



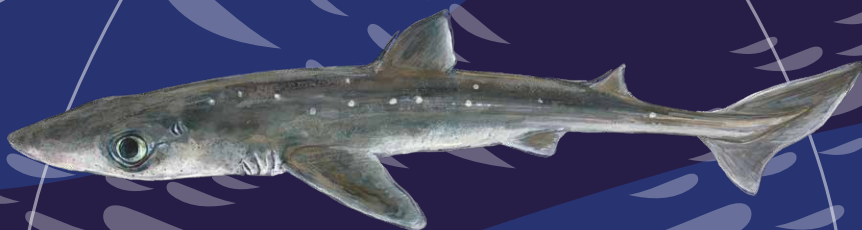
Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



General Fisheries
Commission for
the Mediterranean

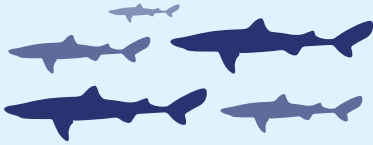
BlackSea4Fish

Piked dogfish in the Black Sea

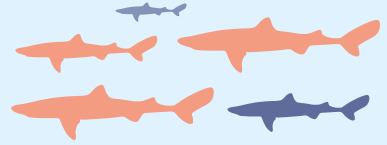


Join our urgent action to
restore highly threatened
regional populations





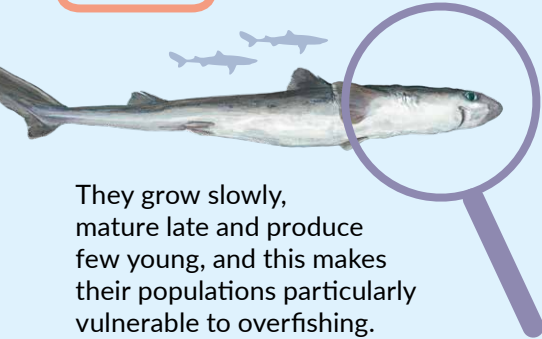
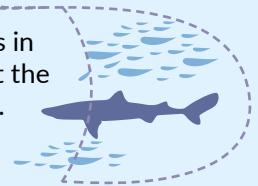
Piked dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) were once common throughout the Black Sea.



However, poor historic management of stocks means that today their survival in the region is under threat.

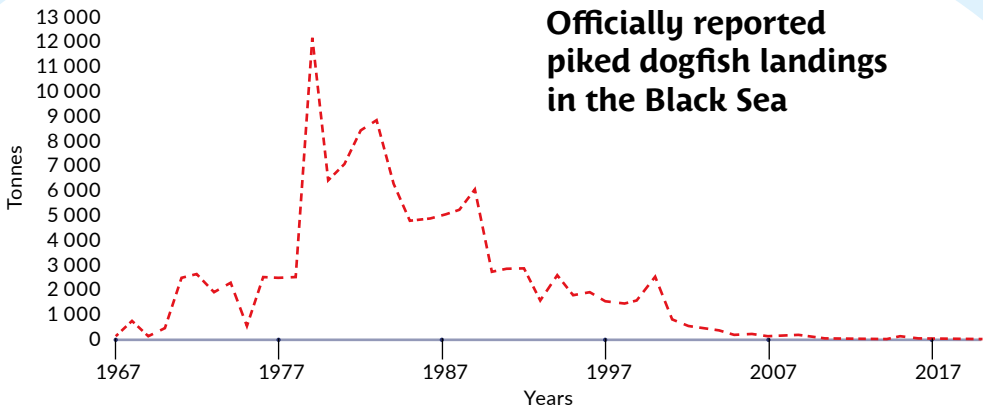


Piked dogfish are still caught in targeted fisheries in Bulgaria and Romania and as bycatch throughout the Black Sea, both in active and passive fishing gear.



They grow slowly, mature late and produce few young, and this makes their populations particularly vulnerable to overfishing.

Because of this vulnerability, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) made the species a priority for scientific monitoring, and launched a dedicated research programme under the **BlackSea4Fish** project.



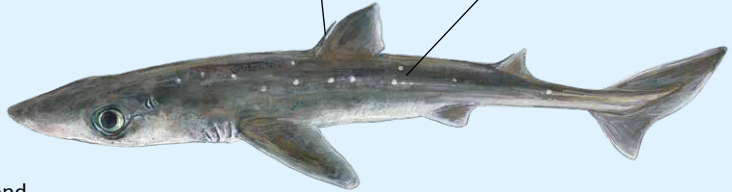
How to identify the piked dogfish

It is important to distinguish the piked dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) from its close relative, the longnose spurdog (*Squalus blainville*).

Piked dogfish

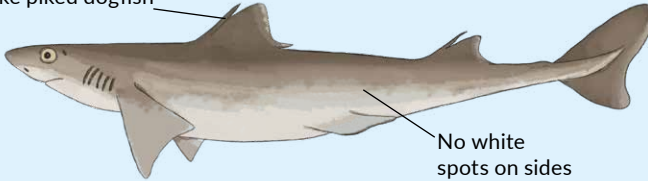
First dorsal fin spine slender and very short

Sides of body usually have a conspicuous line of white spots



Longnose spurdog

First dorsal fin spine slender and very tall, unlike piked dogfish



No white spots on sides

Safe handling

Piked dogfish bycatch survival rates are increased by best-practice handling methods:



Prioritize piked dogfish while sorting.



Avoid damage to gills and spine.



Take care while dehooking.



Piked dogfish have slightly venomous spines that can cause injury: beware of stings when releasing!



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Key actions to save the piked dogfish



Reduce bycatch volume by collecting and sharing effective mitigation measures.



Increase bycatch survival rates by using best-practice handling methods.



Fishers and decision-makers can work together to explore ways of reducing pressure on the species.



Finding alternative income sources for fishers who target piked dogfish is a priority.



We need your help!

The GFCM is very keen to hear from fishers who can contribute their knowledge of the piked dogfish to our research programme. If you have any information on the species you feel might be useful, then you have a part to play in protecting it: please get in touch today.

You can reach us by email at BlackSea4Fish@gfcmonline.org

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, BlackSea4Fish and the piked dogfish campaign

The GFCM manages fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Comprising 22 member countries and the European Union, its main goal is to ensure the **conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources** in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. In 2016, the GFCM launched **BlackSea4Fish**, a project to provide scientific and technical support for the sustainable management of Black Sea fisheries.

The piked dogfish awareness-raising campaign is carried out in cooperation with the National Institute for Marine Research and Development (NIMRD) and the National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture (NAFA) from Romania, the Central Fisheries Research Institute (SUMAE) and the General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (BSGM) from Türkiye, the National Environment Agency (NEA) and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection from Georgia, and the Executive Agency of Fisheries and Aquaculture (EAFA) from Bulgaria, under the supervision of the GFCM Black Sea Technical Unit.



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