

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Galeus melastomus

English name: Black mouthed dogfish	Scientific name: <i>Galeus melastomus</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Elasmobranchii Order: Carcharhiniformes Family: Scyliorhinidae	Species authority: Rafinesque, 1810	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: –	Generation length: Not known	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): –	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): –	
IUCN Criteria: –	HELCOM Red List Category:	NA Not Applicable
Global / European IUCN Red List Category: LC/NE	Habitats Directive: –	
Previous HELCOM Red List Category (2007): EN		
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: Denmark –/–, Estonia –/–, Finland –/–, Germany –/–, Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden –/NA		

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

This small, common to abundant catshark is widely distributed in the Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean Seas. Various research survey and landings data show no evidence of any significant decline, and overall populations appear stable. In the HELCOM area however the black mouthed dog fish is only a rare visitor.

Habitat and ecology

The black mouthed dog fish occurs on continental shelves and upper slopes, mainly at depths of 200–500 m. The species is ovoviviparous and size at maturity in females is documented as 38–51 cm and males as 34–45 cm. It feeds mainly on crustaceans, teleost fishes and cephalopods.

Description of major threats

No major threats identified within the HELCOM area but the species is taken as bycatch by demersal trawls and longlines throughout large areas of its geographic range.

Assessment justification

No regular occurrence of mature individuals, hence considered Not Applicable (NA) for the assessment.

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

No protection actions currently needed in the HELCOM area.

Common names

D -Fleckhai; ES –; GB –; DK -Ringhaj; FIN –Rengaskissahai ; LV - Melnmates kaķhaizivs; LT -Juodažiotis pjūklauodegis katryklis; PL -Piłogon; RU -Chernorotaja akula; S – Hågål

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Galeus malestomus

References

- HELCOM (2007). HELCOM Red list of threatened and declining species of lampreys and fish of the Baltic Sea. Baltic Sea Environmental Proceedings No. 109. Helsinki Commission, Helsinki. 40 pp.
- HELCOM (2012). Checklist of Baltic Sea Macro-species. Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings No. 130. Helsinki Commission, Helsinki. 203 pp.
- Serena, F., Mancusi, C., Ungaro, N., Hareide, N.R., Guallart, J., Coelho, R., Crozier, P. (2009). *Galeus melastomus*. In: IUCN 2012. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Available at: www.iucnredlist.org (viewed 26 January 2013)