**SCIENTIFIC NAME**
*Isurus oxyrinchus* (Rafinesque, 1810).

**COMMON NAME**
SHORTFIN MAKO SHARK, Mako, Short-finned Mako, Blue Pointer, Mackerel Shark, Blue Dynamite, Taupe Bleu (Fr), Marrajo Dientuso (Es).

**DISTRIBUTION**
Circumglobal in temperate and tropical seas. East Atlantic from Norway to South Africa, including the Mediterranean Seaiv.

**IDENTIFICATION**
1 Streamlined with pointed snout.
2 Large first dorsal and pectoral fins.
3 Tiny second dorsal, anal and pelvic fins.
4 Lunate caudal fin with single keelii.

**COLOUR**
- Metallic blue dorsally.
- Ventraly white, including snout and mouth.
- Distinct demarcation line along flankii.

**BIOLOGY AND SIZE**
- Maintains its body temperature through a heat-exchange system allowing it to range into temperate regionsiii.
- Extremely fast, feeding on pelagic species such as tuna, bonito and billfishes. Take a wide variety of teleosts, elasmobranchs, cephalopods and some marine mammalsiii.
- Litters of 4-25 pups have been reported, possibly to 30ii.

---

*Map base conforms with ICES grid squares.*
**Shortfin Mako Shark**

**TEETH**
- Single cusped, awl-shaped teeth without serrations\(^{\text{ii}}\).
- Tips of lower front teeth visible when mouth is shut.
- Large specimens (>3m) have broader, triangular upper teeth\(^{\text{iv}}\).

**SIMILAR SPECIES**
- *Isurus oxyrinchus*, Shortfin Mako Shark
- *Iurus paucus*, Longfin Mako Shark
- *Lamna nasus*, Porbeagle Shark
- *Prionace glauca*, Blue Shark
- *Carcharodon carcharias*, White Shark

**HABITAT**
- Surface to at least 400m, possibly 740m.
- Prefer water 17–20°C, although can be found to at least 5°C.
- Migrates seasonally to follow warmer waters within well defined geographical limits, restricting genetic interchange between populations\(^{\text{iv}}\).
- Primarily a solitary species, has been known to form aggregations when food is abundant. Segregates by sex\(^{\text{iii}}\).

**CONSERVATION STATUS**
- Populations difficult to quantify due to inadequate and inaccurate reporting. Logbook data indicate declines of 33-50% in the North Atlantic\(^{\text{i}}\).

**COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE**
- Important secondary target for pelagic longline fisheries targeting tuna and Swordfish.
- Highly prized for its flesh, as well as its fins and liver oil.
- Extremely popular game fish due to its hard fight and habit of breaching when hooked\(^{\text{iii}}\).

**HANDLING**
- Handle with care.
- Large shark with powerful jaws.
- Abrasive skin.

**REFERENCES**
- ii. Compagno, L. J. V; 2001. FAO.
- iii. Martin, R. A; Unknown. Reefquest Centre for Shark Research.
- iv. Passarelli, N. *et al*; Unknown. FLMNH.