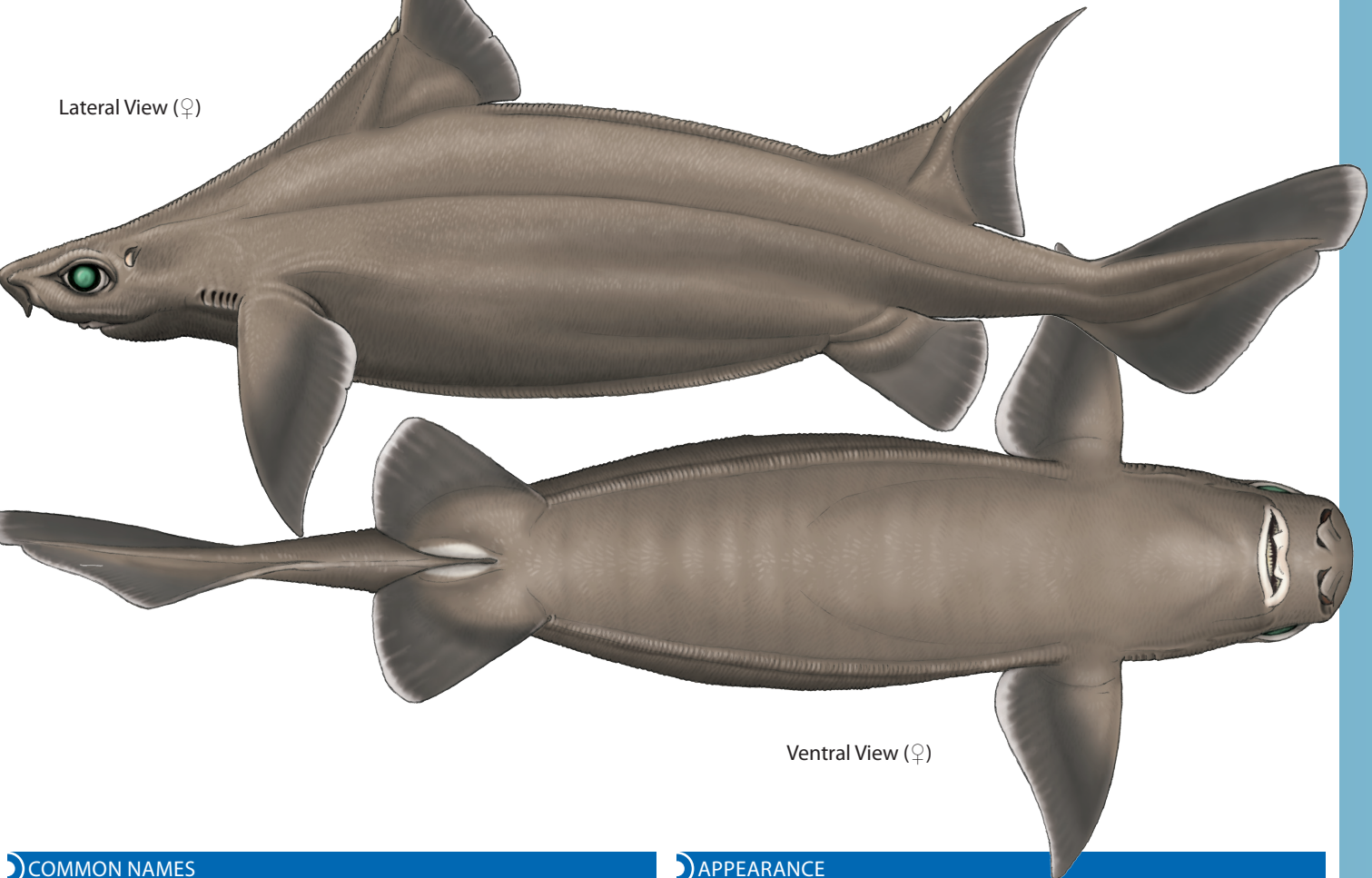


Lateral View (♀)

Ventral View (♀)



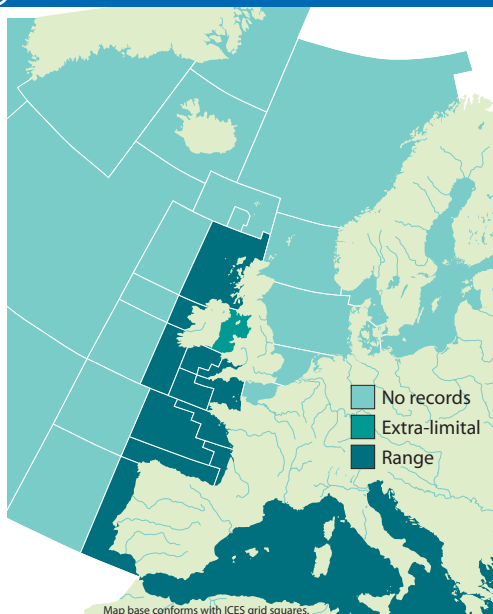
COMMON NAMES

Sailfin Rough Shark, Kite-Fin Shark, Humantin (Fr), Cerdo Marino Velero (Es).

SYNONYMS

Centrina paradoxa (Frade, 1929).

DISTRIBUTION



The Sailfin Rough Shark is known only from the northeast Atlantic from Scotland in the north, Senegal and the Cape Verde Islands in the south and the Azores in the east (Avezado et al., 2003). It has been noted that it is moderately abundant off the British Isles (Compagno, 1984).

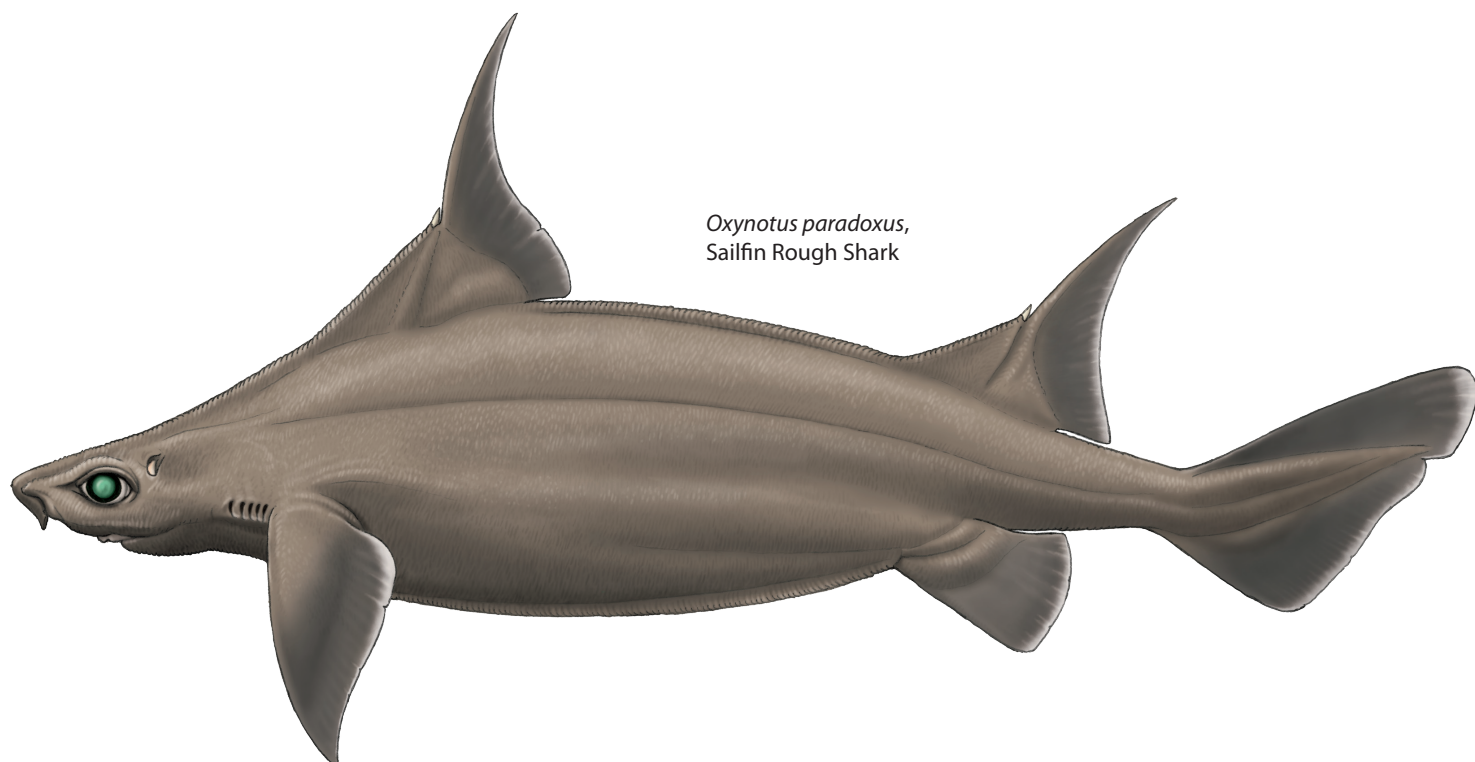
APPEARANCE

- Compressed body, triangular in cross section.
- Broad, flattened head with flat, blunt snout.
- Dorsal fins tall, narrow and pointed with concave trailing edges.
- First dorsal spine leans back, unique in the northeast Atlantic.
- No anal fin.
- Spiracles relatively small and almost circular.
- Colouration is dark brown in fresh specimens.
- No prominent markings.

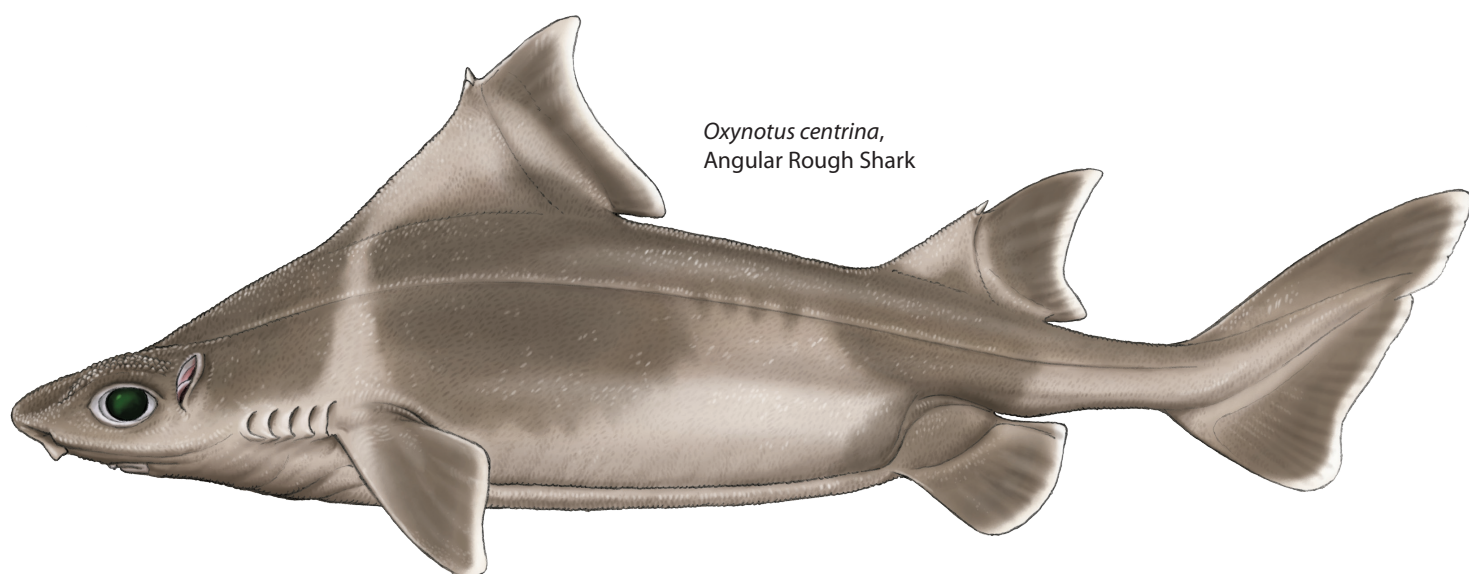
One of only two species of Oxynotidae found in the northeast Atlantic, the Sailfin Rough Shark is unlikely to be confused with any species other than the Angular Rough Shark, *Oxynotus centrina*. The most useful features in distinguishing these species are the spiracles, dorsal fins and dermal denticles. The spiracles of the Angular Rough Shark are very large and vertically expanded while the spiracles of the Sailfin Rough Shark are relatively small and almost circular. The first dorsal fin spine of the Sailfin Rough Shark leans backwards while it leans forwards in the Angular Rough Shark. This is only seen in the Sailfin Rough Shark and the Japanese Rough Shark, *Oxynotus japonicus*, the latter being endemic to Japan and unlikely to be encountered in the northeast Atlantic (Avezado et al., 2003). For details and SEM images of the differing dermal denticles see Avezado et al (2003).

SIMILAR SPECIES

Oxynotus centrina, Angular Rough Shark



Oxynotus paradoxus,
Sailfin Rough Shark



Oxynotus centrina,
Angular Rough Shark

(Not to scale)

TEETH

The upper teeth are lanceolate, the lower teeth are blade-like and arranged in less than 12 rows (Compagno, 1984).

ECOLOGY AND BIOLOGY

HABITAT

The Sailfin Rough Shark is an uncommon demersal shark from Atlantic continental slopes that has recently been identified on the mid-Atlantic ridge around the Azores. This is a significant westward expansion of its known range and it is possible that the slope and ridge populations are separate. Alternatively, their habitat could extend deeper than presently thought and a continuous population may be present along the Atlantic sea floor (Avezedo *et al.*, 2003).

It is most commonly captured between 500–600m, though it has been recorded from 265–800m with one isolated report from 92m (Avezedo *et al.*, 2003). It is believed that the Oxynotidae are relatively poor swimmers and use their large, oil filled livers to remain buoyant (Norman, 2007).

Of the specimens reported before 2003, a bias has been observed towards females. The majority of these animals were captured on the Atlantic Slope around the British Isles leading researchers to speculate that a reproductive migration towards the continental shelf occurs in springtime (Avezedo *et al.*, 2003).

EGGCASE

N/A

DIET

The diet of the Sailfin Rough Shark is essentially unknown but unidentified small benthic fishes and invertebrates have been reported (Carpenter, 2009).

REPRODUCTION

The reproductive strategy and life history of the Sailfin Rough Shark are essentially unknown except that it is an ovoviviparous species, which gives birth to pups measuring approximately 25cm in length. The smallest mature male so far reported was 75cm in length (Compagno *et al.*, 2005).

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

The Sailfin Rough Shark is of little commercial value. It is an uncommon bycatch of offshore trawl fisheries and is sometimes used for fishmeal if landed (Compagno, 1984).

IUCN RED LIST ASSESSMENT

Data Deficient (2008).

THREATS, CONSERVATION, LEGISLATION

Very little is known of the pressures on the Sailfin Rough Shark and its ability to withstand them. Its known depth range is entirely within the range of deepwater fisheries operating in the northeast Atlantic, although it is possible that the south of its range and the Mid-Atlantic Ridge act as refuge areas from the more intense fishing of the European continental slopes.

Given the supposed low abundance of the species and the lack of information regarding its life history, it is possible that fisheries are having a significant impact on populations. More information is needed regarding the distribution, population structure and life history of the species before any future management plans are to be effective (Gibson *et al.*, 2006).

HANDLING AND THORN ARRANGEMENT

- Handle with care.
- Large dorsal spines.
- Abrasive skin.
- Sharp teeth.

REFERENCES

- AVEZEDO, J. M. N., SOUSA, F. L., BRUM, J. M. M. 2003. Dermal Denticles and Morphometrics of the Sailfin Roughshark *Oxynotus paradoxus* (Elasmobranchii, Oxynotidae), with Comments on its Geographic Distribution. *Cybium*, 27 (2): 117–122.
- CARPENTER, K. E. 2009. *Oxynotus paradoxus*. Fishbase. www.fishbase.org.
- COMPAGNO, L. J. V. 1984. Sharks of the World: An Annotated and Illustrated Catalogue of Shark Species Known to Date. Volume 4, Part 1. Hexanchiformes to Lamniformes. FAO. Rome, Italy.
- COMPAGNO, L. J. V., FOWLER, S., DANDO, M. 2005. Sharks of the World. HarperCollins Publishers Ltd. London, UK.
- GIBSON, C., VALENTI, S. V., FOWLER, S. L., FORDHAM, S. V. 2006. The Conservation Status of Northeast Atlantic Chondrichthyans; Report of the IUCN Shark Specialist Group Northeast Atlantic Regional Red List Workshop. VIII + 76pp. IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group.
- NORMAN, M. 2007. Creature feature. Australian Government: Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. www.environment.gov.au.
- SOLDO, A., FREITAS, M. 2008. *Oxynotus paradoxus*. In: IUCN 2010. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2010.1. www.iucnredlist.org

Text: Richard Hurst.
Illustrations: Marc Dando.

Citation
Shark Trust; 2010. An Illustrated Compendium of Sharks, Skates, Rays and Chimaera. Chapter 1: The British Isles and Northeast Atlantic. Part 2: Sharks.

Any amendments or corrections, please contact:
The Shark Trust
4 Creykes Court, The Millfields
Plymouth, Devon PL1 3JB
Tel: 01752 672008/672020
Email: enquiries@sharktrust.org

For more ID materials visit www.sharktrust.org/ID.

Registered Company No. 3396164.
Registered Charity No. 1064185