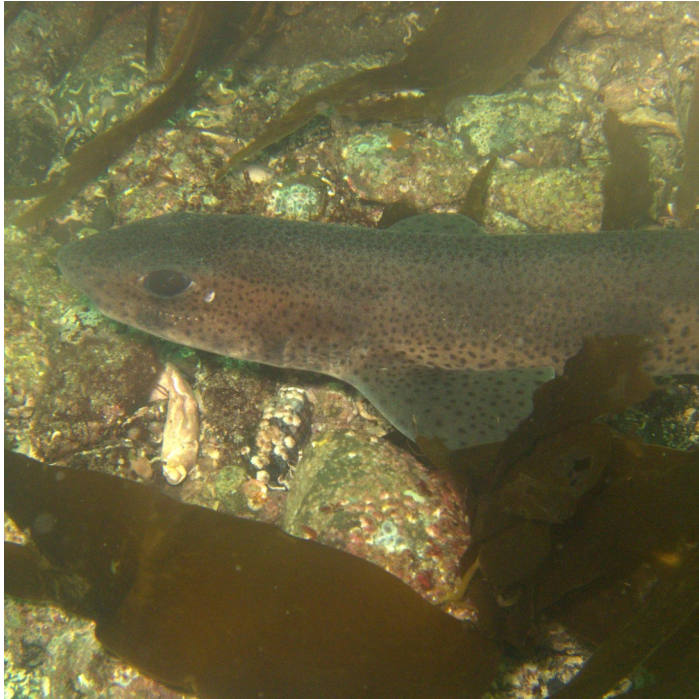


Lesser spotted catshark (*Scyliorhinus canicula*)

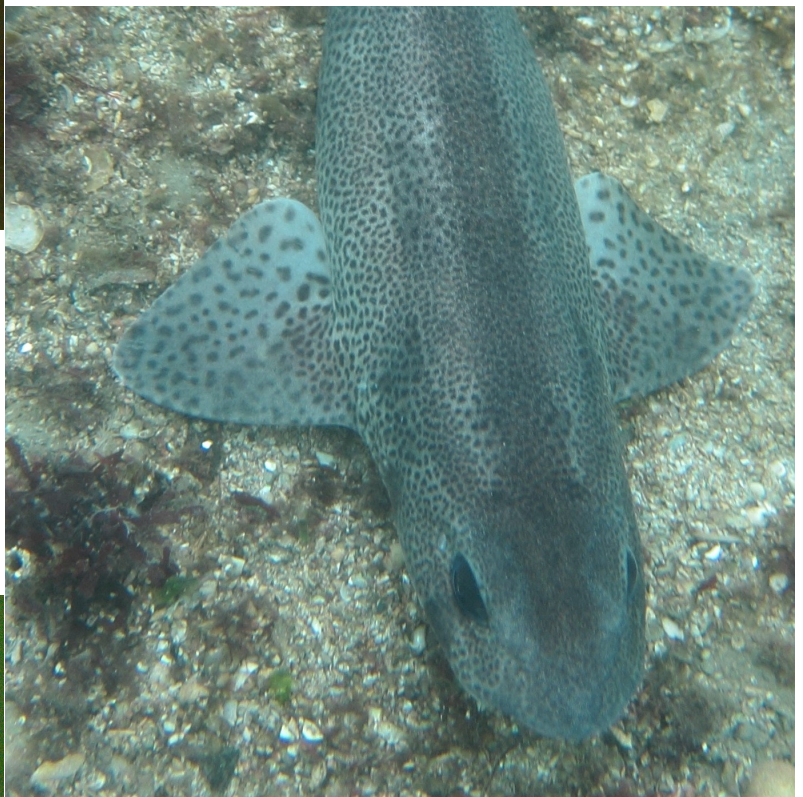
Chondrichthyes (Chordata:Carcharhiniformes)



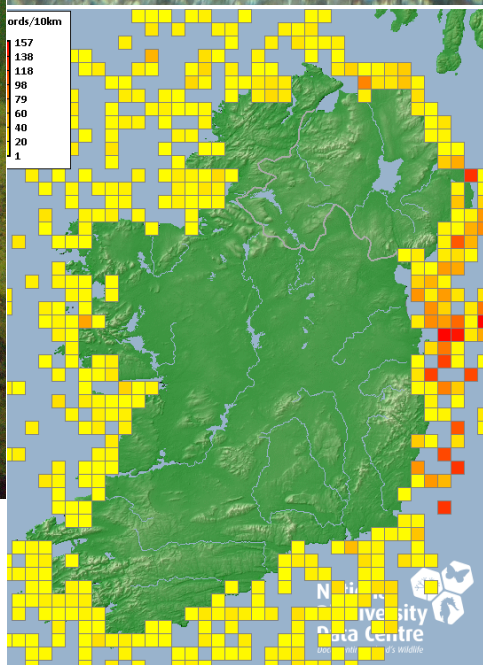
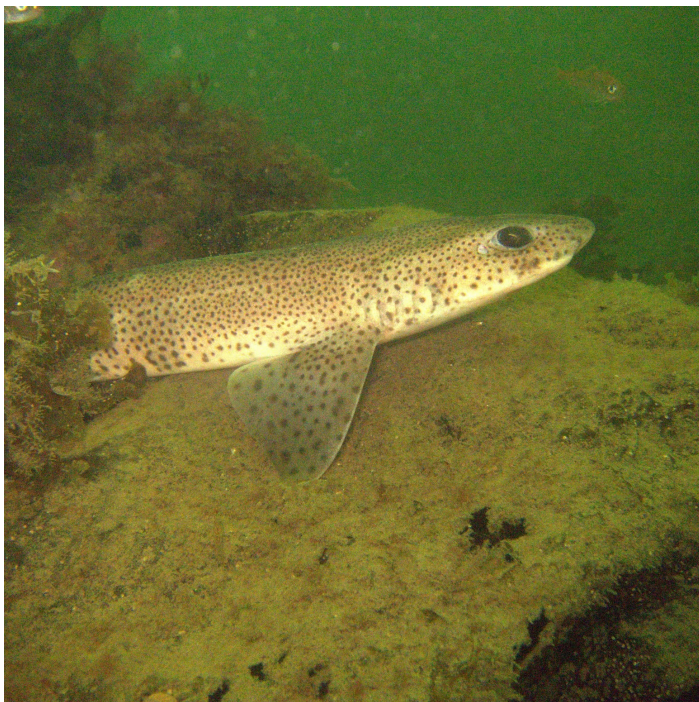
Chordata->Chondrichthyes->Carcharhiniformes

IUCN Red List Categorisation: Least Concern

This species is found on all Irish coasts and is widespread in the North East Atlantic occurring from Norway to West Africa¹. It is the most abundant elasmobranch in Irish waters and has been classified as Least Concern in the Irish Red List of Chondrichthyes¹. Found on a variety of substrates this species has a year round breeding season lasting 10-11 months¹.



The smaller of the two dogfish/catshark species found in Irish waters the two *Scyliorhinus* species cannot be confused with any other species found in Irish inshore waters. While *S. canicula* can be confused with the nursehound (*S. stellaris*), *S. canicula* is smaller, rarely reaching more than 1m in length and has more numerous and densely packed spots. In *S. stellaris* the spots are much larger and more widely spaced.



1. Clarke, M., Farrell, E.D., Roche, W., Murray, T.E., Foster, S. and Marnell, F. (2016) Ireland Red List No. 11: Cartilaginous fish [sharks, skates, rays and chimaeras]. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. Dublin, Ireland.

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Found on all Irish coasts and off shore this species is both widespread and the most abundant elasmobranch in Irish waters.¹