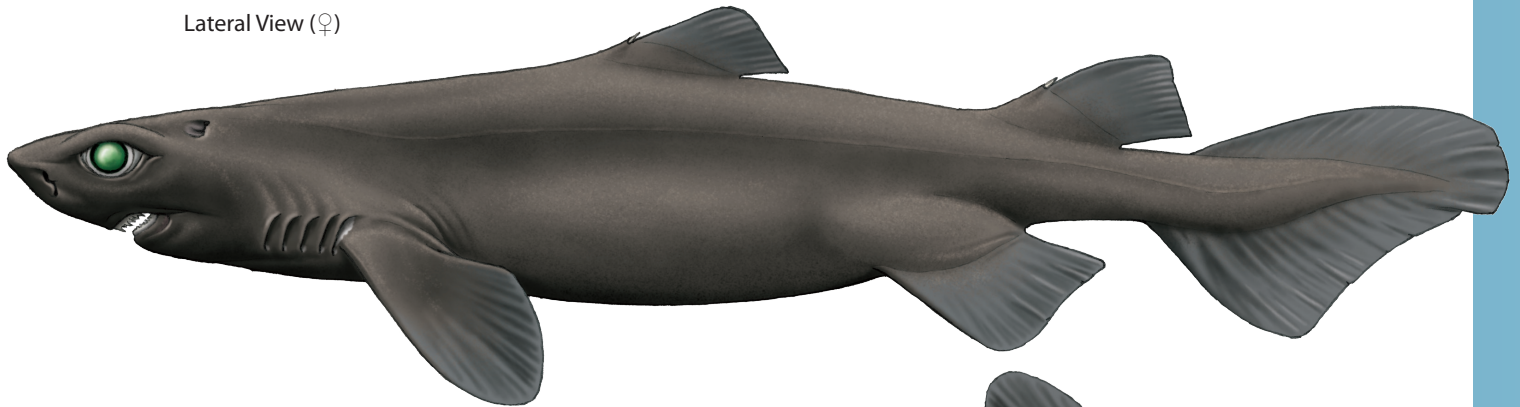
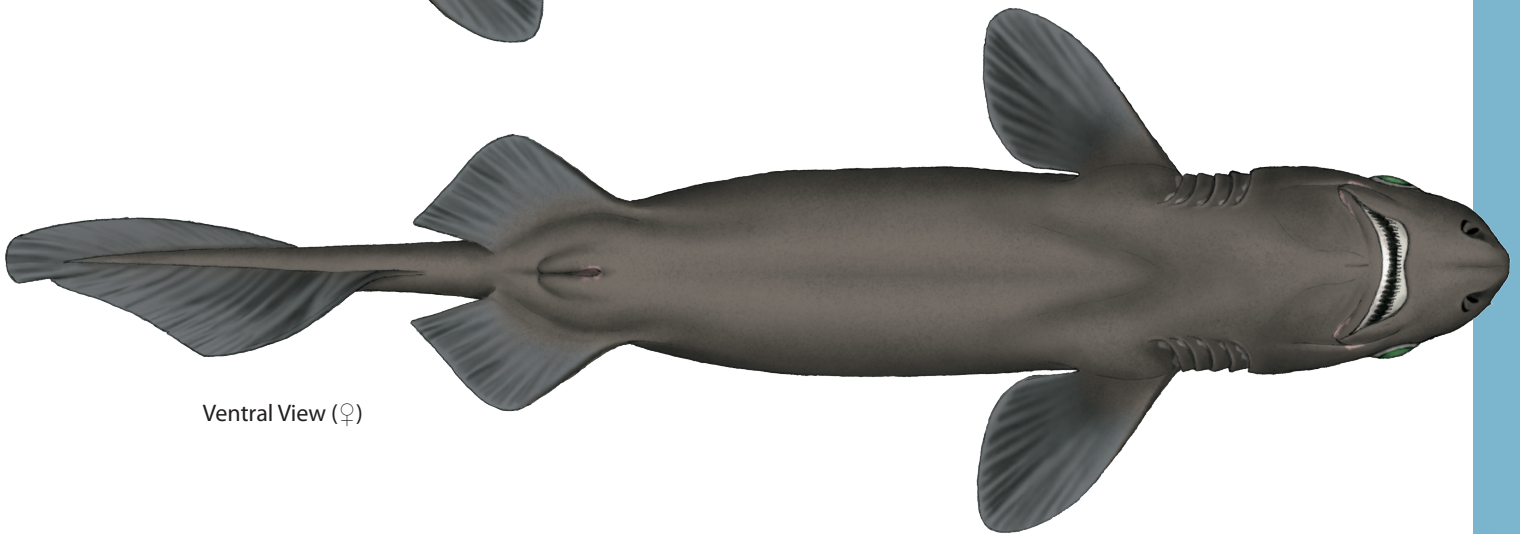


Lateral View (♀)



Ventral View (♀)



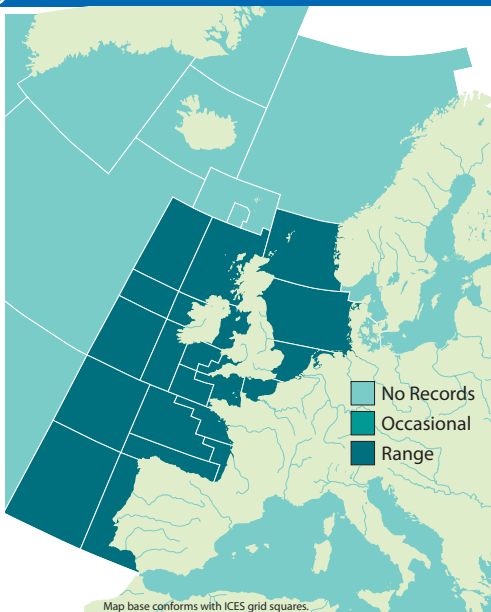
COMMON NAMES

Knifetooth Dogfish, Squale-Grogneur Commun (Fr), Bruja (Es).

SYNONYMS

Centrophorus ringens (Günther, 1870).

DISTRIBUTION



The Knifetooth Dogfish is known only from the east Atlantic from Scotland to Spain, Portugal and Senegal (Compagno, 1984).

APPEARANCE

- Thick, high head with broad, short snout.
- Pectoral fins narrow.
- Caudal fin has no ventral lobe and a weak sub-terminal notch.
- First dorsal fin set well behind pectoral fins.
- Second dorsal fin smaller than first.
- Small dorsal spines.
- No anal fin.
- Very wide, broadly arched mouth.
- Small lanceolate teeth without cusplets in upper jaw.
- Huge, knife-cusped teeth in lower jaw.
- Uniform black colour.
- Maximum length 110cm.

The Knifetooth Dogfish is a stout deepwater shark with a short snout and thick head. Its mouth is very wide and broadly arched containing distinctive teeth. In the upper jaw they are small and lanceolate without cusplets. In the lower jaw however they are huge and knife-like, suggesting an ability to attack and dismember large prey.

The pectoral fins are narrow and leaf-shaped. The first dorsal fin is small and set well behind the pectoral fins. The second dorsal fin is slightly larger than the first and is set behind the pelvic fins. Both have small dorsal spines. There is no anal fin. The caudal fin has a long dorsal lobe with no ventral lobe. There is a weak terminal notch. The colouration is plain black with no patterning. The maximum recorded length is 110cm (Compagno, 1984).

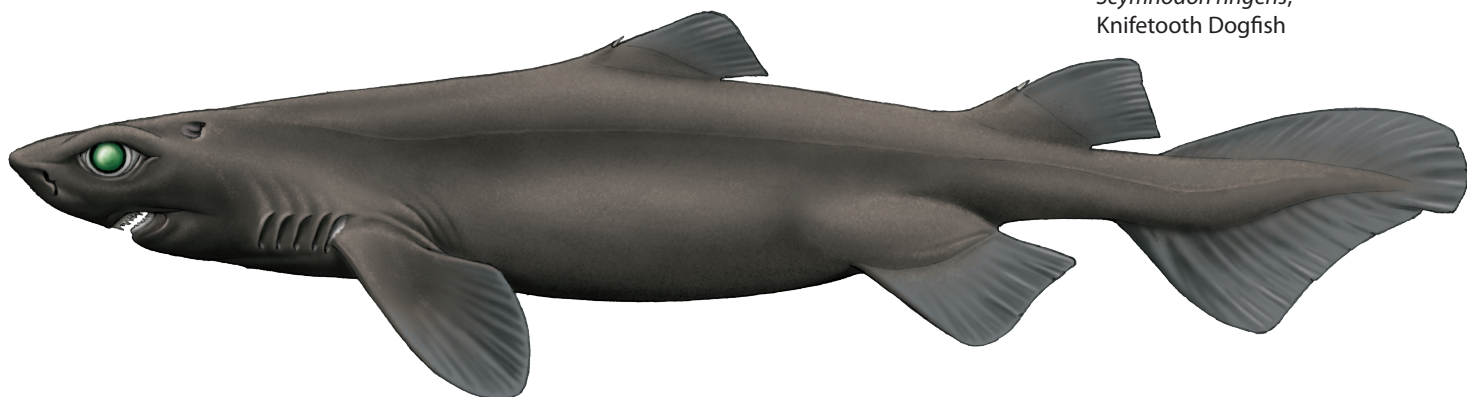
SIMILAR SPECIES

Centroscyllium fabricii, Black Dogfish

Centrosymnus coelolepis, Portuguese Dogfish

Dalatias licha, Kitefin Shark

Scymnodon ringens,
Knifetooth Dogfish



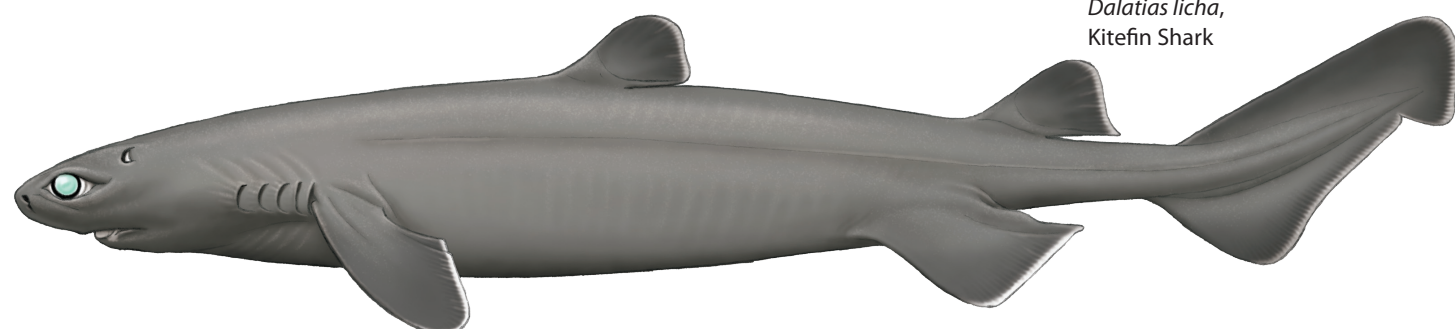
Centroscyllium fabricii,
Black Dogfish



Centrosymnus coelolepis,
Portuguese Dogfish



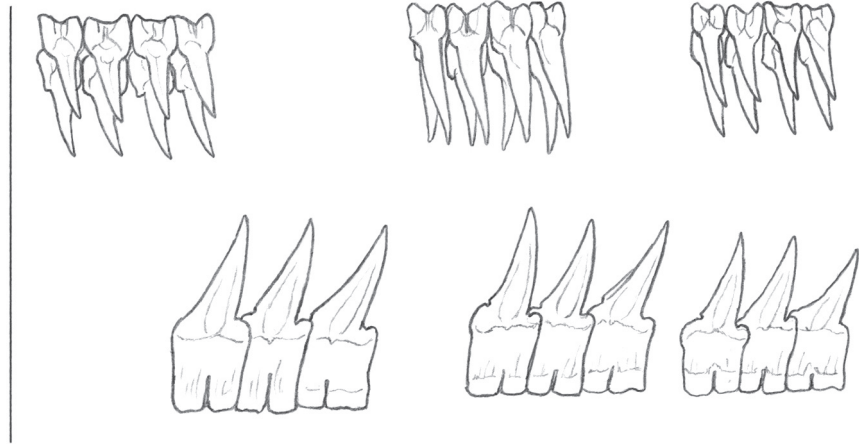
Dalatias licha,
Kitefin Shark



(Not to scale)

TEETH

Small lanceolate upper teeth without cusplets. Huge, knife-cusped lower teeth (Compagno, 1984).



ECOLOGY AND BIOLOGY

HABITAT

The Knifetooth Dogfish is a benthic to mesopelagic species found from 200–1,600m (Compagno, 1984).

EGGCASE

N/A

DIET

The diet of the Knifetooth Dogfish is essentially unknown although its dentition suggests the ability to attack and dismember large prey (Compagno, 1984).

REPRODUCTION

Unknown but most likely to be ovoviparous (Compagno, 1984).

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

The Knifetooth Dogfish is taken as bycatch in bottom trawl, line gear and fixed bottom net fisheries throughout its range. It is of little or no commercial value although it is sometimes used for fishmeal or dried for human consumption (Gibson *et al.*, 2006).

THREATS, CONSERVATION, LEGISLATION

The Knifetooth Dogfish is reportedly relatively common in the east Atlantic although few have been found west of Scotland. No species specific landings data is available so populations are difficult to quantify. Deep sea sharks as a group are particularly vulnerable to fishing pressure so future monitoring of catches is essential (Gibson *et al.*, 2006).

IUCN RED LIST ASSESSMENT

Data Deficient (2008).

HANDLING AND THORN ARRANGEMENT

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

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Text: Richard Hurst.
Illustrations: Marc Dando.

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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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