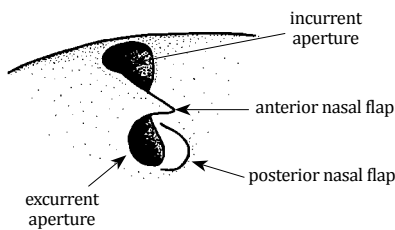
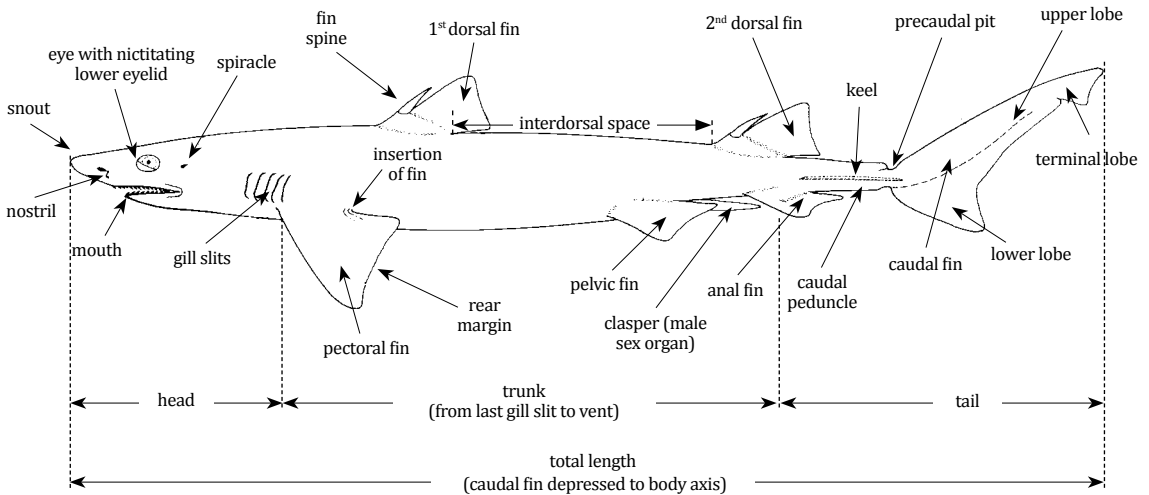


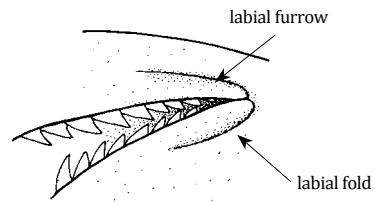
SHARKS

The guide to “Orders and Families” includes a total of 4 orders and 13 families of sharks known to occur in Kenya. These are arranged by order using the classification adopted by Eschmeyer & Fricke (2011) which best reflects current use. Page numbers refer to those families that are treated in more detail in the species identification guide. The “Guide to Species” includes 38 species considered to be of current or potential use in fisheries or are caught as by-catch by various gears of the Kenya fishing fleet.

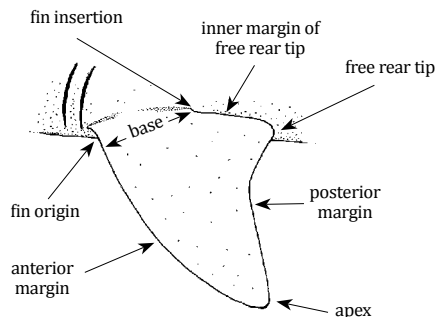
TECHNICAL TERMS AND MEASUREMENTS



nostril



mouth corner



pectoral fin

GUIDE TO ORDERS AND FAMILIES

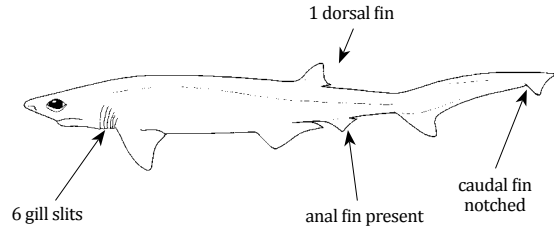
Order HEXANCHIFORMES – Frilled and Cow sharks

Six or 7 pairs of gill slits; single dorsal fin; anal fin present.

HEXANCHIDAE

Cow sharks

To 1.8 m. Mainly demersal, from depths of 90 m to 600 m. Of little interest to fisheries. Marine. One species, *Hexanchus nakamurai* Teng, 1962 is present in Kenya waters.



Order ORECTOLOBIFORMES – Carpet sharks

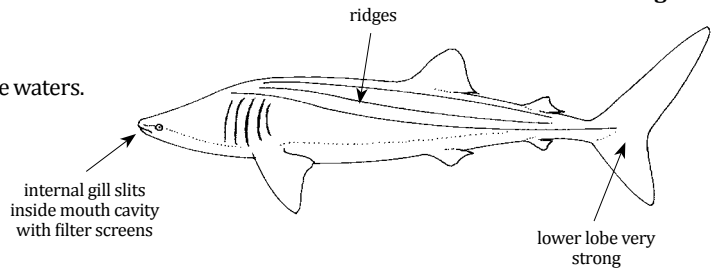
Five pairs of gill slits, often the 5th overlapping the 4th; 2 dorsal fins without spines; mouth transverse, well in front of eyes, usually with barbels (*Rhincodon typus* with broad head and wide mouth).

RHINCODONTIDAE

Page 55

Whale shark

Possibly to 18 m. Epipelagic, in- and offshore waters. A single species worldwide.

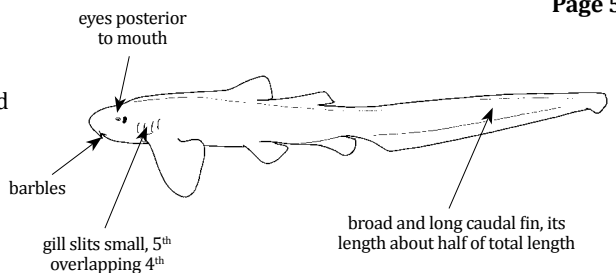


STEGOSTOMATIDAE

Page 55

Zebra sharks

Possibly to 3.5 m. Demersal on continental and insular shelves. A single species worldwide.

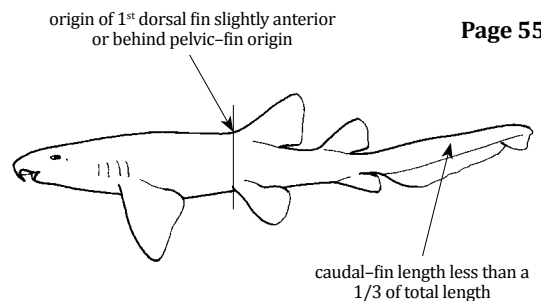


INGLYMOSTOMATIDAE

Page 55

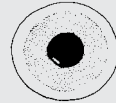
Nurse sharks

To 3.2 m. Demersal from the intertidal zone to a depth of at least 70 m. Two species of interest to fisheries are included in the Guide to Species.



Order LAMNIFORMES – Mackerel sharks and allies

Five pairs of gill slits; 2 dorsal fins without spines; anal fin present; mouth strongly arched, extending well behind eyes; no movable nictitating eyelid; intestinal valve of ring type.



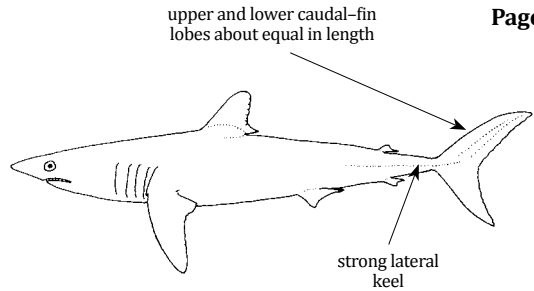
no movable nictitating eyelid

Page 56

LAMNIDAE

Mackerel sharks

To 8 m. Mainly epipelagic, from the surface to depths of at least 152 m. Two species are included in the Guide to Species.

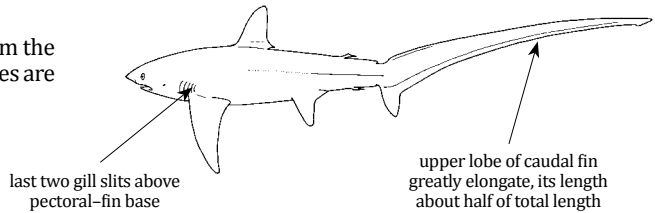


Page 57

ALOPIIDAE

Thresher sharks

To 5.5 m. Pelagic, but also near the bottom, from the surface to depths of at least 500 m. Three species are included in the Guide to Species.



Order CARCHARHINIFORMES – Ground sharks and allies

Five pairs of gill slits; 2 dorsal fins without spines; anal fin present; mouth arched, extending behind anterior end of eyes; a movable nictitating eyelid; intestinal valve of scroll or spiral type.



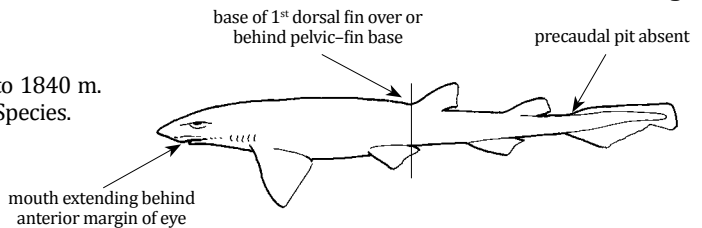
movable nictitating eyelid

Page 58

SCYLIORHINIDAE

Cat sharks

To 1 m. Demersal, from depths of 37 m to 1840 m. Two species are included in the Guide to Species.

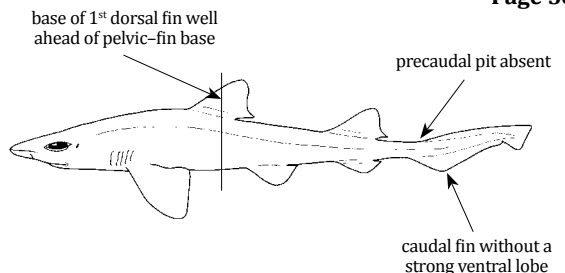


Page 58

PROSCYLLIIDAE

Finback catsharks

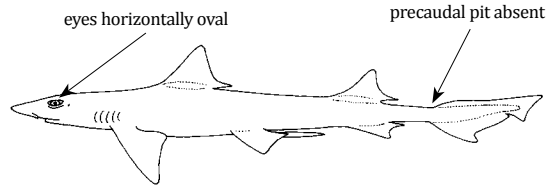
To 46 cm. Demersal, from depths of 70 m to 766 m. One species is included in the Guide to Species.



TRIAKIDAE

Houndsharks

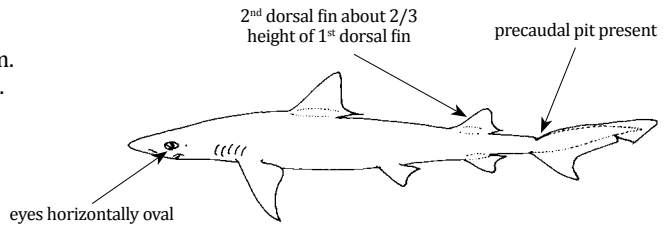
To 1.5 m. Demersal, from the intertidal region down to a depth of at least 1000 m. Two species are included in the Guide to Species.



HEMIGALEIDAE

Weasel sharks

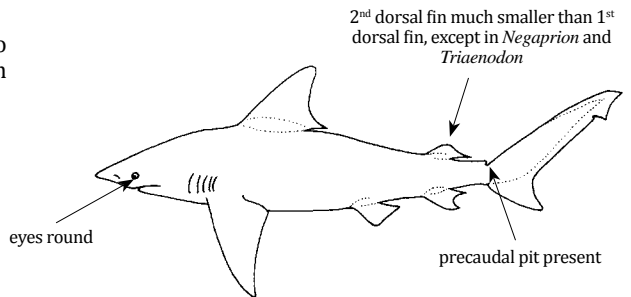
To 2.4 m. Demersal, from depths of 1 m to 30 m. One species is included in the Guide to Species.



CARCHARHINIDAE

Requiem sharks

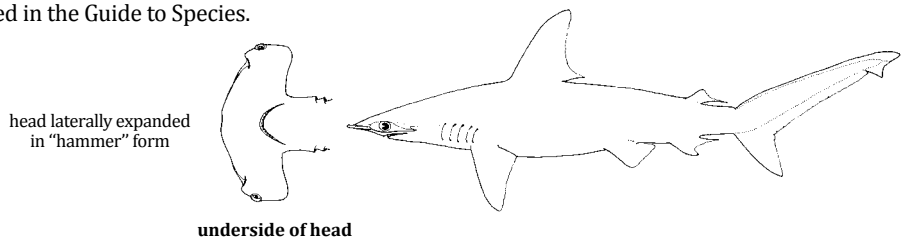
To 4 m. Demersal to epipelagic, from the surface to a depth of 800 m. Nineteen species are included in the Guide to Species.



SPHYRNIDAE

Hammerhead sharks

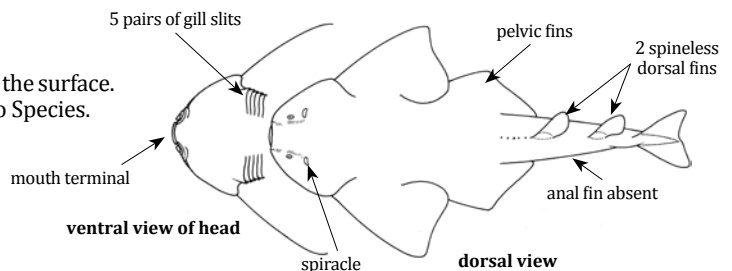
To 6 m. Coastal and oceanic waters, near the surface. Two species are included in the Guide to Species.



SQUATINIDAE

Angel sharks

To 6 m. Coastal and oceanic waters, near the surface. Two species are included in the Guide to Species.



RHINCODONTIDAE

Whale shark

Rhincodon typus Smith, 1828

Local name(s): N: Papa zambarani; S: Papa zambarani (M), Papa nyamrami (K).

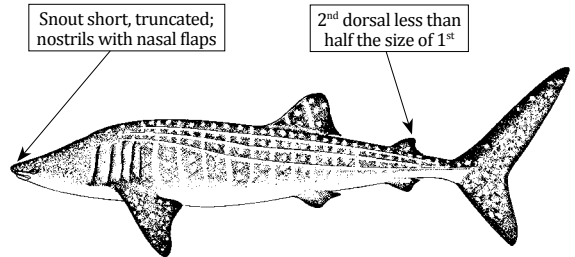
Habitat: Pelagic often near the surface down to 980 m.

Fisheries: Floating gillnets.

Distinctive Characters: Anal fin present; caudal fin with a strong lower lobe but no sub-terminal notch; caudal peduncle depressed with a strong keel on each side; upper pre-caudal pit present.

Colour: Dark grey, reddish or greenish-grey above, with white or yellow spots and transverse stripes; white or yellowish below.

FAO names: Whale shark (En)
Requin baleine (Fr)



Size: To 12 m, possibly to 21 m (TL)

STEGOSTOMATIDAE

Zebra sharks

Stegostoma fasciatum (Hermann, 1783)

Local name(s): N: Papa kiharehare, Papa guigui; S: Papa usingizi (M), Papa chui (K).

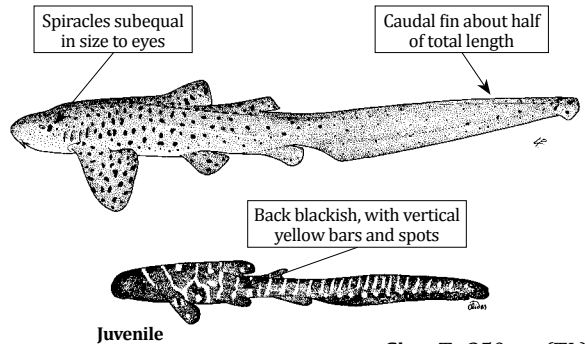
Habitat: Inshore, very common on coral reefs.

Fisheries: Bottom trawls, Gillnets, Longlines.

Distinctive Characters: Anal fin present, rounded with a deep sub-terminal notch but with the lower lobe hardly developed; caudal peduncle not strongly depressed, without lateral keels or pre-caudal pits, but with interdorsal ridges.

Colour: Sub-adults and adults with scattered dark spots on a yellowish background, shading into the whitish ventral surfaces.

FAO names: Zebra shark (En)
Requin zèbre (Fr)



Size: To 350 cm (TL)

GINGLYMOSTOMATIDAE

Nurse sharks

Nebrius ferrugineus (Lesson, 1831)

Local name(s): N: Papa guigui; S: Papa usingizi (M), Papa kingagu (K).

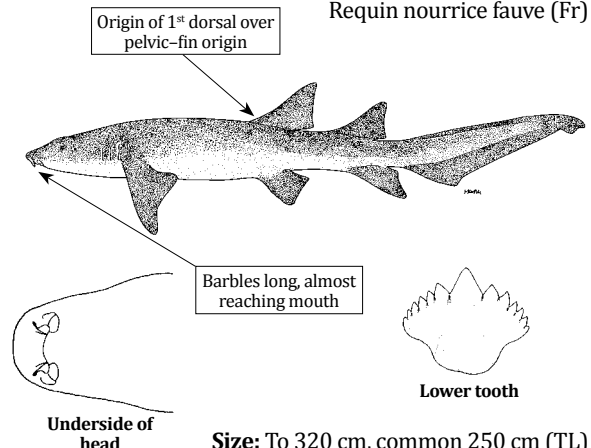
Habitat: Demersal in shallow waters on coral and rocky reefs, in lagoons and on sand flats down to 70 m.

Fisheries: Gillnets, Lines.

Distinctive Characters: Snout very short, and broadly rounded or truncated; caudal fin about 1/3 of total length, strongly notched, ventral lobe weak to short; caudal peduncle not strongly depressed, with no lateral keels or pre-caudal pits, no interdorsal ridges.

Colour: No colour pattern, tan above, lighter below; fins slightly dusky.

FAO names: Tawny nurse shark (En)
Requin nourrice fauve (Fr)



Size: To 320 cm, common 250 cm (TL)

***Pseudoginglymostoma brevicaudatum* (Günther, 1867)**

Local name(s): N: Papa ove, Papa guigui; S: Papa usingizi (M), Papa kingagu (K).

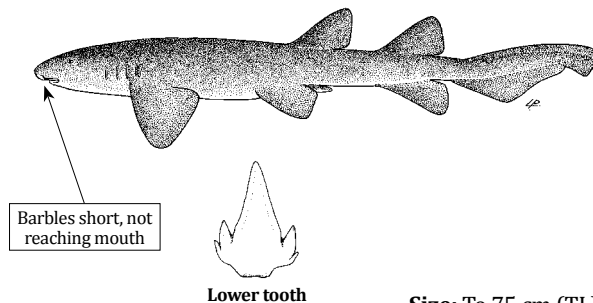
Habitat: A sluggish, bottom-dwelling shallow water shark.

Fisheries: Gillnets, Lines, Shallow trawls.

Distinctive Characters: Two dorsal fins both with rounded apices; origin of 1st dorsal over middle of pelvic fin; caudal fin about 1/5 of total length, strongly notched with ventral lobe hardly developed; caudal peduncle not strongly depressed, with no lateral keels or precaudal pits, no interdorsal ridges.

Colour: No colour pattern, dark-brown above, lighter below.

FAO names: Short-tail nurse shark (En)
Requin nourrice à queue courte (Fr)



Size: To 75 cm (TL)

LAMNIDAE**Makos*****Carcharodon carcharias* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

Local name(s): N & S: No information.

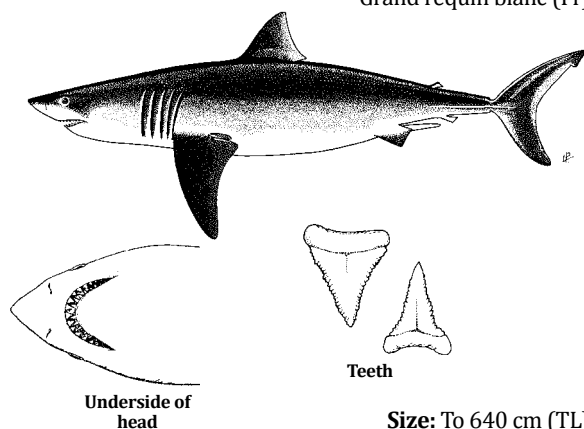
Habitat: Coastal and offshore from the surface down to the bottom in epicontinental waters.

Fisheries: Caught as by-catch of various fishing gears.

Distinctive Characters: A huge, spindle-shaped shark with conspicuous black eyes; a blunt, conical snout and large, triangular, saw-edged teeth; long gill slits; 1st dorsal-fin origin usually over the pectoral-fin inner margins; strong keels on caudal peduncle; no secondary keels on caudal-fin base; caudal fin crescentic.

Colour: Lead-grey to brown or black above, lighter on sides, and abruptly white below; black spot at rear of pectoral-fin base.

FAO names: Great white shark (En)
Grand requin blanc (Fr)



Size: To 640 cm (TL)

***Isurus oxyrinchus* Rafinesque, 1810**

Local name(s): N: Papa meu; S: Papa mako (M), Papa (K).

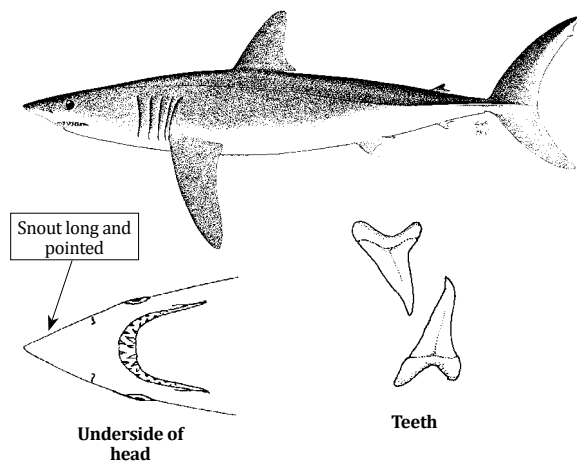
Habitat: Pelagic in oceanic and coastal waters, usually near the surface.

Fisheries: Longlines, Hooks and Lines, Gillnets.

Distinctive Characters: Two very unequal dorsal fins, the 1st comparatively large; pectoral fins moderately long and falcate, caudal fin lunate, its lower lobe strongly developed; caudal peduncle very much flattened, but expanded laterally with a prominent keel on each side extending well out to caudal fin.

Colour: Back and sides grey-blue, occasionally deep blue; belly white.

FAO names: Shortfin mako (En)
Taupe bleu (Fr)



Size: To 400 cm, common 200 cm (TL)

ALOPIIDAE

Thresher sharks

Alopias pelagicus Nakamura, 1935

FAO names: Pelagic thresher (En)
Renard pélagique (Fr)

Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).

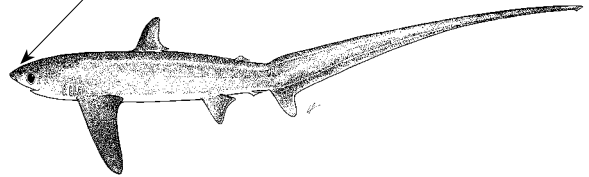
Habitat: Oceanic, epipelagic, caught near shore where shelf is narrow. Maximum depth 150 m.

Fisheries: Longlines, Drift nets.

Distinctive Characters: A large shark; two dorsal fins the 1st moderately large and about equidistant between pectoral and pelvic-fin bases; 2nd dorsal fin minute; pectoral fins narrow, long and nearly straight.

Colour: Bluish or grey above, white below, with a silvery sheen in gill regions, white on belly; base of pectoral fin dark.

Head strongly arched between eyes, with no or an inconspicuous horizontal groove



Size: To 330 cm (TL)

Alopias superciliosus Lowe, 1841

FAO names: Bigeye thresher (En)
Renard à gros yeux (Fr)

Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).

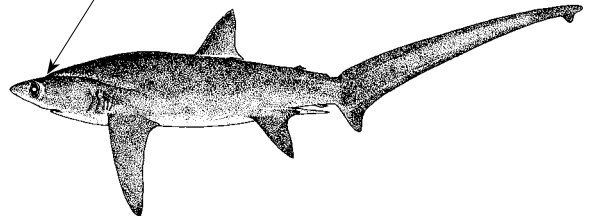
Habitat: Oceanic and coastal waters down to 500 m.

Fisheries: Longlines, Fixed bottom and pelagic gillnets, Bottom trawls.

Distinctive characters: Upper pre-caudal pit present but caudal keel absent; two dorsal fins the 1st moderately large and located in front of the pelvic fin origins, closer to the pelvic fins than to the pectorals; 2nd dorsal fin minute, positioned well ahead of the small anal fin; pectoral fins narrow.

Colour: Purplish-grey above, cream below, posterior edges of pectoral, pelvic fins and 1st dorsal fin dusky; light colour on abdomen.

Deep horizontal groove on nape from the level of mouth to pectoral fins



Size: To 470 cm (TL)

Alopias vulpinus (Bonnaterre, 1788)

FAO names: Thresher (En)
Renard (Fr)

Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).

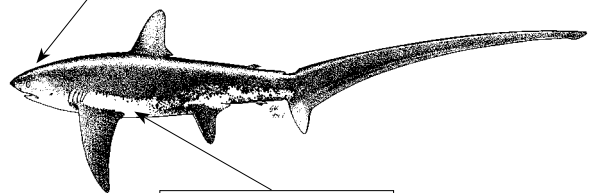
Habitat: Coastal over the continental and insular shelves and epipelagic far from land.

Fisheries: Longlines.

Distinctive Characters: Pectoral fin long, falcate and narrow tipped; two dorsal fins the 1st moderately large with its base ahead of fin bases; 2nd dorsal fin minute and positioned just in front of the small anal fin.

Colour: Brown, grey-white or blackish on back and underside of snout, lighter on sides; white dots sometimes present on pectoral, pelvic and caudal fin tips.

Forehead arched, without grooves



White area extends from the abdomen over the fins

Size: To 550 cm (TL)

SCYLIORHINIDAE

Catsharks

Holohalaelurus grennian Human, 2006

FAO names: Grinning Izak catshark (En)
Holbiche sourire (Fr)

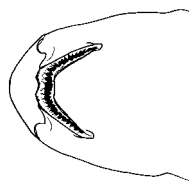
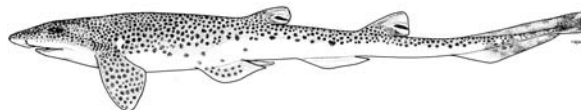
Local name(s): N & S: No information.

Habitat: Demersal from 238 m to 353 m.

Fisheries: May be by-catch in bottom trawl fisheries.

Distinctive Characters: Broad head; no labial furrows, nostrils separate from each other and mouth and without barbels or nasoral grooves; dorso-lateral gill slits; dorsal fins subequal in size; 1st dorsal-fin origin about over pelvic fin insertion; 2nd dorsal-fin origin about over anal fin free rear tip.

Colour: Dorsal surface background colour yellowish-brown with numerous small brown spots; large white spot above pectoral-fin insertion; characteristic narrow dark horizontal stripe on both dorsal fins.



Underside of head

Size: To 27.3 cm (male), 20.6 (female) (TL)

Holohalaelurus melanostigma (Norman, 1939)

FAO names: Crying Izak (En)
Holbiche pleureuse (Fr)

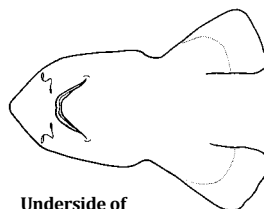
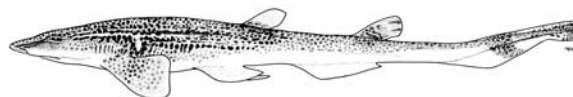
Local name(s): N & S: No information.

Habitat: Bathy-demersal from 607 m to 658 m.

Fisheries: May be by-catch in bottom trawl fisheries.

Distinctive Characters: Denticles on dorsal midline slightly enlarged, from a point level to the pectoral-fin origin on the dorsal midline to the 1st dorsal-fin origin; no enlarged denticles on the dorsal surface of the pectoral fins; no club-shaped papillae on the distal tip of the clasper; buccal papillae in mouth inconspicuous.

Colour: Large brown spots, stripes and blotches on a dull grey-brown background; a distinct tear line marking from the anterior of the orbit to the lateral margin of the snout.



Underside of head

Size: To 38.4 cm (TL)

PROSCYLLIIDAE

Finback catsharks

Eridacnis radcliffei Smith, 1913

FAO names: Pigmy ribbontail catshark (En)
Requin-chat pygmé (Fr)

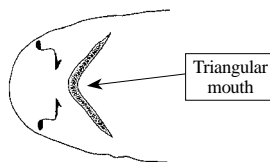
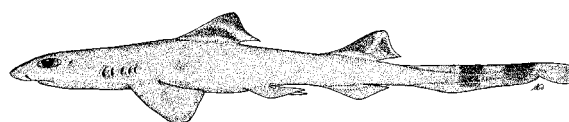
Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).

Habitat: Benthic, often over mud bottoms, on the upper continental and insular slopes and outer shelves from 71 m to 766 m.

Fisheries: Bottom trawls.

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin over abdomen and slightly closer to pelvic fins than pectoral fins; labial furrows rudimentary or absent; long narrow, ribbon-like caudal fin; dorsal fins fairly large and high.

Colour: Caudal fin with long, prominent dark banding; long and dark markings on dorsal fins.



Underside of head

Size: To 24 cm (TL)

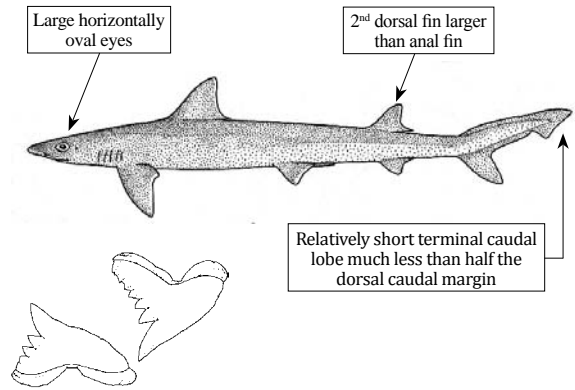
TRIAKIDAE

Houndsharks – Smoothhounds – Topes

***Hypogaleus hyugaensis* (Miyosi, 1939)**

Local name(s): N & S: No information.
Habitat: Continental shelf and uppermost slope from 40 m to 230 m, near the bottom.
Fisheries: Non-utilized by-catch of offshore trawl fisheries for prawns.
Distinctive Characters: A slender, moderately long-nosed shark with vestigial anterior nasal flaps; angular mouth; moderately long upper labial furrows; bladelike compressed teeth with oblique cusps and distal cusplets in both jaws.
Colour: Dull grey dorsally, paler below; front part of snout slightly dusky.

FAO names: Blacktip tope (En)
 Requin-hâ élégant (Fr)



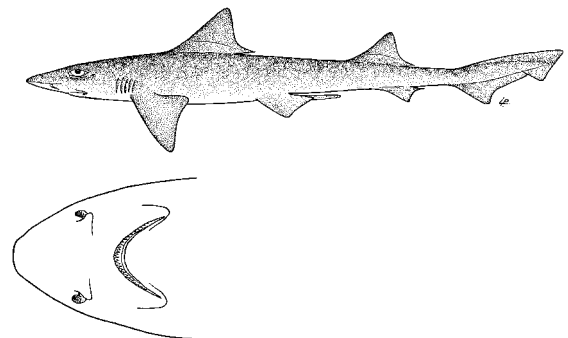
Teeth

Size: To 130 cm (TL)

***Mustelus manazo* Bleeker, 1855**

Local name(s): N & S: No information.
Habitat: Intertidal and subtidal zones, commonly close inshore, especially on mud and sand bottoms.
Fisheries: No information.
Distinctive Characters: Body fairly slender; relatively narrow internarial space; buccopharyngial denticles covering almost entire oral cavity; unfringed dorsal fins; relatively small pectoral and pelvic fins.
Colour: Uniform gray or gray-brown above, light below, usually with numerous white spots but no dark spots or dark bars.

FAO names: Starspotted smooth-hound (En)
 Émissole étoilée (Fr)



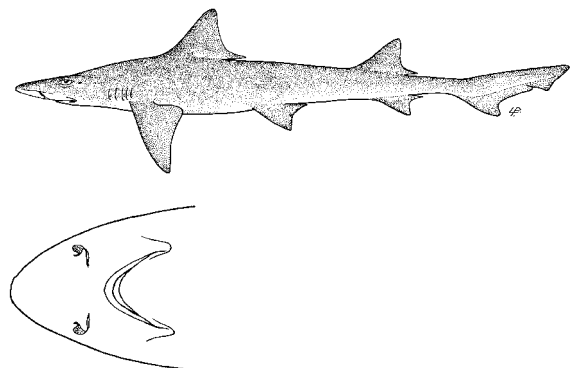
Underside of head

Size: To 117 cm (TL)

***Mustelus mosis* Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1899**

Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).
Habitat: Bottom dwelling in inshore and offshore waters, also on coral reefs.
Fisheries: Bottom trawls, Bottom and floating gillnets, Line gears.
Distinctive Characters: Snout relatively long and narrowly rounded; broad nasal flaps not reaching mouth, labial furrows moderately long; caudal fin with lower lobe short in adults and hardly developed in young; interdorsal ridge present; caudal peduncle without keel or precaudal pits.
Colour: Back and sides plain grey or grey-brown, underside cream-white, no spots on sides.

FAO names: Arabian smooth-hound (En)
 Emissole d'Arabie (Fr)



Underside of head

Size: To 150 cm (TL)

HEMIGALEIDAE

Weasel sharks

Hemipristis elongata Klunzinger, 1871

FAO names: Snaggletooth shark (En)
Milandre chicor (Fr)

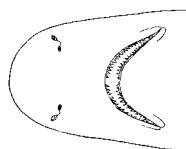
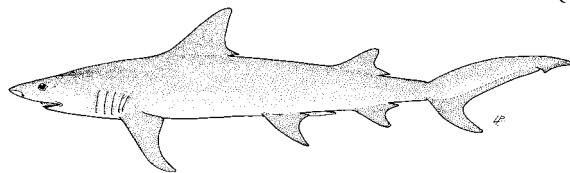
Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).

Habitat: Occurs in coastal waters.

Fisheries: Floating and fixed gillnets, Floating long lines.

Distinctive Characters: Snout long, bluntly rounded; labial furrows moderately long and easily seen; large curved, saw-edged teeth in the upper jaw, and hooked lower teeth protruding from mouth; 1st dorsal fin moderately large with a pointed apex, 2nd dorsal fin high; no pre-anal ridges; no keels on caudal peduncle.

Colour: Grey or grey-brown above, lighter below, no prominent markings.



Underside of head



Lower tooth

Size: To 240 cm (TL)

CARCHARHINIDAE

Requiem sharks

Carcharhinus albimarginatus (Rüppell, 1837)

FAO names: Silvertip shark (En)
Requin pointe blanche (Fr)

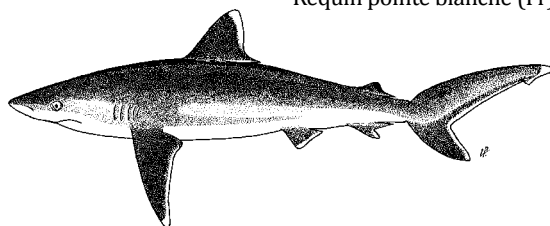
Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).

Habitat: Inshore and offshore from the surface to deeper waters. Maximum depth 800 m.

Fisheries: Lines, Gillnets.

Distinctive Characters: Snout moderately long; first dorsal fin and pectoral fins angular, and not expanded; upper teeth triangular; a dermal ridge present between dorsal fins.

Colour: Dorsal surface dark grey or greyish brown, ventral surface white; all fins have conspicuous white tips at posterior margins.



Underside of head



Teeth

Size: To 300 cm

Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos (Bleeker, 1856)

FAO names: Blacktail reef shark (En)
Requin à queue noire (Fr)

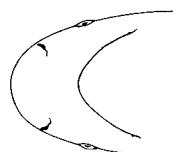
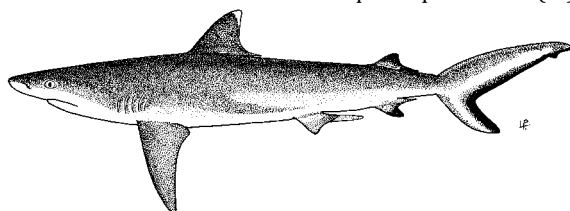
Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).

Habitat: Inshore and offshore waters, on coral reefs from the surface down to 140 m.

Fisheries: Line gears, Gillnets.

Distinctive Characters: Snout broadly rounded, labial furrows very short, anterior flaps very low; 1st dorsal fin moderately high with pointed or narrowly rounded apex; no ridge between dorsal fins or occasionally a weak one.

Colour: Dark grey or bronze above, white below; 1st dorsal fin with a white tip, 2nd dorsal and anal fins dusky or black-tipped; caudal fin with a conspicuous broad black margin.



Underside of head



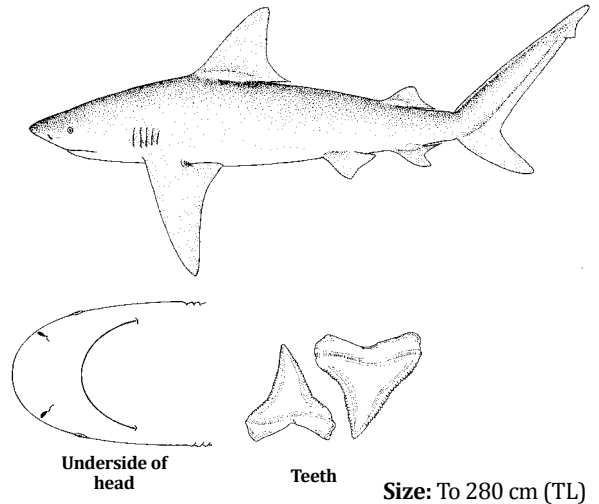
Teeth

Size: To 255 cm (TL)

Carcharhinus amboinensis (Müller & Henle, 1839)

FAO names: Pigeye shark (En)
Requin balestine (Fr)

Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).
Habitat: Inshore and offshore, from the surface to the bottom.
Fisheries: Longlines, Drifting gillnets.
Distinctive Characters: Snout short and abruptly rounded; eyes small; large, triangular, saw-edged upper teeth; 1st dorsal fin at least 3.2 or more times higher than 2nd dorsal fin; no dermal ridge between dorsal fins.
Colour: Grey above, light below; tips of fins darker in young, fading in adults.

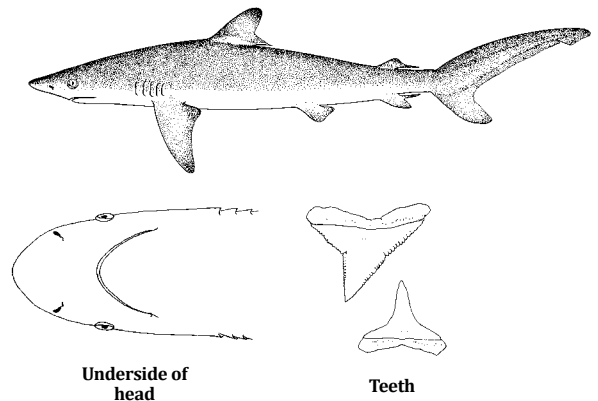


Size: To 280 cm (TL)

Carcharhinus falciformis (Müller & Henle, 1839)

FAO names: Silky shark (En)
Requin soyeux (Fr)

Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).
Habitat: Coastal and oceanic, common near slopes, from the surface to deeper waters down to 500 m.
Fisheries: Longlines, Handlines, Gillnets.
Distinctive Characters: A large, slim shark with large eyes, small jaws, and oblique-cusped teeth with serrations; snout narrowly rounded, equal to or slightly shorter than mouth width; 1st dorsal fin falcate and moderate-sized; origin of 1st dorsal fin behind pectoral fins; interdorsal ridge present between the dorsal fins.
Colour: Back dark-grey, greyish or bluish-black (in life) belly greyish or white; no conspicuous markings.

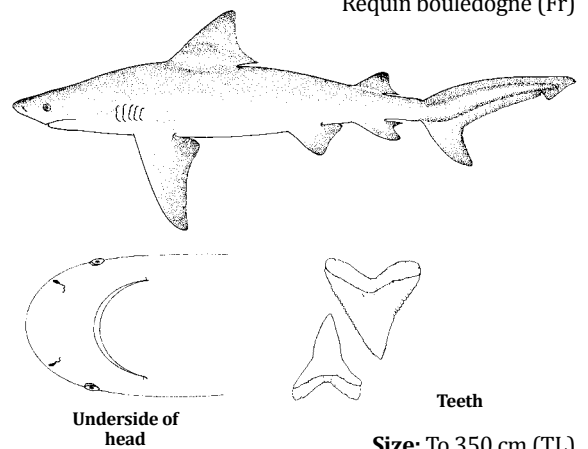


Size: To 350 cm (TL)

Carcharhinus leucas (Müller & Henle, 1839)

FAO names: Bull shark (En)
Requin bouledogne (Fr)

Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).
Habitat: Coastal, estuarine, riverine and lacustrine waters, usually found close inshore in marine habitats from 1 m to 152 m.
Fisheries: Gillnets, Longlines.
Distinctive Characters: Stout shark; teeth in the upper jaw are upright, strongly serrated, triangular and broad at their bases, while in the lower jaw they are more slender and pointed; snout very short and bluntly rounded; labial folds very short; 1st dorsal fin less than 3 times higher than 2nd dorsal fin; no interdorsal ridge between dorsal fins.
Colour: Back greyish, belly white, tips of fins dusky especially in young individuals.



Size: To 350 cm (TL)

Carcharhinus limbatus (Müller & Henle, 1839)

FAO names: Blacktip shark (En)
Requin bordé (Fr)

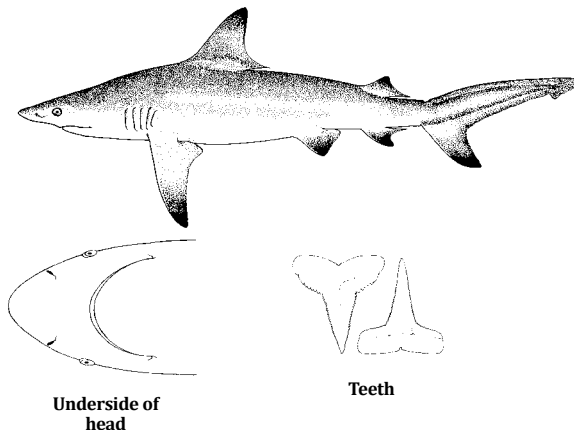
Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).

Habitat: Coastal and offshore but not truly oceanic species.

Fisheries: Floating longlines, Floating gillnets.

Distinctive Characters: Snout moderately long, its length about equal to mouth width; upper labial furrows short; long gill slits; erect, narrow-cusped upper teeth; origin of 1st dorsal fin over pectoral fins; no interdorsal ridge between dorsal fins.

Colour: Grey or grey-brown above, white or yellowish-white below; a dark band along each side; tips of pelvic fins with a black spot; tips of dorsal, anal, pectorals and lower lobe of caudal fin usually black or dusky in young individuals, fading with growth.



Size: To 275 cm, common 150 cm (TL)

Carcharhinus longimanus (Poey, 1861)

FAO names: Oceanic whitetip shark (En)
Requin océanique (Fr)

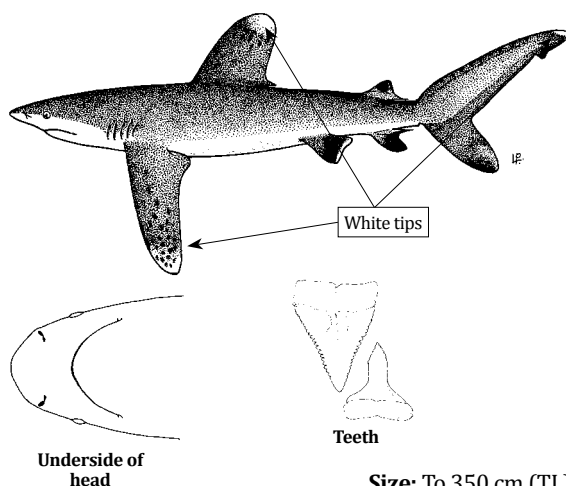
Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).

Habitat: Oceanic, epipelagic mostly far offshore but occasionally in coastal waters.

Fisheries: Floating and Bottom gillnets, Longlines.

Distinctive Characters: Snout short and broadly rounded; 1st dorsal fin noticeably large with a very broadly rounded apex; pectoral fins long and broadly rounded; usually a low interdorsal ridge present between dorsal fins.

Colour: Back usually dark grey with a bronze tinge or bluish; belly whitish or with a yellow tinge; ventral surface of pelvic fins, apices of anal, 2nd dorsal fin and ventral lobe of caudal fin often with black spots; also black or dusky saddle-marks in front of 2nd dorsal fin.



Size: To 350 cm (TL)

Carcharhinus macroti (Müller & Henle, 1839)

FAO names: Hardnose shark (En)
Requin à nez rude (Fr)

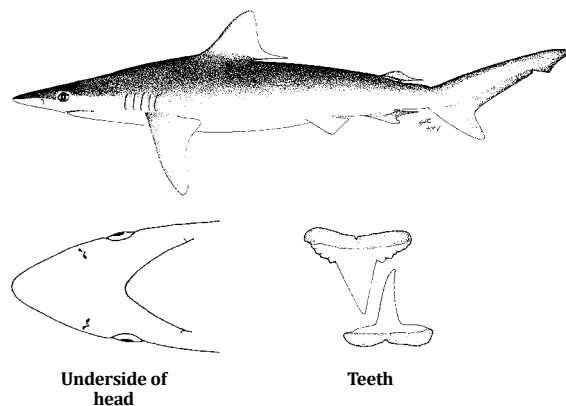
Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).

Habitat: Inshore and offshore continental waters.

Fisheries: Floating gillnets, Bottom gillnets, Longlines.

Distinctive Characters: Hyper-calcified rostrum; small pectoral fins; a small 1st dorsal fin with an extremely long rear tip and a small low 2nd dorsal fin with a long rear tip; no interdorsal ridge.

Colour: Grey or grey-brown above, white below, fins with light edges but not conspicuously marked; light flank marks not conspicuous.



Size: To 100 cm (TL)

Carcharhinus melanopterus (Quoy & Gaimard, 1824)

FAO names: Blacktip reef shark (En)
Requin pointes noires (Fr)

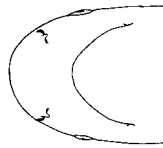
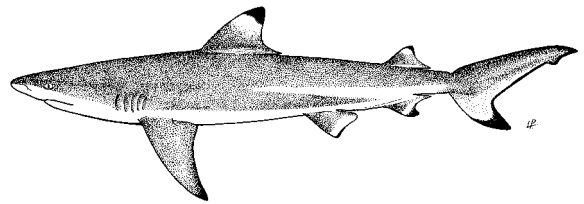
Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).

Habitat: Inshore and sometimes offshore, on continental and insular shelves.

Fisheries: Longlines, Gillnets.

Distinctive Characters: Snout very short and bluntly rounded; 1st dorsal fin moderately large, 2nd dorsal fin moderately high; no dermal ridge between dorsal fins.

Colour: Yellow–brown above, white below; all fins conspicuous with black or dark brown tips also anterior and posterior dark edging on pectoral fins and upper lobe of caudal fin; a prominent black tip of 1st dorsal fin set off abruptly by a light band below it; a conspicuous dark band on flanks, extending rearward to pelvic fins



Underside of head



Teeth

Size: To 200 cm (TL)

Carcharhinus plumbeus (Nardo, 1827)

FAO names: Sandbar shark (En)
Requin gris (Fr)

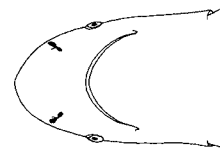
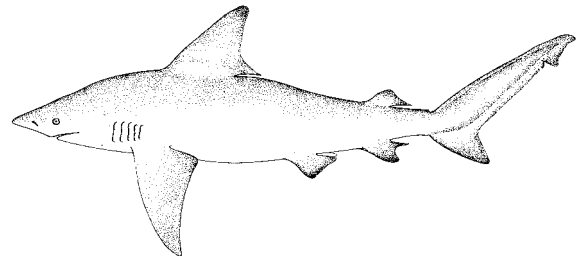
Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).

Habitat: Coastal pelagic, on continental and insular shelves and deeper waters adjacent to them. Maximum depth 280 m.

Fisheries: Longlines, Hooks and Line, Bottom gillnets.

Distinctive Characters: A stout shark with a moderately long, rounded snout; high, triangular, saw-edged upper teeth; origin of 1st dorsal fin over pectoral fins; 1st dorsal fin triangular extremely tall and semi-falcate; dermal ridge present between dorsal fins.

Colour: Black grey or rarely brown, belly whitish; no conspicuous markings; fins plain or with slightly dusky tips.



Underside of head



Teeth

Size: To 250 cm (TL)

Carcharhinus sealei (Pietschmann, 1913)

FAO names: Blackspot shark (En)
Requin à tache noir (Fr)

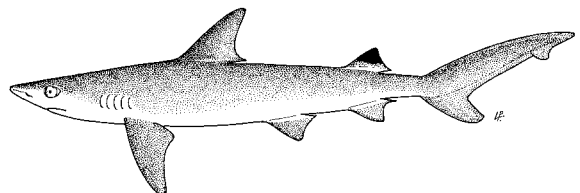
Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).

Habitat: Coastal from the surf line down to 40 m.

Fisheries: Line gears, Gillnets.

Distinctive Characters: A small, slender shark with a long, rounded snout, large oval eyes, and oblique-cusped teeth; 1st dorsal fin moderately high; interdorsal ridge present or absent.

Colour: Greyish or grey–brown above, white below; flanks with small dark spots; tip of 2nd dorsal fin with a black blotch.



Underside of head



Teeth

Size: To 95 cm (TL)

Carcharhinus sorrah (Müller & Henle, 1839)

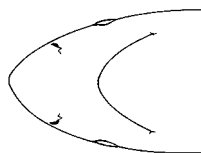
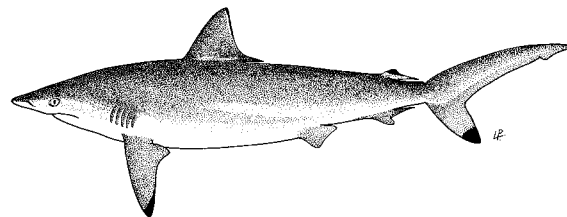
Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).

Habitat: Inshore waters often around coral reefs, sometimes offshore from the surface to rather deeper waters. Maximum depth 140 m.

Fisheries: Floating gillnets, Longlines.

Distinctive Characters: Snout moderately pointed, labial furrows short; 1st dorsal fin with a narrowly rounded apex, 2nd dorsal fin low, with a long rear tip; a dermal ridge present between dorsal-fin bases.

Colour: Grey or grey-brown, white on belly; fins and lower caudal-fin lobe with conspicuous black tips; 1st dorsal and upper caudal-fin lobes with black edging; conspicuous white band on flanks.



Underside of head



Teeth

Size: To 160 cm (TL)

Galeocerdo cuvier (Péron & Lesueur, 1822)

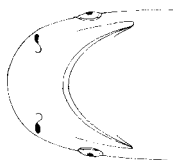
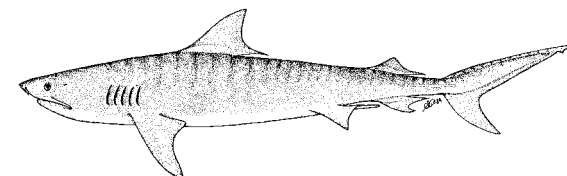
Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).

Habitat: Inshore and offshore waters near the surface and bottom.

Fisheries: Floating gillnets, Bottom gillnets, Lines.

Distinctive Characters: Upper labial furrows very long, extending to front of eye; spiracles present; snout short and bluntly rounded; a low rounded keel on each side of the caudal peduncle.

Colour: Back dark-grey or greyish-brown with dark brown or black rectangular spots often forming bars on sides of the fins but fading with growth.



Underside of head



Teeth

Size: To 740 cm, common 400 cm (TL)

Loxodon macrorhinus Müller & Henle, 1839

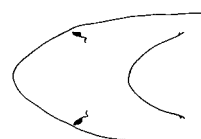
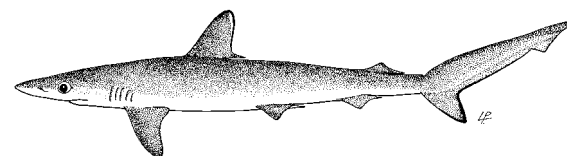
Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).

Habitat: Coastal clean waters, near the surface and bottom, from 7 m to 80 m.

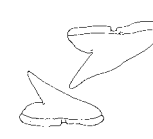
Fisheries: Floating gillnets, Bottom gillnets.

Distinctive Characters: Snout long, labial furrows very short; big eyes with rear notches; oblique-cusped teeth with smooth edges; 2nd dorsal fin small, low and behind larger anal fin; interdorsal ridge rudimentary or absent.

Colour: Grey above, pale below; fins with pale edges (transparent in life) caudal and 1st dorsal fin with a narrow dark margin; 1st dorsal also has a dusky tip.



Underside of head



Teeth

Size: To 98 cm (TL)

FAO names: Sliteye shark (En)

Requin sagrin (Fr)

FAO names: Spot-tail shark (En)

Requin à queue tachetée (Fr)

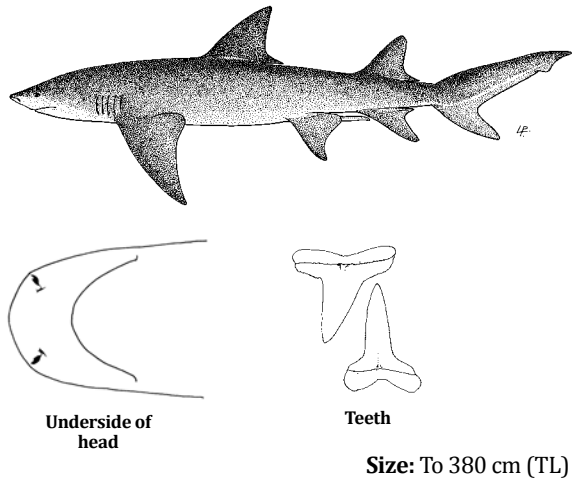
FAO names: Tiger shark (En)

Requin tigre commun (Fr)

***Negaprion acutidens* (Rüppell, 1837)**

FAO names: Sicklef fin lemon shark (En)
Requin limon faucille (Fr)

Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).
Habitat: Shallow inshore and offshore waters near the bottom often around coral reefs and sand plateaus down to 23 m.
Fisheries: Floating gillnets, Bottom gillnets, Lines.
Distinctive Characters: Snout short shorter than mouth width; origin of 1st dorsal fin over or behind free rear tips of pectoral fins; 2nd dorsal fin nearly as large as the 1st dorsal fin; pectoral fins broad and strongly falcate; pelvic fins falcate; no dermal ridge between dorsal fins.
Colour: Yellowish–brown above, paler below.

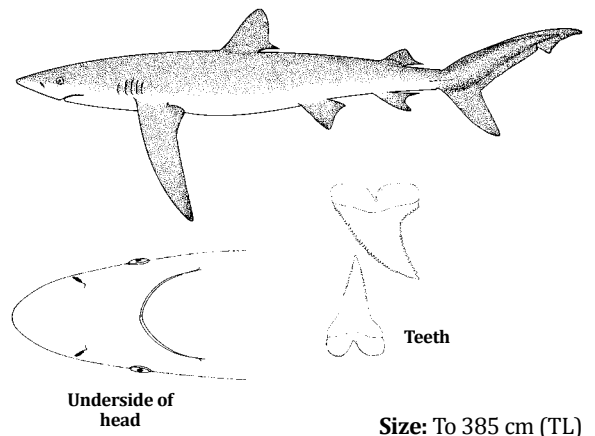


Size: To 380 cm (TL)

***Prionace glauca* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

FAO names: Blue shark (En)
Peau bleue (Fr)

Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).
Habitat: Oceanic, epipelagic, usually near the surface.
Fisheries: Pelagic longlines.
Distinctive Characters: A slim, graceful blue shark with a long, conical snout, large eyes, and curved triangular upper teeth with saw edges; pectoral fins long and pointed; a weak keel present on sides of caudal peduncle; no dermal ridge between dorsal fins.
Colour: Dark blue on back, bright blue on sides, white below, fading to purple–blackish after death; tips of pectoral and anal fins dusky.

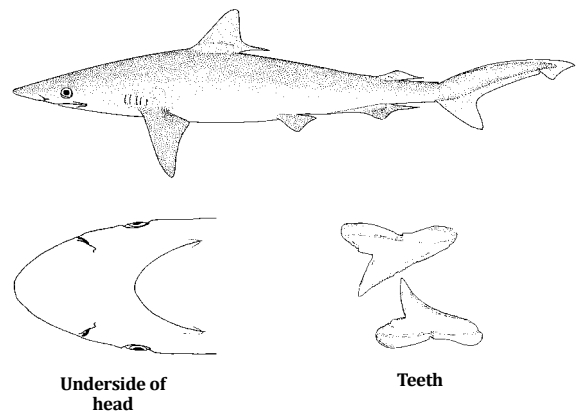


Size: To 385 cm (TL)

***Rhizoprionodon acutus* (Rüppell, 1837)**

FAO names: Milk shark (En)
Requin à museau pointu (Fr)

Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).
Habitat: Inshore and offshore, from the surf line down to 200 m.
Fisheries: Longlines, Gillnets, Bottom trawls.
Distinctive Characters: A small shark with a long, narrow snout; big eyes without notches; long labial furrows and oblique–cusped teeth which may be smooth–edged or weakly serrated; origin of 1st dorsal fin over or posterior to pectoral fins; 2nd dorsal fin smaller than anal fin.
Colour: Grey or greyish–brown above, white below; dorsal and anal fins slightly darker than back.



Size: To 180 cm, common 110 cm (TL)

***Scoliodon laticaudus* Müller & Henle, 1838**

FAO names: Spadenose shark (En)
Requin épée (Fr)

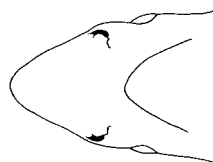
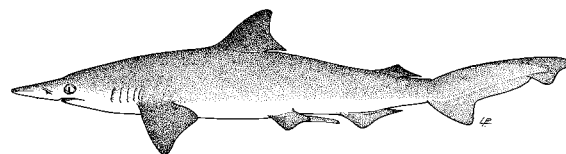
Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).

Habitat: Rocky substrates of coastal waters and lower reaches of tropical rivers.

Fisheries: Hooks and Line, Longlines, Floating gillnets, Bottom gillnets, Traps.

Distinctive Characters: Snout tip not upturned and knob-like; nasal flaps sub-triangular; labial furrows rather short; origin of 1st dorsal fin over or slightly in front of pelvics and with a spine; 2nd dorsal fin with no spine and smaller than 1st.

Colour: Grey-brown above, light below, sometimes with obscure saddle bands; all fins with light margins.



Underside of head



Lower tooth

Size: To 100 cm (TL)

***Triaenodon obesus* (Rüppell, 1837)**

FAO names: Whitetip reef shark (En)
Requin à pointes blanches du lagon (Fr)

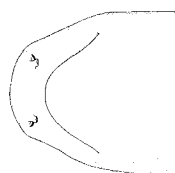
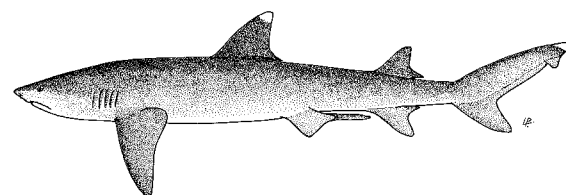
Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).

Habitat: Coastal clear waters and offshore islands, very common within coral reefs, lying inside crevices.

Fisheries: Floating and Bottom gillnets.

Distinctive Characters: Snout very short and broadly rounded; labial furrows very short; nasal flaps form a tube; eyes with a posterior notch; no dermal ridge between dorsal fins and no keels on caudal peduncle.

Colour: Grey-brown above, sometimes with dark spots on sides; 1st dorsal and caudal lobes with white tips; 2nd dorsal and caudal lobes often white-tipped; ventral surface cream-white.



Underside of head



Teeth

Size: To 215 cm, common 160 cm (TL)

SPHYRNIDAE**Hammerhead sharks*****Sphyrna lewini* (Griffith & Smith, 1834)**

FAO names: Scalloped hammerhead (En)
Requin-marteau halicorne (Fr)

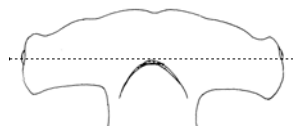
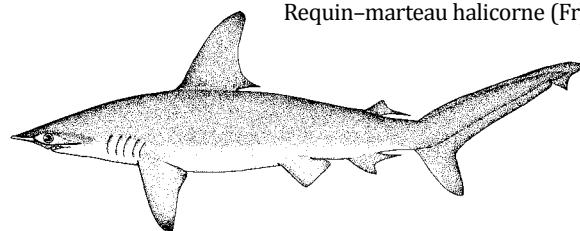
Local name(s): N: Papa mbingusi; S: Papa pengusi (M/K).

Habitat: Inshore, offshore and semi-oceanic waters.

Fisheries: Longlines, Gillnets.

Distinctive Characters: Anterior contour broadly arched or convex in young, moderately so in adults; 1st dorsal fin high, moderately falcate, 2nd dorsal small; pectoral fins short and broad; pelvic fin with a nearly straight posterior margin.

Colour: Greyish brown or olivaceous above, shading to white below; pectoral fins tipped grey or black ventrally.



Underside of head

Posterior margin of eyes at about level of front of mouth

Size: To 420 cm, common 370 cm (TL)

***Sphyrna mokarran* (Rüppell, 1837)**

FAO names: Great hammerhead (En)
Grand requin-marteau (Fr)

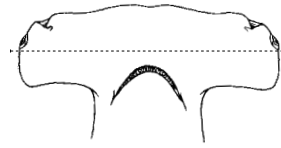
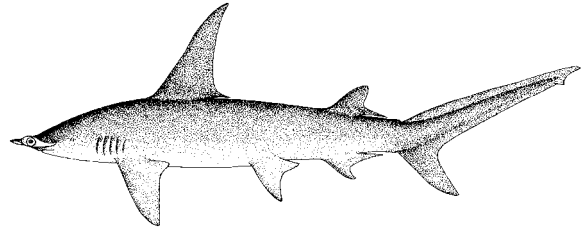
Local name(s): N: Papa mbingusi; S: Papa pengusi (M/K).

Habitat: Semi-oceanic also in inshore waters, often found around and on coral reefs.

Fisheries: Floating gillnets, Floating long lines.

Distinctive Characters: A notch at the center of the head; anterior margin nearly straight, mouth broadly arched; 1st dorsal fin very high, strongly falcate; 2nd dorsal fin moderately large, with a rather short inner margin; pectoral fins short and broad; pelvic fins with a deeply concave posterior margin.

Colour: Grey or grey-brown above, paler below; fins with dusky tips in young.



Underside of head

Posterior margin of eye well anterior to front of mouth

Size: To 600 cm (TL)

SQUATINIDAE

Angel sharks – Sand devils

***Squatina africana* Regan, 1908**

FAO names: African angelshark (En)
Ange de mer africain (Fr)

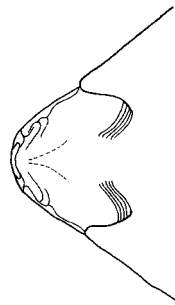
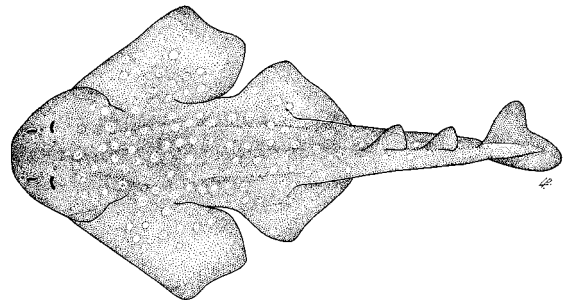
Local name(s): N: Papa; S: Papa (M/K).

Habitat: Benthic from the surf line to the intertidal zone down to 430 m.

Fisheries: Bottom trawls.

Distinctive Characters: Body and head greatly depressed; eyes moderately large, with a distinct neck at pectoral-fin origin; eyes moderately large; 1st dorsal-fin origin opposite or slightly posterior to free rear tips of pelvic fins; 2nd dorsal fin about as long as 1st; anal fin absent; caudal fin short, its lower lobe longer than the upper; caudal peduncle with a pair of short keels and a weak upper pre-caudal pit.

Colour: Brown above; back with a series of bold white spots marbled with brown.



Underside of head



Teeth

Size: To 120 cm (TL)