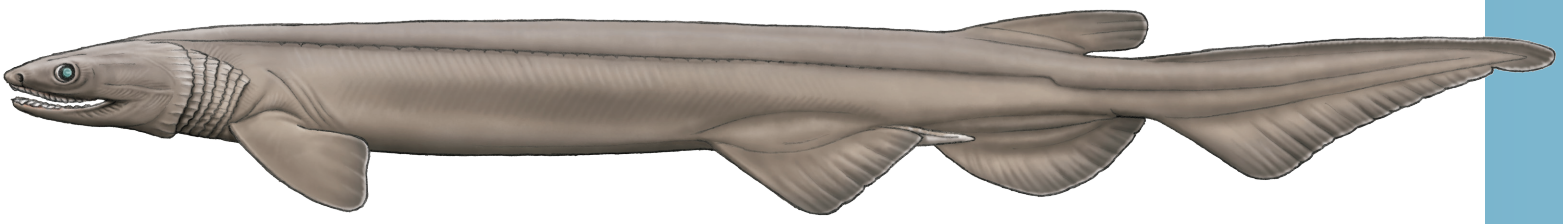
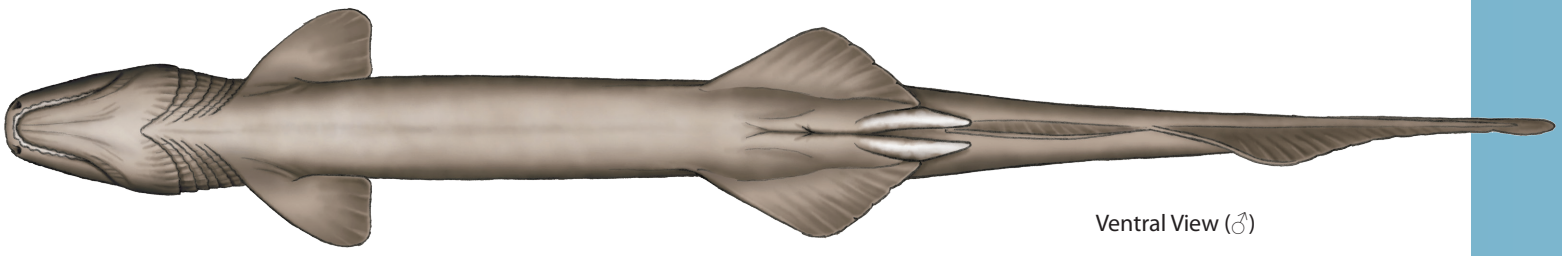
Frilled Shark

Chlamydoselachus anguineus

Lateral View (♂)





Ventral View (♂)

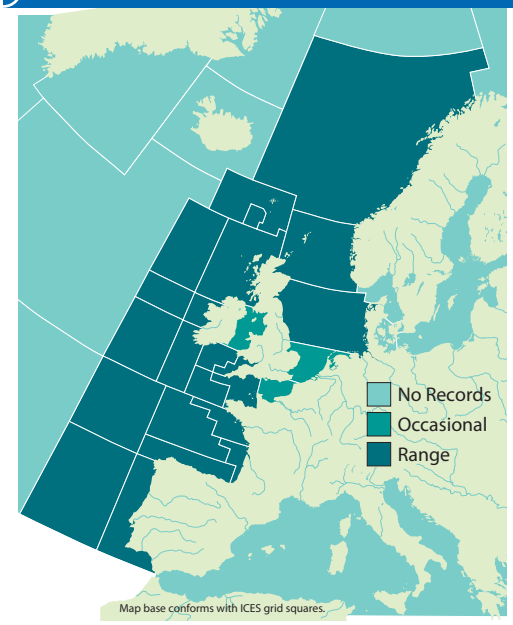
COMMON NAMES

Frilled Shark, Frill-Gilled Shark, Lizard Shark, Scaffold Shark, Silk Shark, Requin Lézard (Fr), Tiburón Anguila (Es).

SYNONYMS

Chlamydoselache anguinea (Garman, 1884), *Chlamydoselachus anguineum* (Garman, 1884), *Didymodus anguineus* (Garman, 1884).

DISTRIBUTION



The Frilled Shark is widespread but with a patchy distribution. In the east Atlantic it is found from northern Norway to northern Namibia and possibly South Africa. It is also known in the western Indian Ocean, the western Pacific and the eastern Pacific (Compagno *et al.*, 2005).

APPEARANCE

- Distinctive eel-like body shape.
- Flattened head.
- Large mouth with distinctive three-cusped teeth.
- Six large gill slits (first pair join across throat) with frilled edges.
- Extremely large anal fin, larger than single dorsal fin.
- Deep brown in colour.
- Maximum total length of 197cm.

The Frilled Shark is an extremely distinctive, eel-like species. The main diagnostic features are the frilled edges of the six gills (the first pair of which join beneath the throat), three-cusped teeth and slender appearance with a flat, snake-like head. Like other Hexanchiformes, only a single, rear set dorsal fin is present. The anal fin is larger than this single dorsal fin, a combination unique to the frilled sharks (*Chlamydoselachus anguineus* & *C. africana*). It is worth noting that the majority of elasmobranchs have only five gill slits, while the Hexanchiformes have six or seven. Colouration is dark brown with no obvious patterning (Compagno, 1984).

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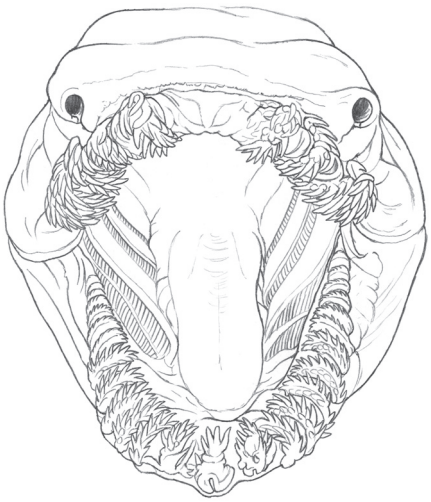
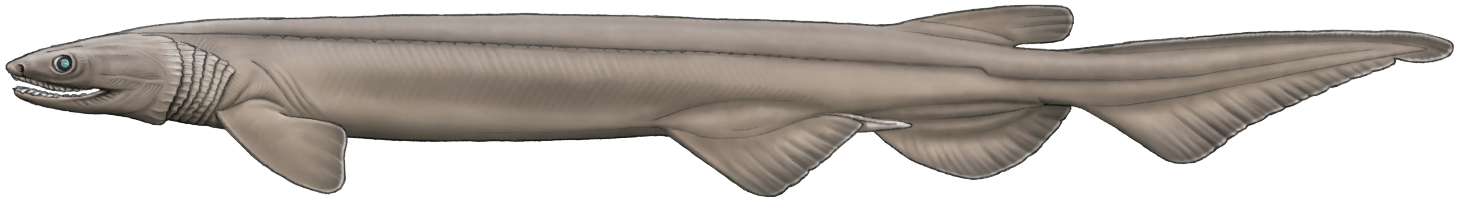
SIMILAR SPECIES

Heptranchias perlo, Sharpnose Sevengill Shark

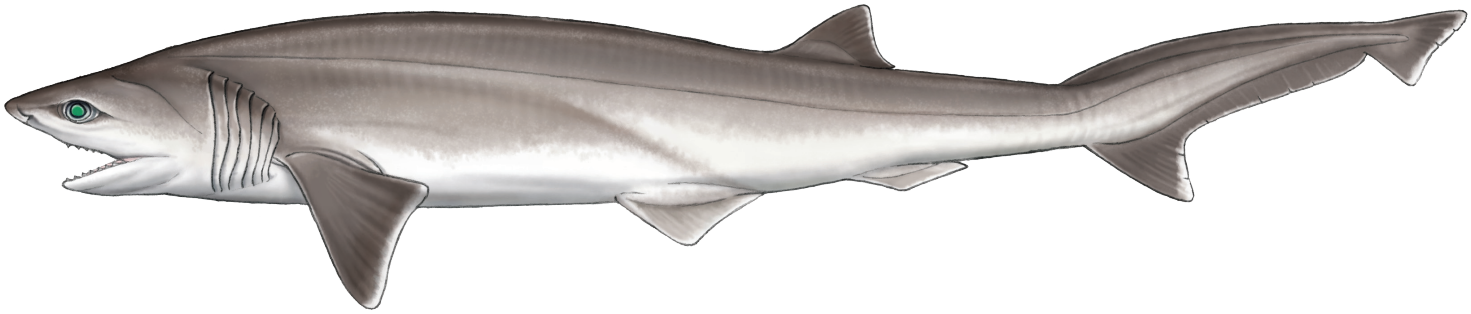
Hexanchus nakamurai, Bigeye Sixgill Shark



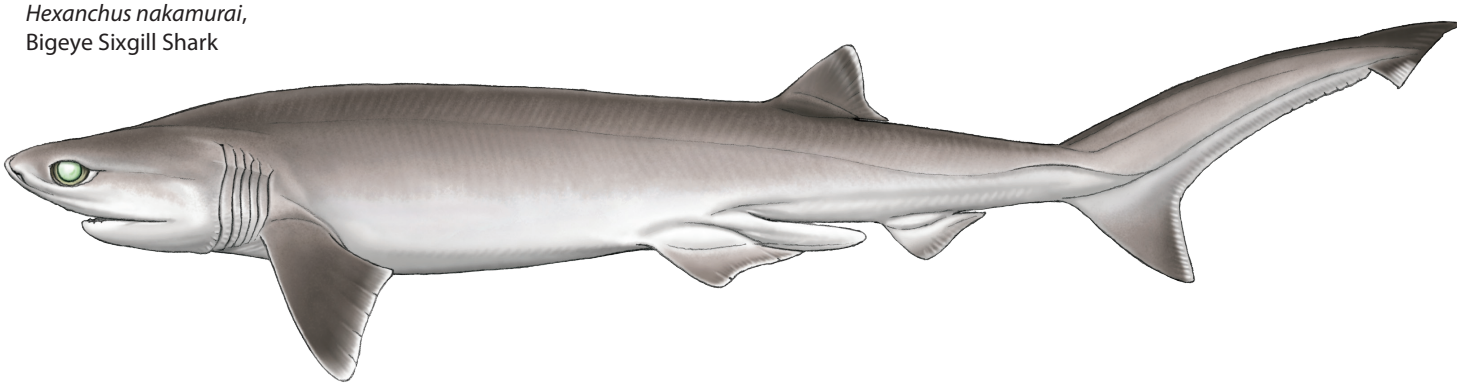
Chlamydoselachus anguineus,
Frilled Shark



Heptranchias perlo,
Sharpnose Sevengill Shark



Hexanchus nakamurai,
Bigeye Sixgill Shark



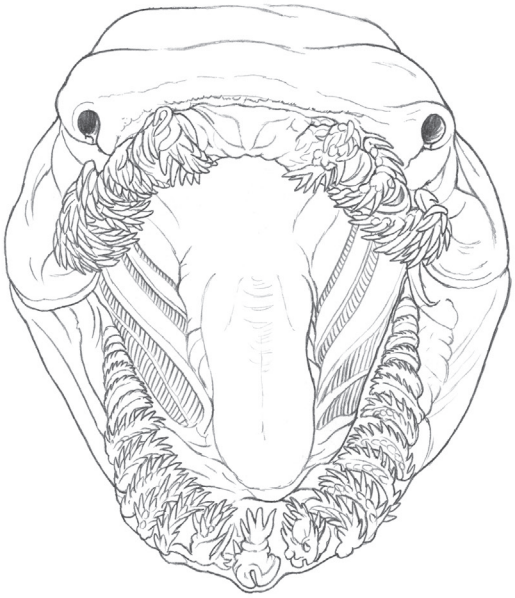
(Not to scale)

Frilled Shark

Chlamydoselachus anguineus

TEETH

The teeth are distinctly tricuspid in both jaws. There is a pair of intermediate cusplets on each (Compagno, 1984).



ECOLOGY AND BIOLOGY

HABITAT

The Frilled Shark is demersal or benthopelagic between 100 and 1,500 metres, most usually found between 500 and 1,000 metres. It is occasionally found pelagically (Paul and Fowler, 2003).

EGGCASE

N/A

DIET

The Frilled Shark is known to feed on deepwater squid and a variety of fish, including other sharks (Paul and Fowler, 2003).

REPRODUCTION

It is thought that male Frilled Sharks mature around 97-117cm in length. Females mature around 135-150cm in length. An ovoviviparous species, there can be 6–12 pups in a litter which measure between 40 and 60cm in length at birth (Paul and Fowler, 2003). The gestation period is likely to be very long (1–2 years) but the life cycle is basically unknown (Compagno, 1984).

Frilled Shark

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

The Frilled Shark is taken occasionally as bycatch in deepwater trawl, longline and gillnet fisheries and either used for meat, fishmeal or discarded (Paul and Fowler, 2003).

IUCN RED LIST ASSESSMENT

Near Threatened (2003).

THREATS, CONSERVATION, LEGISLATION

Expanding deepwater fisheries across the range of the Frilled Shark are likely to have a negative impact on populations. Although little is known of its life history parameters, it is likely to mature late and have a long gestation period in common with other deepwater sharks. These factors make it extremely vulnerable to any increased pressure. There are currently no conservation measures in place for the Frilled Shark (Paul and Fowler, 2003).

HANDLING AND THORN ARRANGEMENT

- Handle with care.
- Many needle-sharp teeth.
- Abrasive skin.

REFERENCES

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