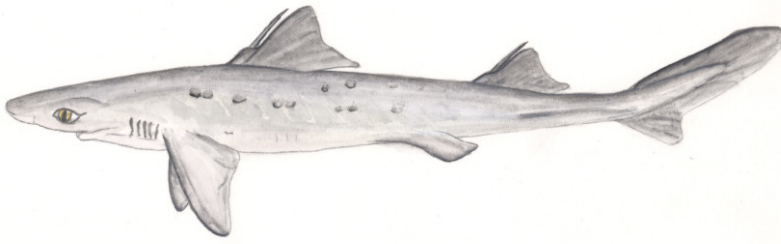


# Spiny Dogfish



## Biology facts

<b>Depth Range</b>	benthopelagic, 0–1460 m
<b>Max Age</b>	100 years
<b>Maturity Age</b>	10-25 years
<b>Max Size</b>	120-160 cm
<b>Max Weight</b>	10 kg
<b>Prey</b>	fish (Smelts, Herring, Sand Lance, and other small schooling fish), crustaceans (crabs, euphausiids, shrimp) and cephalopods (Octopus, Squid)
<b>Other</b>	forms schools by size; very low recruitment (litter sizes range from 1-15 live young, usually average 6-7); gestation period of 18-24 months; growth rate slow about 0.27-0.34 cm per year

## Fishery Facts

<b>Latin Name</b>	<i>Squalus acanthias</i>
<b>Fishing Method</b>	bottom gillnets, bottom trawl, hook-and-line gear; long-line recreational fishing
<b>Annual catch</b>	22 756 t (FAO 1999), 16 096 t (FAO 2006)
<b>Market</b>	Europe and Asia
<b>Main fishing nations</b>	Canada 5 536 t and Norway 1 461 t (FAO 1999)
<b>Certification</b>	not certified

## Main Concerns

- Spiny dogfish is extremely long-living, slow-growing and has a late maturation, a long gestation period and low fecundity. Animals with this life history strategy are particularly vulnerable to population collapse, as they cannot quickly rebuild their numbers once depleted.
- Most markets seek larger animals, which means that mature females are preferentially targeted.

### Spendenkonto

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- Many sharks killed each year are caught accidentally in fishing gear intended for other fish. Spiny dogfish are caught as bycatch in a large number of fisheries in the Northeast US. Estimated annual commercial discards during 1989-2005 range from 7 400 to 47 300 mt (NEFSC 2006).
- Bottom trawling is highly destructive to benthic (including coral) habitats and has led to significant habitat alterations. In addition, the removal of a large percentage of a population can lead to changes in community structure through trophic cascading effects and ecosystem state changes.
- The harvesting methods for Dogfish are associated with high unintentional catch (bycatch) of other fish species, as well as endangered turtles, marine mammals, and seabirds. Some of these species are protected within the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN): harbor porpoise , large cetaceans, bottlenose dolphin, pilot whale, common dolphin, and sea turtles, Yelloweye and Canary rockfish.

## Main Sources

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

[http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/overfishing-surpeche/facts-faits/sharks\\_e.htm](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/overfishing-surpeche/facts-faits/sharks_e.htm)

<http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/2834/en>

<http://www.fishbase.org/Summary/SpeciesSummary.php?id=139>

<http://www.fishonline.org>

<http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2006/oct/nea%20spurdog.pdf>

[http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/cr/cr\\_seafoodwatch/content/media/MBA\\_SeafoodWatch\\_SharksReport.pdf](http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/cr/cr_seafoodwatch/content/media/MBA_SeafoodWatch_SharksReport.pdf)

<http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/sos/spsyn/op/dogfish/>

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch/>

National Marine Fisheries Service

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service

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