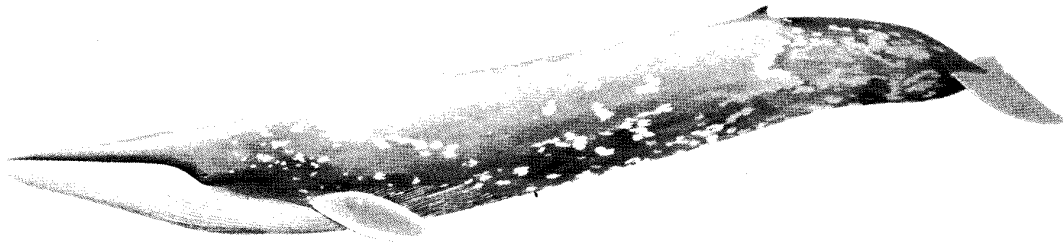
Synonyms: -

Common names: **En-** Blue whale; **Fr-** Rorqual bleu; **NL-** Blauwe vinvis

Body characteristics: Slender and streamlined. Head broad and almost U-shaped from above, relatively flat from the side. Along centre of rostrum a single prominent ridge, ending in an impressive 'splash guard' around the blowholes. Dorsal fin very small (about 1% of TL) and set 3/4 back on body. Flippers long and pointed. Broad flukes with relatively straight trailing edge and prominent notch.

Colour: Bluish grey dorsally, somewhat lighter underneath. Head uniformly blue. Back and sides are mottled, generally dark spots on a lighter surface (sometimes reverse). Sometimes chevron (vertex behind the blowholes) to mark the transition of coloration between head and body. Diatom films on surface as organic brown or yellow tinge.

Size: newborns 7m; adults 23-33m.



Balaenoptera physalus (Linnaeus, 1758)

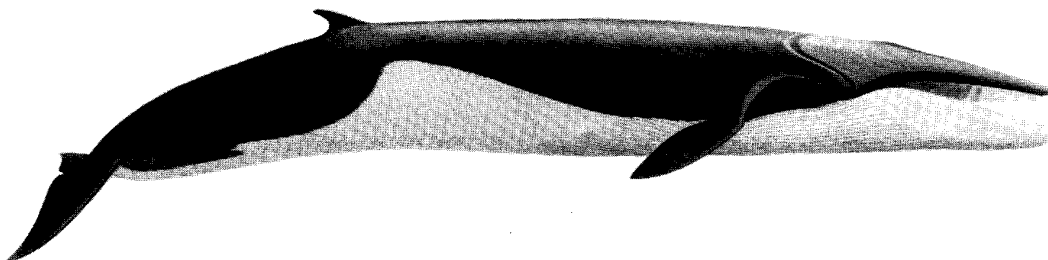
Synonyms: -

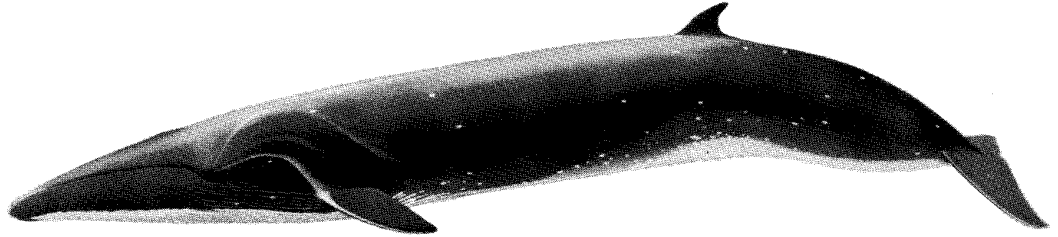
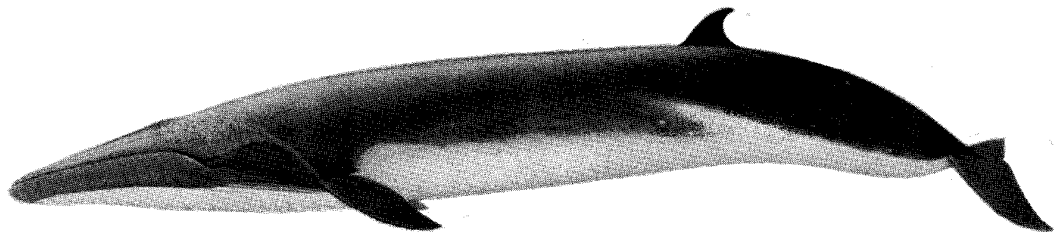
Common names: **En-** Fin whale; **Fr-** Rorqual commun; **NL-** Gewone vinvis

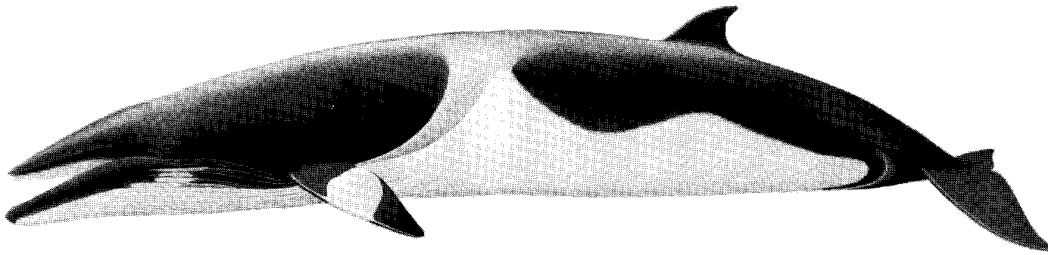
Body characteristics: Large but very sleek and streamlined. Head V-shaped from above and pointed at tip. Dorsal fin relatively falcate and about 2.5% of TL, located 2/3 back on body. Dorsal fin rises at a shallow angle from the animal's back.

Colour: Distinctive feature. Black or dark brownish grey above and on sides, white below. Head colour asymmetrical, left lower jaw dark, right lower jaw white. Several light grey 'chevrons' on the back behind the head.

Size: newborns 6-6.5m; adults up to 27m.



Balaenoptera borealis (Lesson, 1828)**Synonyms:** -**Common names:** **En-** Sei whale; **Fr-** Rorqual de Rudolphi; **NL-** Noordse vinvis**Body characteristics:** Large but sleek and streamlined. Head pointed at tip. Single prominent ridge on rostrum with a downturned tip. Dorsal fin falcate, rising at a steep angle from the back.**Colour:** Mostly dark grey, except for whitish area on the belly. Back often mottled with scars. Skin surface resembles often galvanised metal.**Size:** newborns 4.5-4.8m; adults up to 18m.***Balaenoptera edeni*** (Anderson, 1878)**Synonyms:** -**Common names:** **En-** Bryde's whale; **Fr-** Rorqual de Bryde; **NL-** Bryde's vinvis**Body characteristics:** Large but sleek and streamlined. Head pointed at tip. Three prominent ridges on rostrum. Dorsal fin tall and falcate, rising abruptly out of the back.**Colour:** Dark grey dorsally, lighter ventrally.**Size:** newborns 4m; adults up to 15.5m.

Balaenoptera acutorostrata (Lacepède, 1804)**Synonyms:** -**Common names:** **En-** Minke whale; **Fr-** Petit rorqual; **NL-** Dwergvinvis**Body characteristics:** Large but sleek and streamlined. Head extremely pointed, both viewed from above and the side. Median head ridge is prominent. Dorsal fin tall and recurved, located at 2/3 of the body backwards.**Colour:** Distinctive. Dark grey dorsally, white beneath. Streaks and/or lobes of intermediate shades on the sides. Some of the streaks may extend onto the back behind the head. Brilliant white band across each flipper.**Size:** newborns 2.4-2.8m; adults up to 9-10.7m.***Megaptera novaeangliae*** (Borowski, 1781)**Synonyms:** -**Common names:** **En-** Humpback whale; **Fr-** Baleine à bosse; **NL-** Bultrug**Body characteristics:** Body robust. Head has single median ridge. Top of head covered with knobs, 1 prominent cluster of knobs at tip of lower jaw. Dorsal fin is low and broad-based (usually sitting on a bump). Flippers extremely long (1/4 to 1/3 of TL) with knobs on leading edge. Flukes have concave, serrated trailing edge.**Colour:** Black or dark grey dorsally, may be white ventrally, borderline highly variable. Flippers white on ventral side and variable from all-white to mostly black on the dorsal surface. Ventral side of flukes varies from all-black to all-white.**Size:** newborns 4.5-5m; adults up to 11-16m.

Suborder Odontoceti - Toothed whales

Family Physeteridae

Physeter catodon (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms: *Physeter macrocephalus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common names: **En-** Sperm whale; **Fr-** Cachalot; **NL-** Potvis

Body characteristics: Unlikely to be confused with other species. Body laterally compressed, huge head (1/4 to 1/3 of the total length). Lower jaw narrow and underslung. Low rounded dorsal hump and series of bumps on the dorsal ridge of the tailstock. Flippers wide and spatulate. Flukes broad and triangular with a nearly straight trailing edge, rounded tips and deep notch.

Colour: Black to brownish grey, white areas around the mouth and often on the belly.

Size: newborns 3.5-4.5m; adults 12-18m.



Family Kogiidae

Kogia breviceps (de Blainville, 1838)

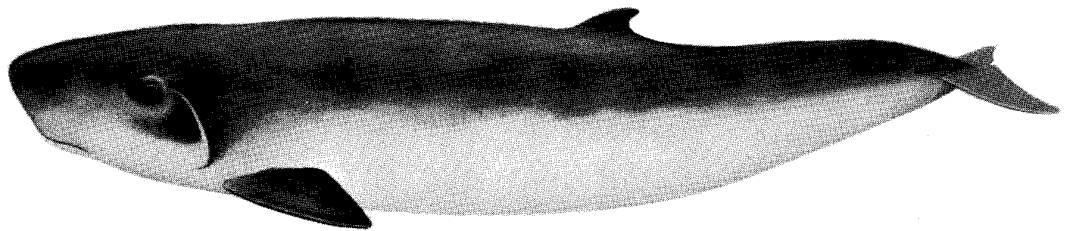
Synonyms: -

Common names: **En-** Pygmy sperm whale; **Fr-** Cachalot pygmée; **NL-** Dwergpotvis

Body characteristics: Shark-like head with a narrow underslung lower jaw. Flippers set high on the sides near the head. Small falcate dorsal fin (< 5% of TL) set well behind the midpoint of the back.

Colour: Countershaded, ranging from dark grey on the back to white below. Often the belly has a pinky tone. Light coloured bracket mark ("false gill") along the side between eye and flipper.

Size: newborns 1.2m; adults 2.7-3.4m.



Kogia simus (Owen, 1866)

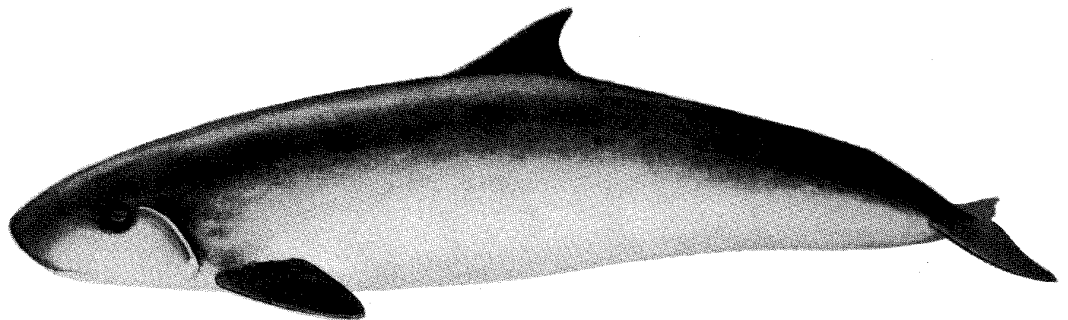
Synonyms: -

Common names: **En-** Dwarf sperm whale; **Fr-** Cachalot nain; **NL-** Kleinste potvis

Body characteristics: Shark-like profile as *K. breviceps* but more pointed snout. Dolphin-like rounded dorsal fin (> 5% of TL) set near the middle of the back.

Colour: Countershaded, ranging from dark grey on the back to white below. Often the belly has a pinky tone. Light coloured bracket mark ("false gill") along the side between eye and flipper.

Size: newborns 1m; adults up to 2.7m.



Family Ziphiidae

Zyphius cavirostris (Cuvier, 1823)

Synonyms: -

Common names: **En-** Cuvier's beaked whale; **Fr-** Ziphius; **NL-**

Body characteristics: Relatively robust with a blunt head. Short, poorly defined beak, mouthline upcurved at the rear. Slight concavity on the top of the head. A fluke notch sometimes present. Small and falcate dorsal fin, set at 2/3 from the body backwards.

Colour: Dark grey to light rusty brown with lighter areas around the head and belly. Head and much of the back of adult males can be completely white. Adults generally covered with light scratches and circular marks.

Size: newborns 2.7m; adults 7-7.5m.



Mesoplodon densirostris (de Blainville, 1817)

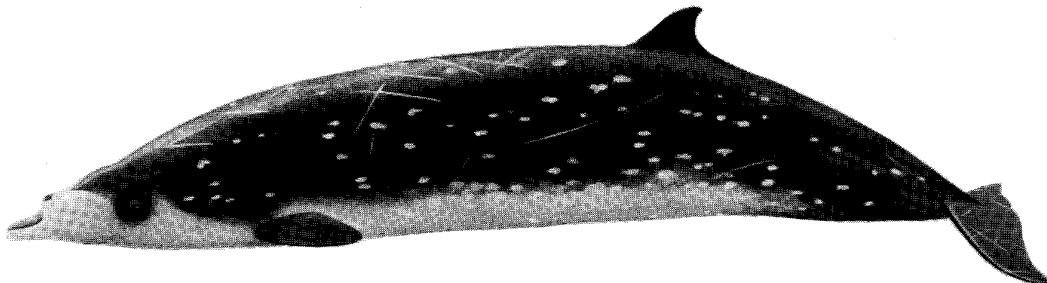
Synonyms: -

Common names: **En-** Blainville's beaked whale; **Fr-** Baleine à bec de Blainville; **NL-** Spittssnuitdolfijn van De Blainville

Body characteristics: Poorly described genus. Forehead has concavity in front of blowhole. Low, usually invisible blows. Small dorsal fin, set at 2/3 from the body backwards.

Colour: Blue-grey above and white below, the dark areas have often round or oval white scars and scratches.

Size: newborns 2-2.5m; adults 4.7m.



Family Delphinidae

Orcinus orca (Linnaeus, 1758)

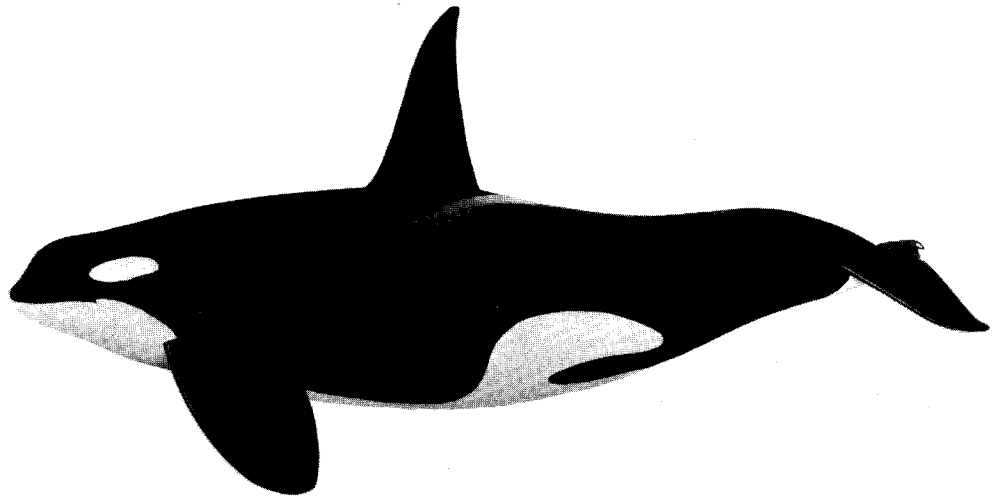
Synonyms: -

Common names: **En-** Killer whale; **Fr-** Orque; **NL-** Orka

Body characteristics: Blunt snout with very short and poorly defined beaks. Dorsal fin tall and erect (0.9-1.8m). Flippers large and paddle-shaped (up to 2m).

Colour: Striking black and white coloration, with white oval patches behind each eye, white lower jaw, white ventrolateral field and light grey saddle patch behind dorsal fin.

Size: newborns 2.1-2.4m; adults 8.5-9.8m.



Globicephala melas (Traill, 1809)

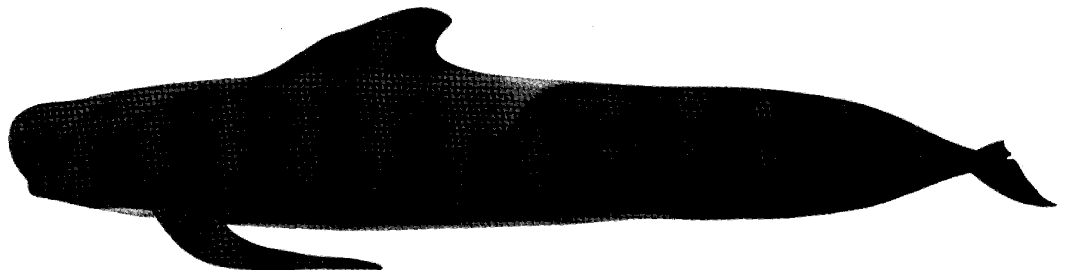
Synonyms: *Globicephala melaena* (Traill, 1809)

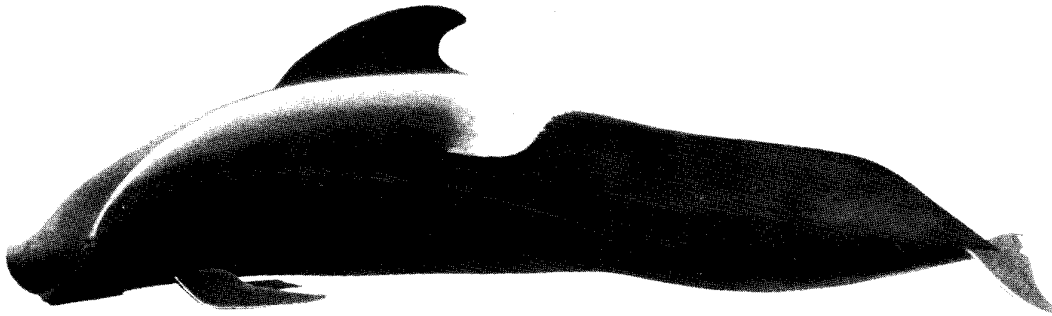
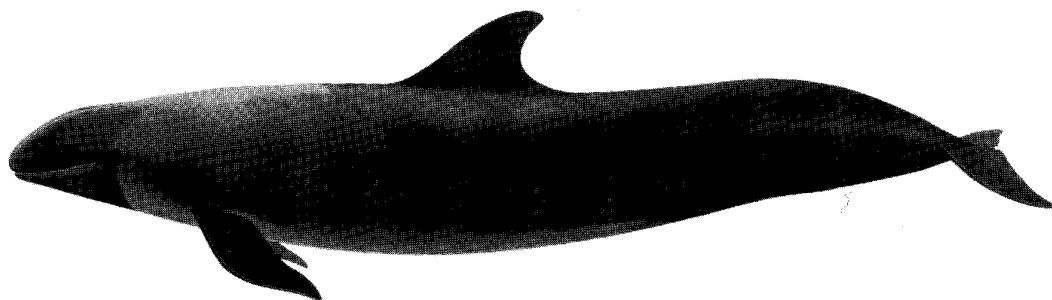
Common names: **En-** Long-finned pilot whale; **Fr-** Globicéphale commun; **NL-** Zwarte vriend

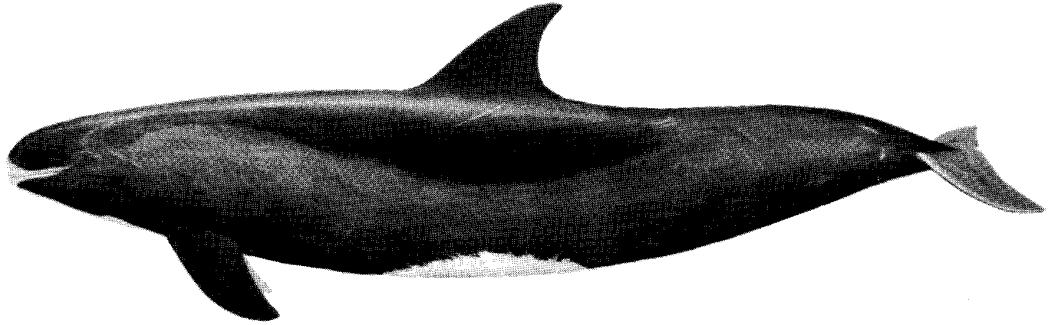
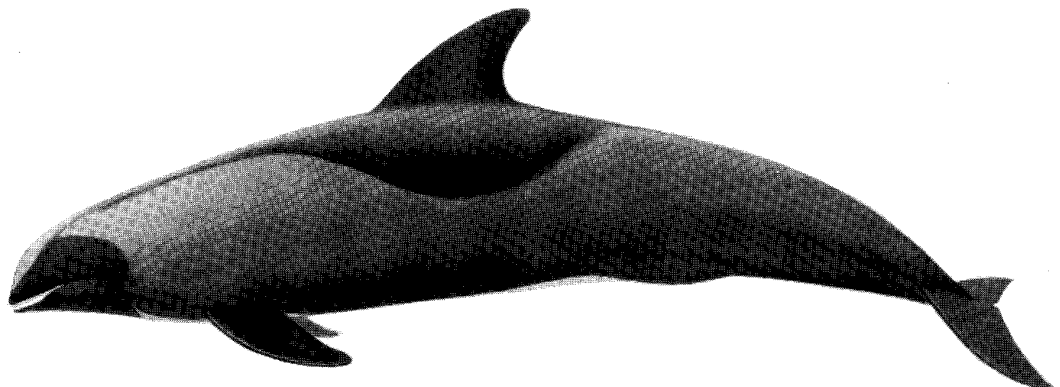
Body characteristics: Head bulbous with upsloping mouthline and extremely short beaks. Dorsal fin low, falcate and broad-based, located on 1/3 of the body backwards. Extremely long sickle-shaped (slender with pointed tips) fins (18-27% of TL) with prominent 'elbow'. Tail stock deepened.

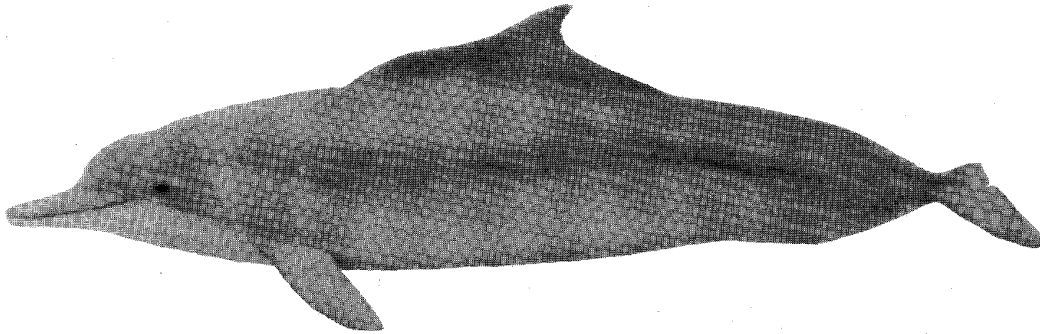
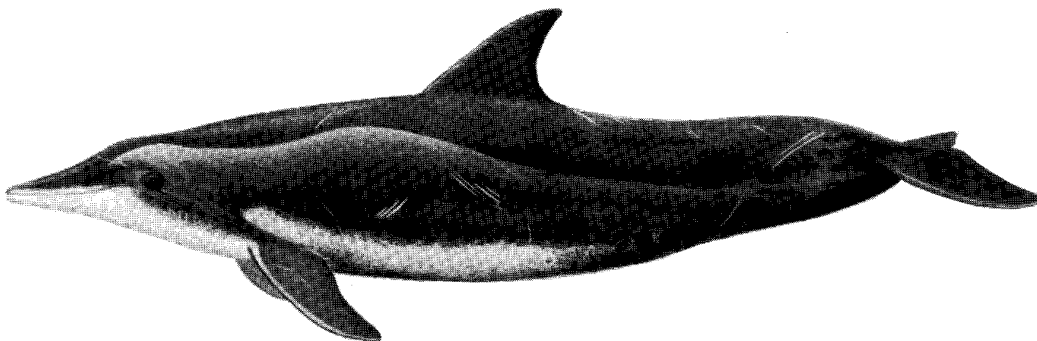
Colour: Predominately dark brownish grey to black. White to light grey anchor-shaped patch on the chest, light grey 'saddle' behind the dorsal fin, and light grey 'eyebrow' streaks.

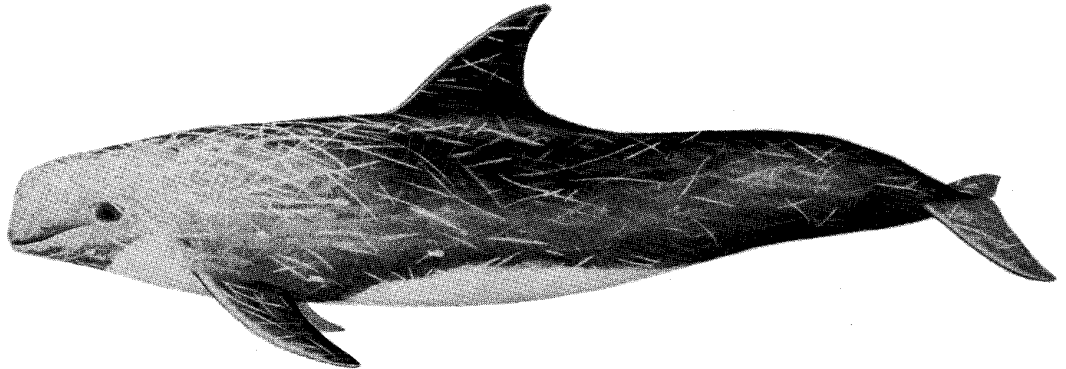
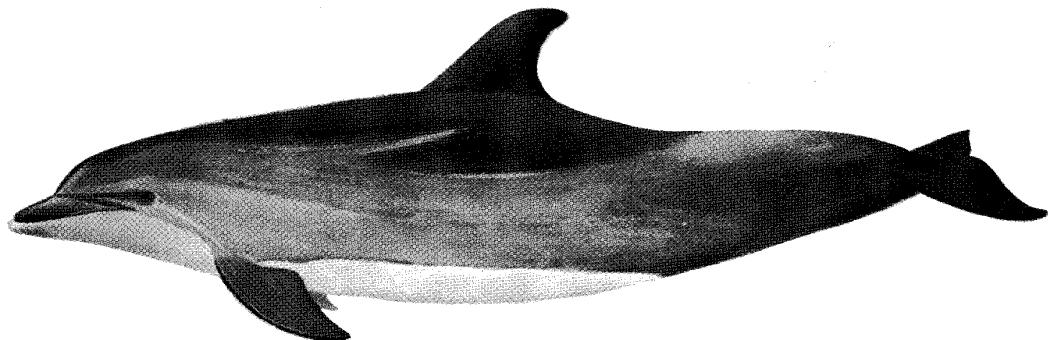
Size: newborns 1.7-1.8m; adults 5.7-6.7m.



Globicephala macrorhynchus (Gray, 1846)**Synonyms:** -**Common names:** **En-** Short-finned pilot whale; **Fr-** Globicéphale tropicale; **NL-** Indische griend**Body characteristics:** Head bulbous with upsloping mouthline and extremely short or non-existent beak. Dorsal fin low and broad-based, located on 1/3 of the body backwards. Long sickle-shaped fins (16-22% of TL).**Colour:** Black to dark brownish grey. Light grey anchor-shaped patch on the chest, grey 'saddle' behind the dorsal fin, and a pair of roughly parallel bands on the back that sometimes end as a light streak or teardrop above each eye.**Size:** newborns 1.4m; adults 5.5-6.1m.***Pseudorca crassidens*** (Traill, 1809)**Synonyms:** -**Common names:** **En-** False killer whale; **Fr-** Faux-orque; **NL-** Zwarte zwaardwalvis**Body characteristics:** Long, slender body. Rounded, overhanging forehead, no beak. Dorsal fin falcate and slender, generally somewhat rounded at the tip, located near the middle of the back. Flippers with distinct hump on leading edge.**Colour:** Dark grey to black with a faint light grey patch on the chest, sometimes light grey areas on the head.**Size:** newborns 1.5-2.1m; adults 5-6m.

Feresa attenuata (Gray, 1875)**Synonyms:** -**Common names:** **En-** Pygmy killer whale; **Fr-** Orque pygmée; **NL-** Dwerggriend**Body characteristics:** Somewhat slender body. Head rounded from above and side, no beak. Dorsal fin falcate, located near the middle of the back. Flippers slightly rounded at the tip.**Colour:** Dark grey to black with a prominent narrow cape that dips only slightly below the dorsal fin. White to light grey ventral band that widens around the genitals. Sometimes white lips and snout tip.**Size:** newborns 0.8m; adults 2.6m.***Peponocephala electra*** (Gray, 1846)**Synonyms:** -**Common names:** **En-** Melon-headed whale; **Fr-** Péponocéphale; **NL-** Witlipdolfijn**Body characteristics:** Somewhat slender body. Head triangular from above. Extremely short indistinct beak may be present in younger animals and females. Dorsal fin falcate, located near the middle of the back. Flippers sharpened at the tip.**Colour:** Charcoal grey to black with a faint cape that dips low below the dorsal fin. Face has triangular dark mask. Light stripe from blowhole to snout, that widens anteriorly. White lips and white urogenital patch.**Size:** newborns 1m; adults 2.75m.

Sousa teuszii (Kükenthal, 1892)**Synonyms:** -**Common names:** **En-** Atlantic hump-backed dolphin; **Fr-** Dauphin à bosse de l'Atlantique; **NL-** Kameroendolfijn**Body characteristics:** Long distinct beak, crease indistinct. Dorsal fin variable in shape, but emerges from a wide longitudinal ridge (hump), located near the middle of the back. Flippers with rounded tips. Moderately deepened tailstock.**Colour:** Slate grey on sides and back, light grey below.**Size:** newborns 1m; adults 2.8m.***Steno bredanensis*** (Lesson, 1828)**Synonyms:** -**Common names:** **En-** Rough-toothed dolphin; **Fr-** Sténo; **NL-** Snaveldolfijn**Body characteristics:** Relatively robust. Somewhat reptilian appearance. Head long and conical. Beak runs smoothly into forehead with no crease. Prominent falcate dorsal fin, located near the middle of the back. Flippers very large, set far back on the side.**Colour:** Dark grey with a prominent narrow dorsal cape that dips slightly down onto the side below dorsal fin. White belly, lips and lower jaw, often with a pinkish cast. White scratches and spots all over the body (scars).**Size:** adults up to 2.8m.

Grampus griseus (Cuvier, 1812)**Synonyms:** -**Common names:** **En-** Risso's dolphin; **Fr-** Grampus; **NL-** Grijze dolfin/Gramper**Body characteristics:** Robust. Blunt-headed without distinct beak. Mouthline slopes upward. Vertical crease on the front of the melon. Dorsal fin tall and falcate, located near the middle of the back. Flippers long, pointed and recurved.**Colour:** Range from dark grey to nearly white. Typically covered with white scratches, spots and blotches. Chest has whitish anchor-shaped patch, and the appendages tend to be darker than the rest of the body. Young animals are relatively unmarked.**Size:** newborns 1.2-1.5m; adults up to 3.8m.***Tursiops truncatus*** (Montagu, 1821)**Synonyms:** -**Common names:** **En-** Bottlenose dolphin; **Fr-** Grand dauphin; **NL-** Tuimelaar**Body characteristics:** Large, relatively robust. Snout moderately long and stocky, set off from melon by distinct crease. Dorsal fin tall and falcate, set near the middle of the back.**Colour:** Light grey to nearly black on the back and sides, fading to white on the belly. Belly and lower sides sometimes spotted. Dark stripe from eye to flipper. Faint dorsal cape on the back. Often brushings of grey on the body, especially on the face and from the apex of the melon to the blowhole.**Size:** newborns 1-1.3m; adults 1.9-3.8m.

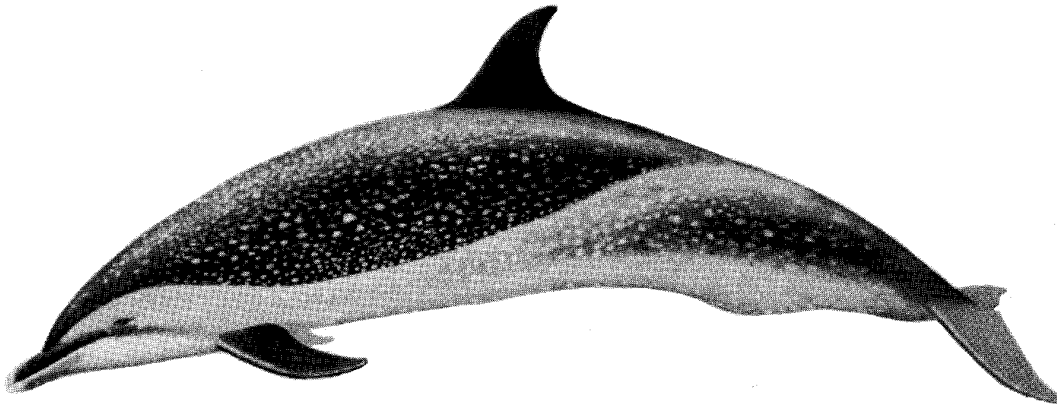
Stenella attenuata (Gray, 1846)**Synonyms:** -

Common names: **En-** Pantropical spotted dolphin; **Fr-** Dauphin tacheté de pantropical; **NL-** Slanke dolfijn

Body characteristics: Slender and streamlined. Long and thin beak, separated from melon by distinct crease. Dorsal fin narrow and falcate, usually pointed at the tip, located near the middle of the back.

Colour: White mottling (unspotted at birth) on dark dorsal cape, which is narrow on the head and sweeps low on the flank in front of the dorsal fin. Spotting ranges from non-existent to very heavy. Lower sides and belly are grey. Lips and beak tip brilliant white. Dark grey band encircles the eye and continues forward to the apex of the melon. Dark gape-to-flipper stripe.

Size: newborns 0.85m; adults 1.6-2.6m.

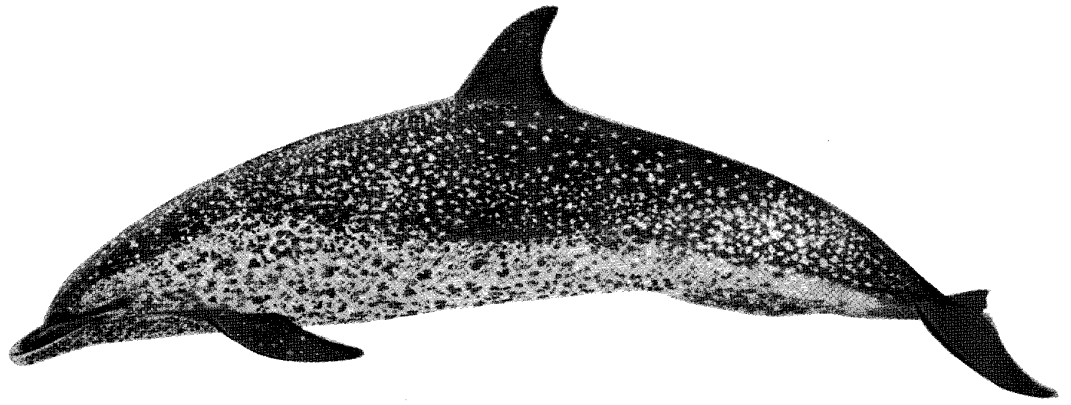
***Stenella frontalis*** (Cuvier, 1829)**Synonyms:** -

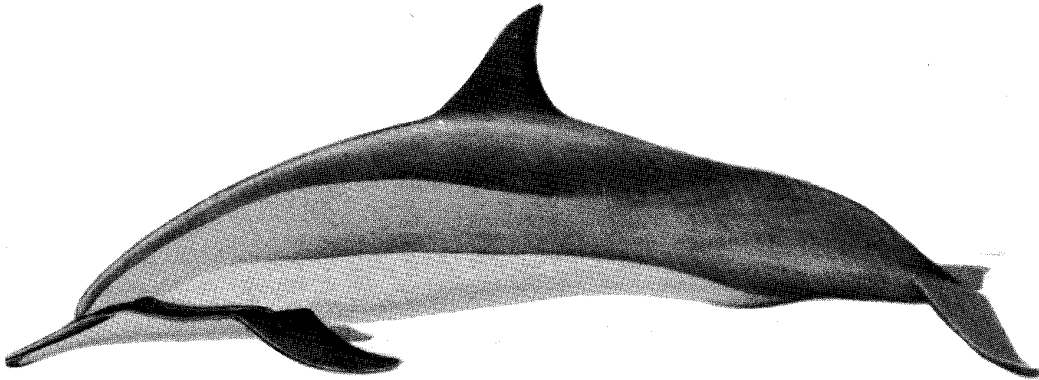
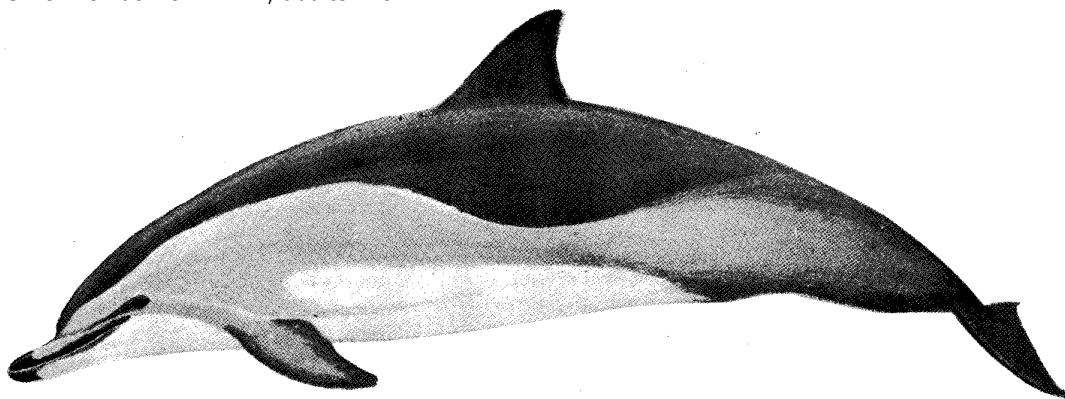
Common names: **En-** Atlantic spotted dolphin; **Fr-** Dauphin tacheté l'Atlantique; **NL-** Gevlekte dolfijn

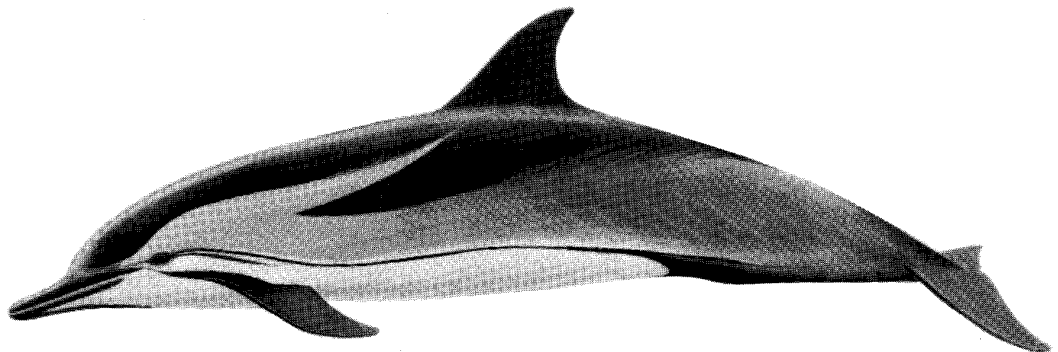
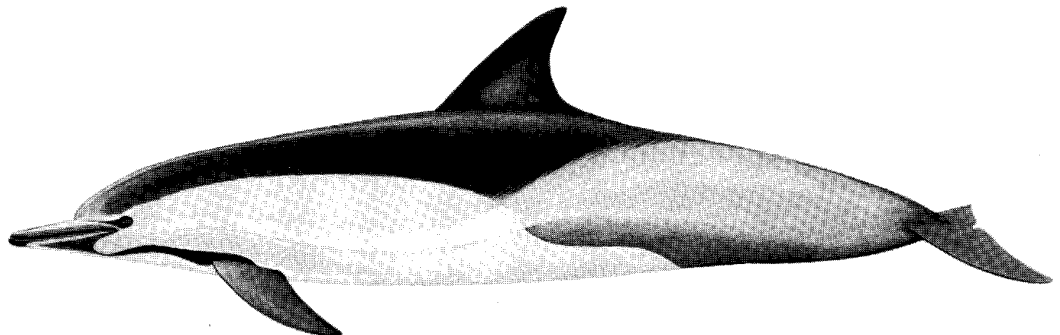
Body characteristics: Moderately robust. Moderately long, but rather chunky beak, distinct crease between melon and beak. Dorsal fin falcate, located near the middle of the back.

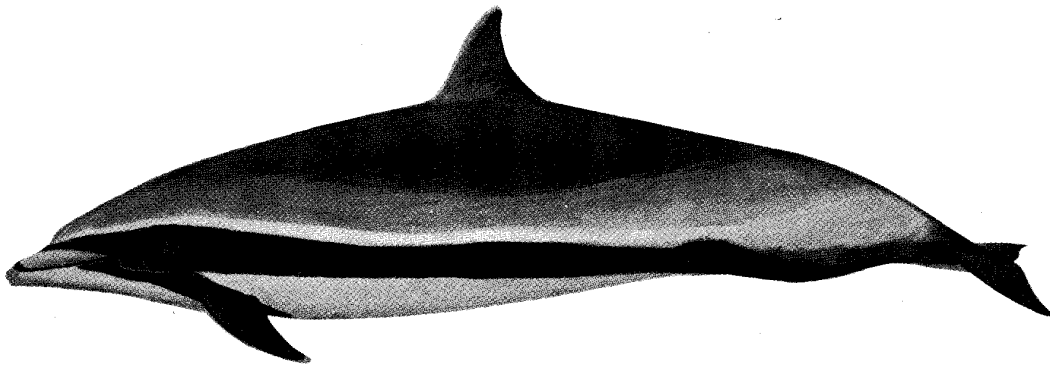
Colour: Spotting ranges from non-existent to extremely heavy. Dark grey above (cape), white belly. Light grey sides and spinal blaze. Large spotting on whole body progresses as the animal ages (unspotted at birth).

Size: newborns 0.8-1.2m; adults 2.3m.



Stenella longirostris (Gray, 1828)**Synonyms:** -**Common names:** **En-** Spinner dolphin; **Fr-** Dauphin longirostre; **NL-** Langsnuitdolfijn**Body characteristics:** Slender. Head very slender at the apex of the melon. Exceedingly long and thin beak. Dorsal fin ranges from slightly falcate to canted forward, located near the middle of the back. Tail stock possibly very deepened, with an enlarged post-anal keel of connective tissue.**Colour:** Three part colour pattern (dark grey cape, light grey sides, white belly). Dark eye-to-flipper stripe. Dark lips and beak tips.**Size:** newborns 0.75-0.8m; adults 2-2.4m.***Stenella clymene*** (Gray, 1850)**Synonyms:** -**Common names:** **En-** Clymene dolphin; **Fr-** Dauphin de Clyméné; **NL-** Clymene dolfijn**Body characteristics:** Robust. Stocky beak. Dorsal fin quite falcate, located near the middle of the back.**Colour:** Three-part colour pattern (dark grey cape, light grey sides, white belly). Cape dips in two places, above the eye and below the dorsal fin. Beak mostly light grey, but lips and beak tip are black. Dark stripe on the top of the beak, from the tip to the apex of the melon. Often a dark 'moustache' on the middle of the top of the beak. Eye surrounded by black. Dark grey eye-to-flipper stripe.**Size:** newborns <1.2m; adults 2.0m.

Stenella coeruleoalba (Meyen, 1833)**Synonyms:** -**Common names:** **En-** Striped dolphin; **Fr-** Dauphin bleu et blanc; **NL-** Gestreepte dolfijn**Body characteristics:** Robust. Moderately long beak. Dorsal fin falcate, located near the middle of the back.**Colour:** Stunning colour pattern. White or pinky belly and dark grey back separated by a light grey flank. Variable light grey spinal blaze extends from the flank area to just under the dorsal fin. From black beak extends a black stripe surrounding the eye and then widens and runs back to the anus. Black eye-to-flipper stripe. Accessory black stripe between both other stripes. Appendages dark grey to black.**Size:** newborns 1m; adults 2.6m.***Delphinus delphis*** (Linnaeus, 1758)**Synonyms:** -**Common names:** **En-** Common dolphin; **Fr-** Dauphin commun; **NL-** Gewone dolfijn**Body characteristics:** Moderately slender (some more stocky). Medium to long beak. Dorsal fin erect to slightly falcate, located near the middle of the back.**Colour:** Strikingly marked. Dark brownish grey back, white belly, and tan to ochre anterior flanks. Flank patch dips below dorsal fin and combines with streaks of light grey on the tail stock (hourglass pattern on the side). Dark lips. Dark stripe running from the apex of the melon to encircle the eye. Black to dark grey chin-to-flipper stripe and sometimes thinner stripe running towards the anus.**Size:** newborns 0.8-0.85m; adults 2.3-2.6m.

Lagenodelphis hosei (Fraser, 1956)**Synonyms:** -**Common names:** **En-** Fraser's dolphin; **Fr-** Dauphin de Fraser; **NL-** Dolfijn van Fraser**Body characteristics:** Stocky body. Extremely short (stubby), but well-defined beak. Small dorsal fin triangular or slightly falcate, located near the middle of the back. Small flippers and small flukes.**Colour:** Striking colour pattern. Dark band of various thickness from face to anus (scarcely apparent on young). Dark flipper stripe from midlength along the lower jaw (sometimes very wide it creating a dark face mask). Dark brownish grey back, lower sides are cream coloured. Belly white or pink.**Size:** newborns <1m; adults 2.7m.

Family Phocoenidae

Phocoena phocoena (Linnaeus, 1758)

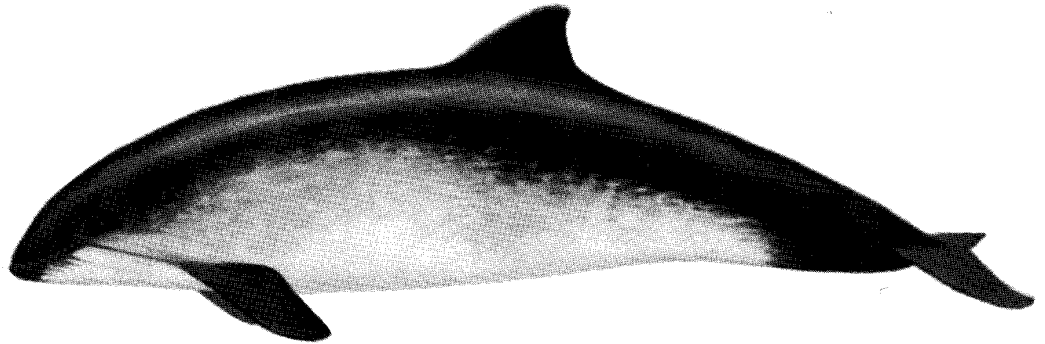
Synonyms: -

Common names: **En-** Harbour porpoise; **Fr-** Marsouin commun; **NL-** Bruinvis

Body characteristics: Chunky. Head blunt and short-beaked. Straight mouthline slopes upward towards the eye. Short dorsal fin, triangular and wide-based, located near the middle of the back, and with small bumps on the leading edge. Small flippers somewhat rounded at the tips. Flukes have concave trailing edge, divided by a prominent median notch, tips are rounded.

Colour: Countershading. Dark gray on the back and white on the belly. Sides are intermediate with the border area often splotched with shades of grey. Flippers and lips are dark. Thin dark grey gape-to-flipper stripe.

Size: newborns 0.7-0.9m; adults 1.8-2m.



References

- Bianchi, G. (1984) Fiches FAO d'identification des espèces pour les besoins de la pêche. Guide des ressources halieutiques de l'Atlantique marocain (espèces marine et d'eaux saumâtres). *Préparé et publié avec le support du Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement (PNUD) (Projet MOR/81/002)*. Rome, FAO. 151 pp.
- Carwardine, M. (1995) Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises. *Dorling Kindersley Handbooks, London*. 256pp.
- Compagno, L.J.V. (1984a) FAO species catalogue. Vol. 4. Sharks of the world. An annotated and illustrated catalogue of shark species known to date. Part 1. Hexachiformes to Lamniformes. *FAO Fisheries synopsis No. 125, Vol. 4(1)*. 249 pp.
- Compagno, L.J.V. (1984b) FAO species catalogue. Vol. 4. Sharks of the world. An annotated and illustrated catalogue of shark species known to date. Part 2. Carcharhiniformes. *FAO Fisheries synopsis No. 125, Vol. 4(2)*. p. 251-655.
- Fischer, W., G. Bianchi & W.B. Scott (eds.) (1981) Fiches FAO d'identification des espèces pour les besoins de la pêche. Atlantique centre-est; zone de pêche 34, 47 (en partie). *Canada Fonds de Depot. Ottawa, Ministère de Pêcheries et Océans Canada, en accord avec 'Organisation des Nations-Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture*. Volume 5 : Requins, Poissons batoides, Homards et langoustes.
- Jefferson, T.A., S. Leatherwood & M.A. Webber (1993) FAO species identification guide. Marine mammals of the world. *Rome, FAO*. 320 pp.

Appendix

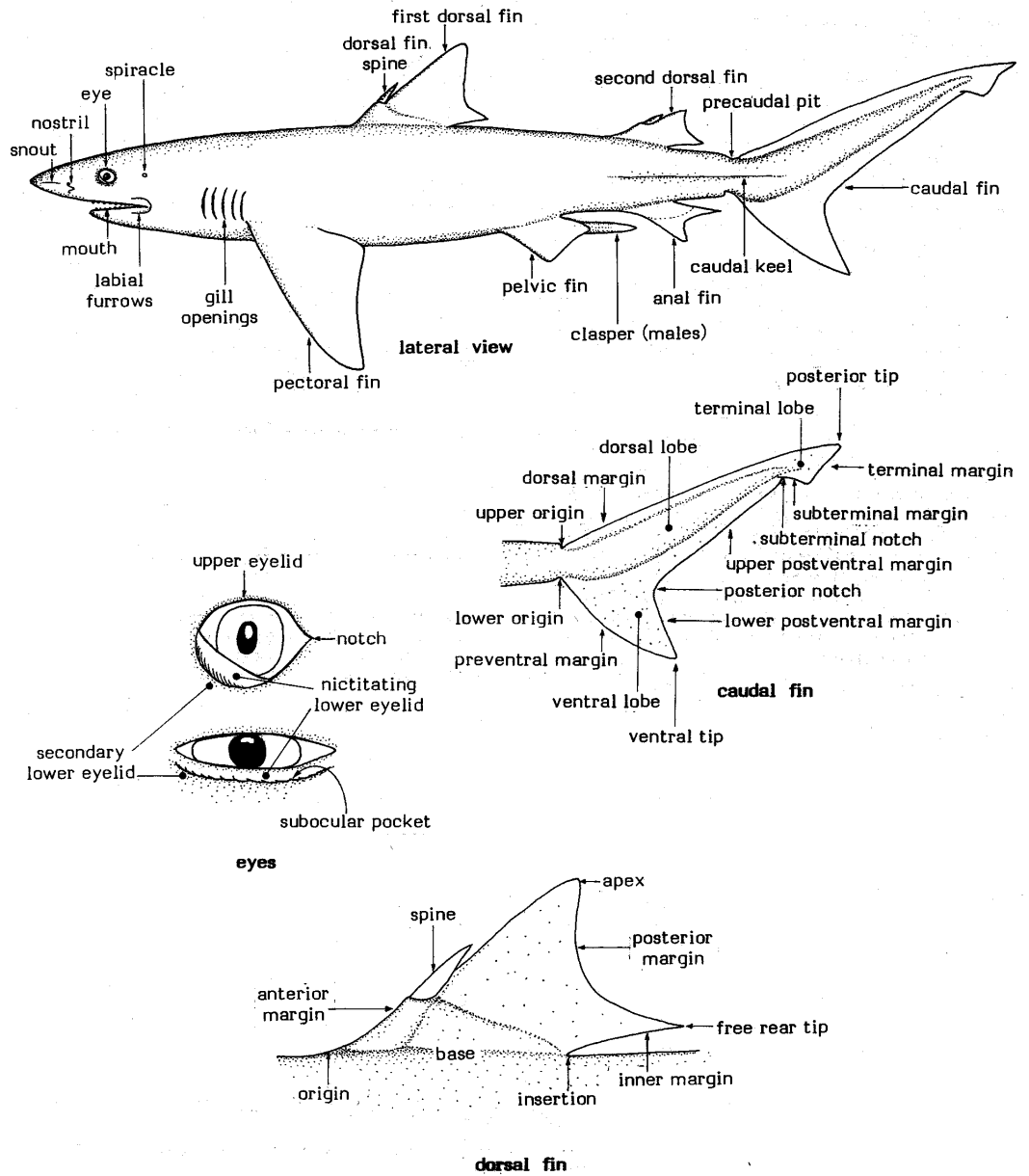


Figure 1a: Picture guide (part 1) to the terminology of sharks (from: Compagno, 1984a).

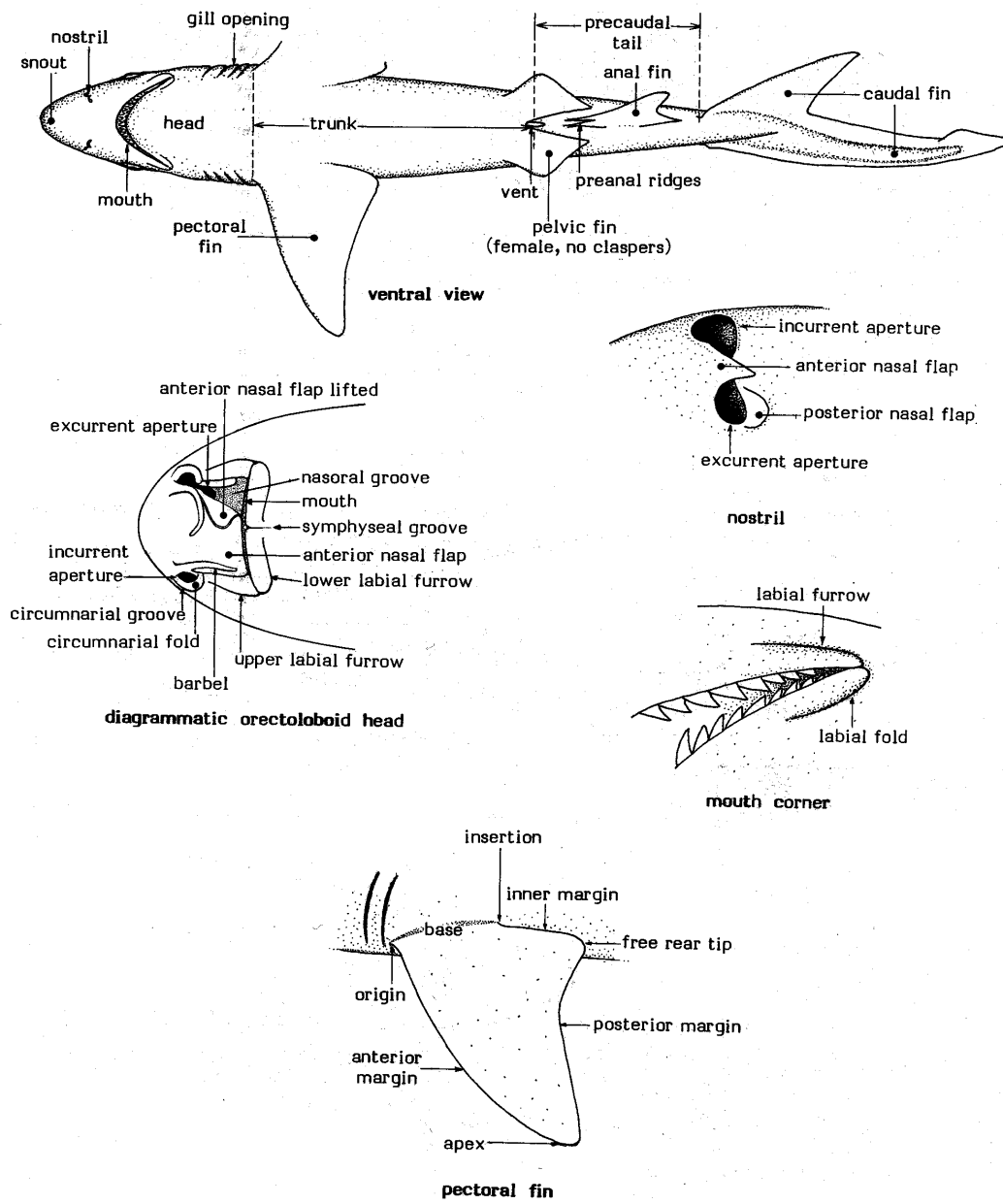


Figure 1b: Picture guide (part 2) to the terminology of sharks (from: Compagno, 1984a).

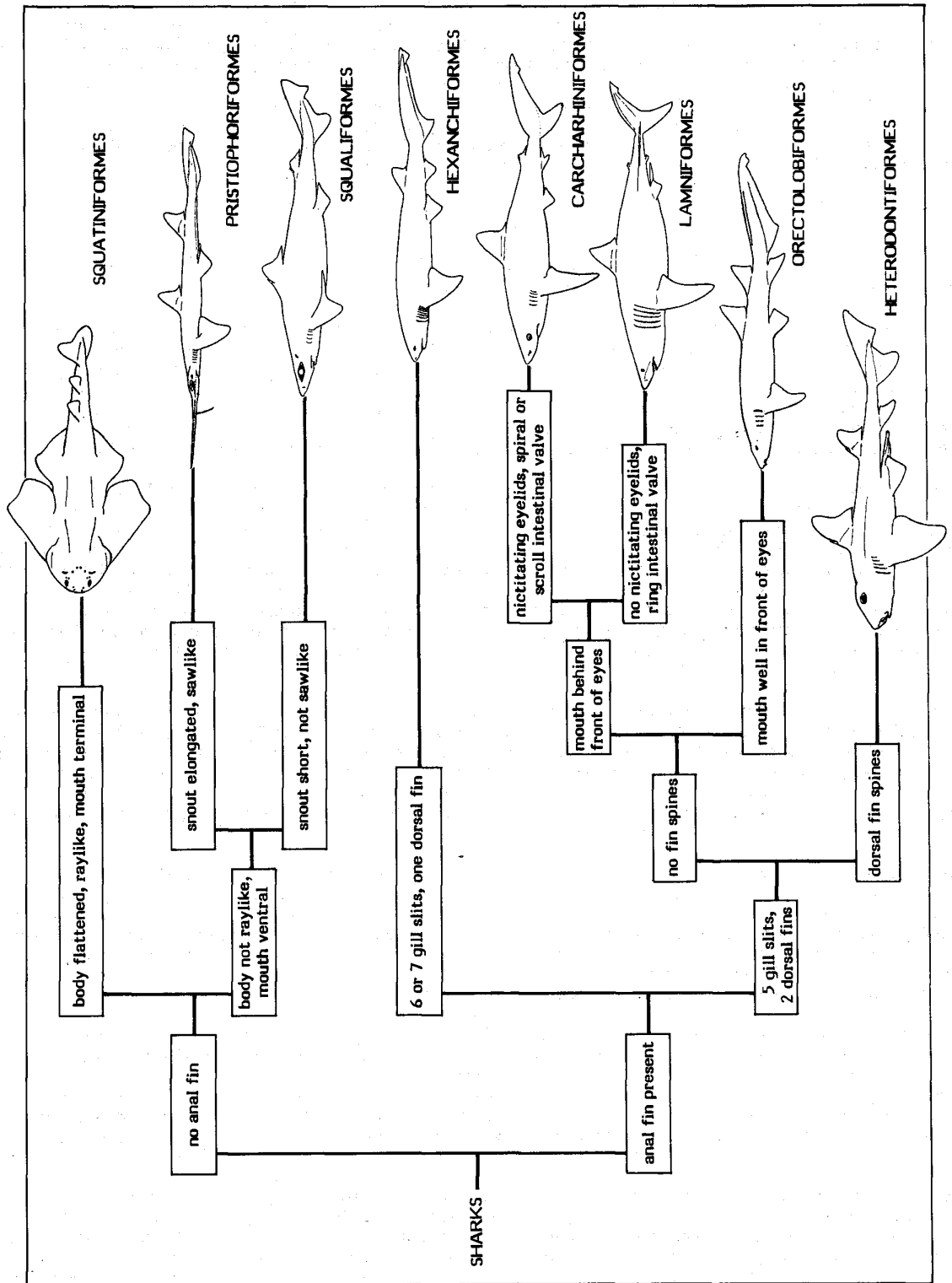


Figure 2: Higher classification of sharks (orders) (from: Compagno, 1984a).