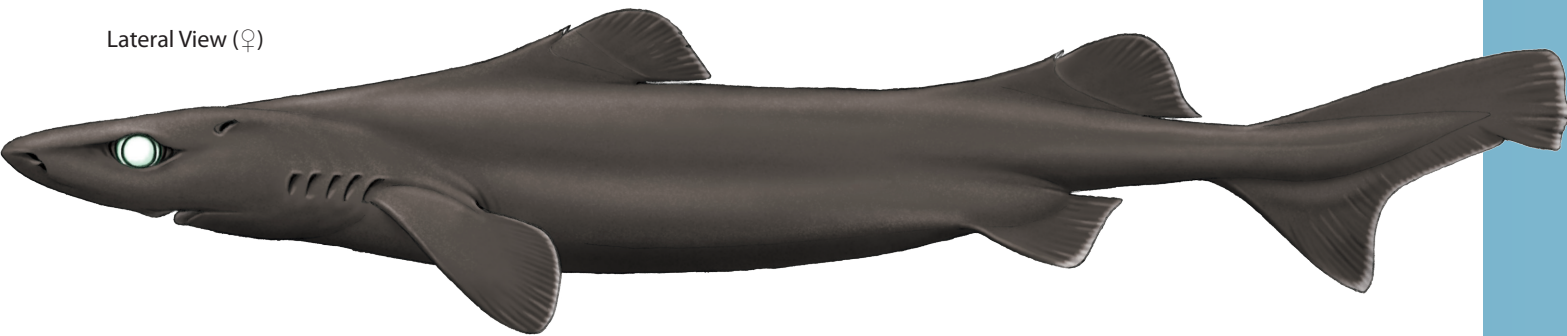
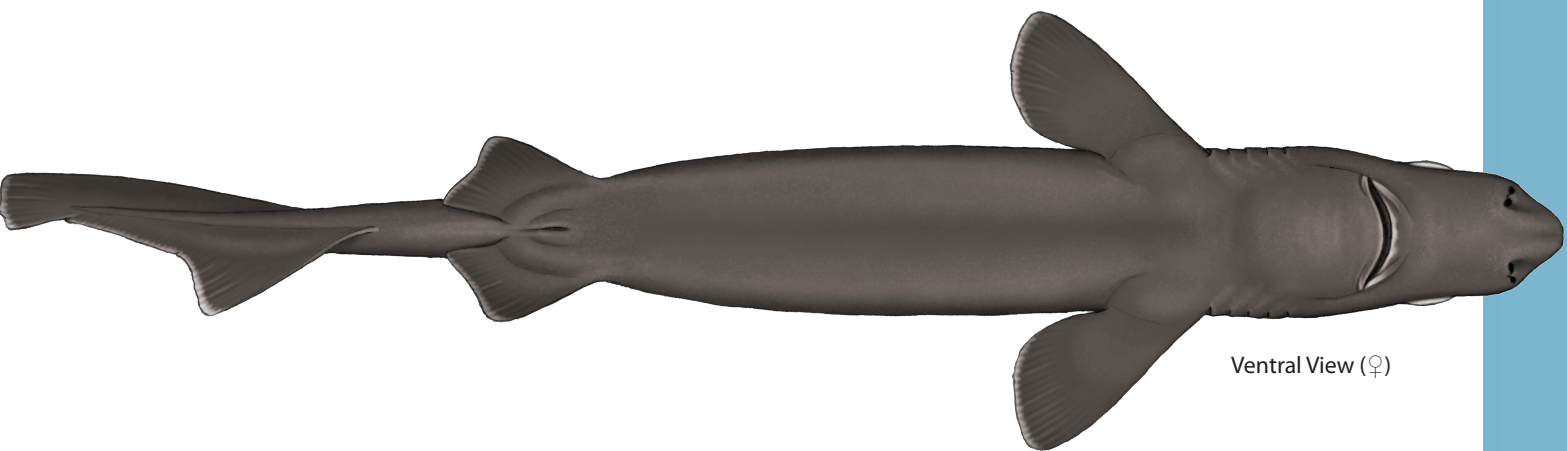


Lateral View (♀)



Ventral View (♀)



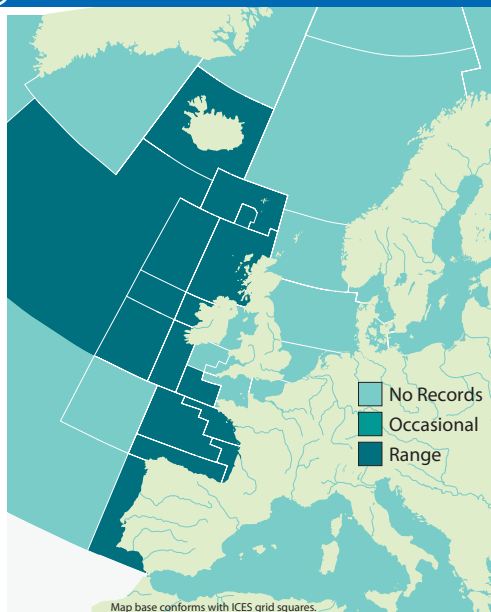
COMMON NAMES

Longnose Velvet Dogfish, Deepwater Dogfish, Golden Dogfish, Roughskin Dogfish, Pailona à Long Nez (Fr), Sapata Negra (Es).

SYNONYMS

Centroselachus crepidater (Bocage & Capello 1864), *Centrophorus crepidater* (Bocage and Capello, 1864), *Centrophorus rossi* (Alcock, 1898), *Centrophorus jonsonii* (Saemundsson, 1922), *Centroselachus furvescens* (De Buen, 1959).

DISTRIBUTION



In the east Atlantic, the Longnose Velvet Dogfish is known from Iceland and the Faroe Islands along the Atlantic slope to Portugal and Madeira. It is also known further south from Gabon to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Namibia. It is also found in the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean (Compagno, 1984).

APPEARANCE

- Very long snout. Labial furrows nearly encircle the mouth.
- Slender body.
- Extremely small spine on each dorsal fin.
- Dorsal fins roughly equal in size, squared with expanded bases.
- First dorsal fin base originates over the pectoral base.
- Second dorsal fin situated over the pelvic fins.
- No anal fin.
- Dorsal caudal lobe larger than ventral with subterminal lobe and notch.
- Black or brownish colouration.
- Maximum total length 90cm.

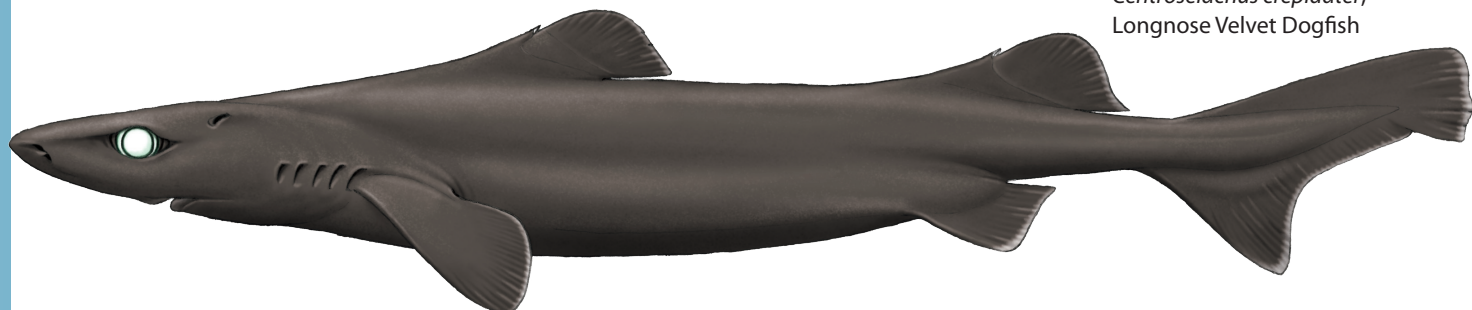
The Longnose Velvet Dogfish is a slender shark with a very long snout and small gill slits. The mouth is nearly encircled by elongated labial furrows. The bases of the dorsal fins are expanded forward in a ridge giving them a squared off appearance. The first originates over the bases of the pectoral fins. The second is situated above the pelvic fins. Both have tiny, inconspicuous spines. The dorsal lobe of the caudal fin is longer than the ventral lobe with a subterminal lobe and notch. There is no anal fin (Compagno, 1984). Adults are black or dark brown with no pattern. The maximum recorded total length is 135cm (Shestopal *et al.*, 2002).

SIMILAR SPECIES

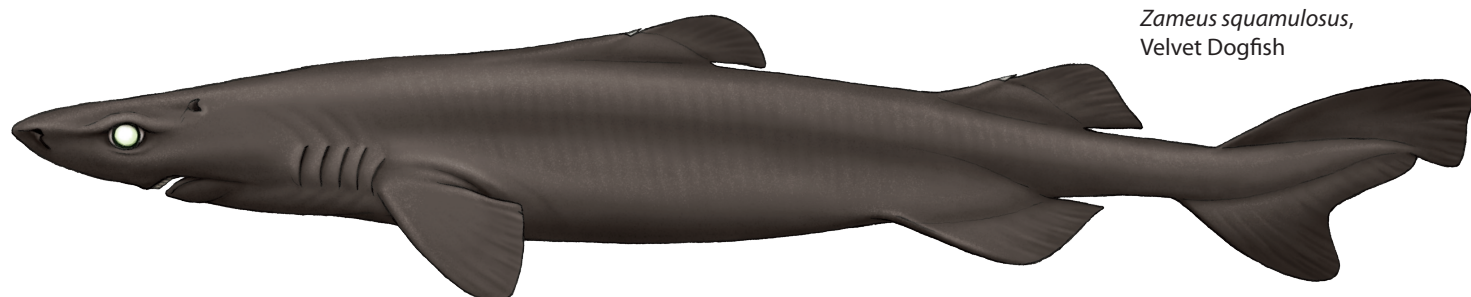
Zameus squamulosus, Velvet Dogfish

Scymnodon ringens, Knifetooth Dogfish

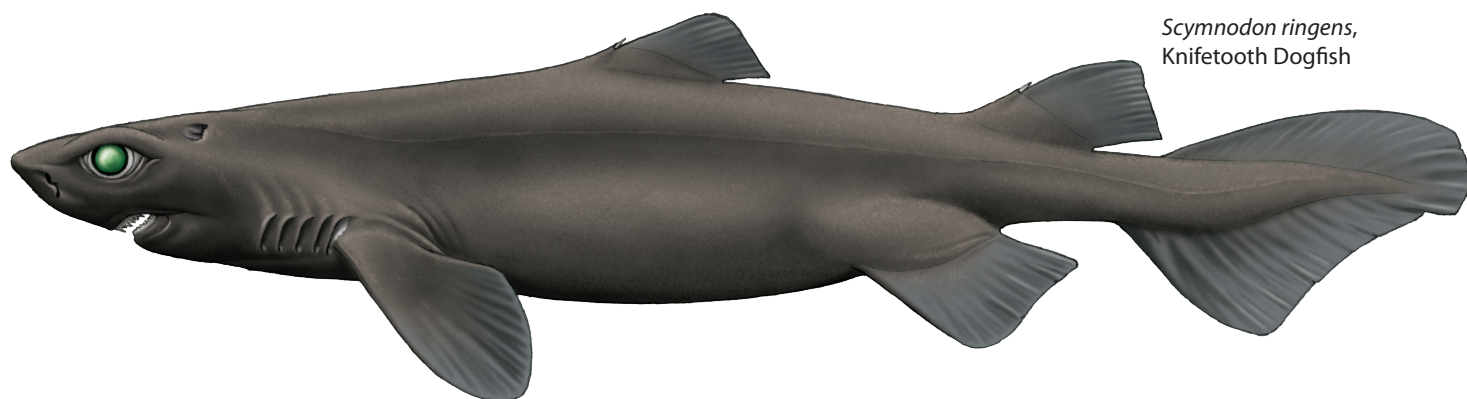
Dalatias licha, Kitefin Shark



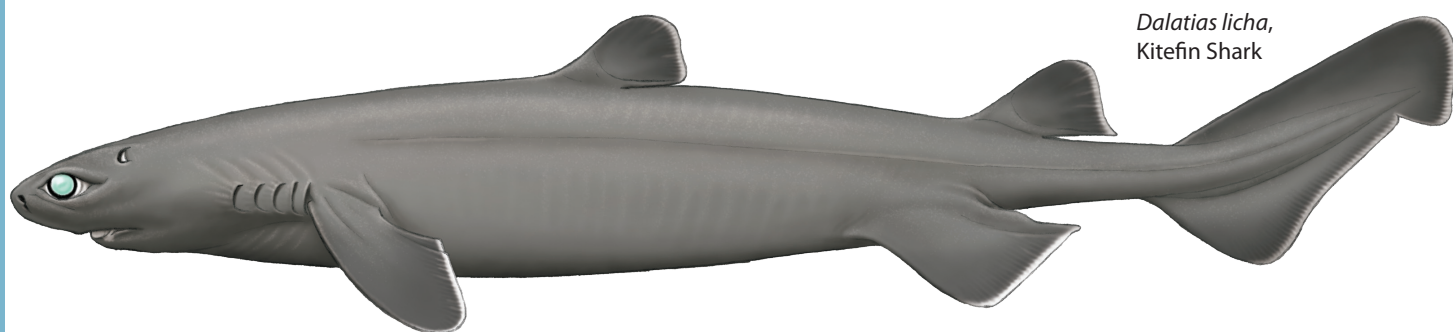
Centroselachus crepidater,
Longnose Velvet Dogfish



Zameus squamulosus,
Velvet Dogfish



Scymnodon ringens,
Knifetooth Dogfish

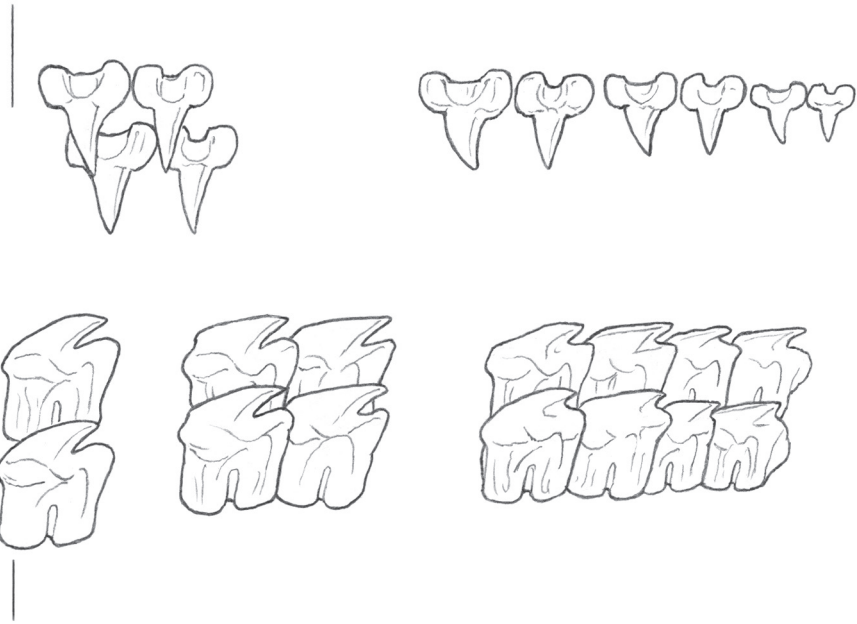


Dalatias licha,
Kitefin Shark

(Not to scale)

TEETH

The teeth differ between the jaws with the uppers lanceolate and blade-like and the lowers with oblique cusps (Compagno, 1984).



ECOLOGY AND BIOLOGY

HABITAT

A demersal species, the Longnose Velvet Dogfish is found on or near the bottom from 270–2,080m, although mostly deeper than 500m (Compagno *et al.*, 2005).

EGGCASE

N/A

DIET

The Longnose Velvet Dogfish feeds predominantly on bony fish and cephalopods. In Rockall Trough in the northeast Atlantic, the diet was dominated by squid and micronektonic fish including myctophids. This implies that it also feeds off the seabed on benthopelagic species (Stevens, 2003).

REPRODUCTION

Very little is known of the reproductive cycle of the Longnose Velvet Dogfish. Males mature at around 15 years of age and a total length of 64cm. Females mature at around 22 years of age and a total length of 82cm. Females breed throughout the year and give birth to litters of 3-9 pups. The gestation period and size at birth are unknown (Stevens, 2003).

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

The Longnose Velvet Dogfish is mainly a bycatch species in trawl and longline fisheries but with some targeting for its flesh and liver oil. As populations of commercially important deepwater species decline it may become more important (Stevens, 2003).

THREATS, CONSERVATION, LEGISLATION

The Longnose Velvet Dogfish is mainly a bycatch species in trawl and longline fisheries, although there is some limited targeting for its flesh and oil. Population data for the northeast Atlantic is scarce but the species appears to be relatively abundant. However, late maturity and long gestation periods resulting in few young make most deep sea elasmobranchs vulnerable to intensive fishing pressure and the Longnose Velvet Dogfish is no exception. Catches need to be carefully monitored and management plans implemented if necessary (Stevens, 2003).

IUCN RED LIST ASSESSMENT

Least Concern (2003).

HANDLING AND THORN ARRANGEMENT

- Handle with care.
- Dorsal spines.
- Abrasive skin and sharp teeth.

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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.

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