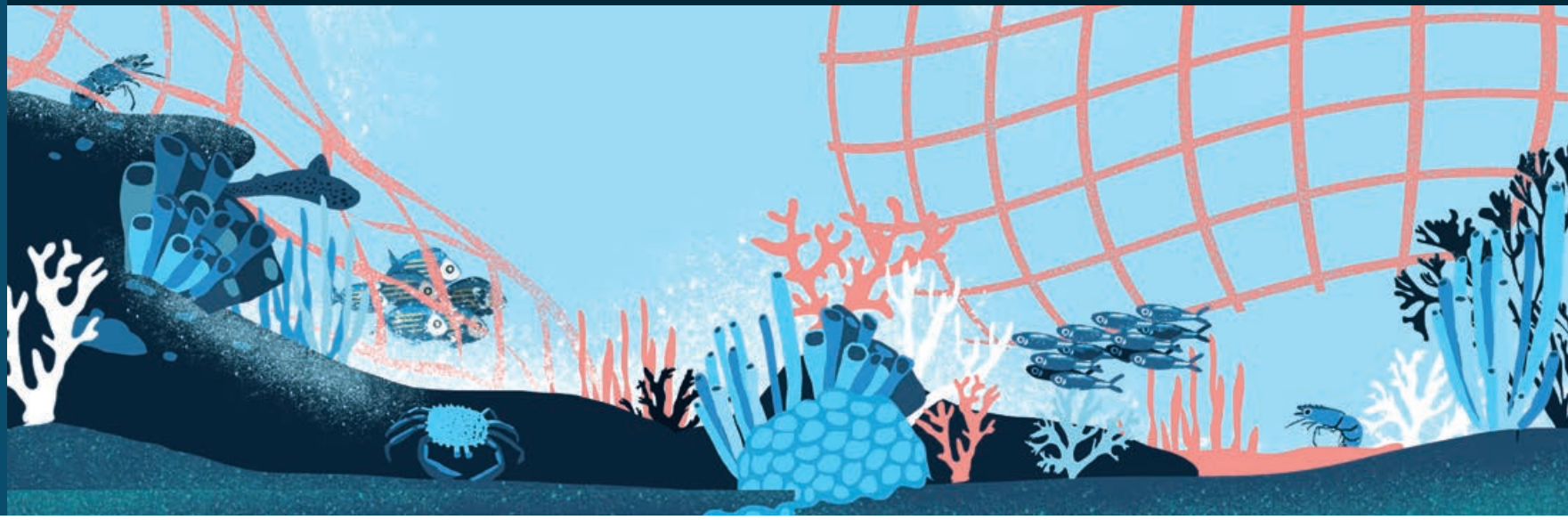
CROATIA
ITALY
MOROCCO
TUNISIA
TURKEY

MED BYCATCH

POCKET IDENTIFICATION GUIDE OF MAIN VULNERABLE SPECIES
INCIDENTALLY CAUGHT IN ITALIAN FISHERIES

Simplified guide adapted for Italian (GSA 18) from the Identification guide of vulnerable species incidentally caught in Mediterranean fisheries



ACCOBAMS · UN environment · MAP · SPA/RAC · IUCN · BirdLife International Europe and Central Asia · MEDASSET Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles · WWF

IN COLLABORATION WITH

LIPU

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MARINE MAMMALS

Tursiops truncatus
Common bottlenose dolphin / Tursiope
♂: 2.5 – 3.9 m
♀: 2.2 - 3.2 m
NB: 1 – 1.2 m

LC VU
Glo Med

Stenella coeruleoalba
Striped dolphin / Stenella striata
Ad: 1.8 – 2.6 m
NB: 85 – 95 cm

LC VU
Glo Med

Delphinus delphis
Short-beaked common dolphin / Delfino comune
♂: 2.0 – 2.6 m / ♀: 2.4 m /
NB: 80 – 90 cm

LC EN
Glo Med

Ziphius cavirostris
Cuvier's beaked whale / Zifio
♂: up to 7.5 m
♀: up to 7 m
NB: 2 – 2.7 m

LC DD
Glo Med

Grampus griseus
Risso's dolphin / Grampo o Delfino di Risso
Ad: 3 – 4 m / NB: 1.2 – 1.5 m

LC DD
Glo Med

Globicephala melas
Long-finned pilot whale / Globicefalo
♂: 5.5 – 6.2 m / ♀: 4.5 – 5.5 m
NB: 1.7 – 1.8 m

LC DD
Glo Med

Physeter macrocephalus
Sperm whale / Capodoglio
♂: 16 – 18 m / ♀: 11 – 12 m / NB: 3.3 – 4.2 m

VU EN
Glo Med

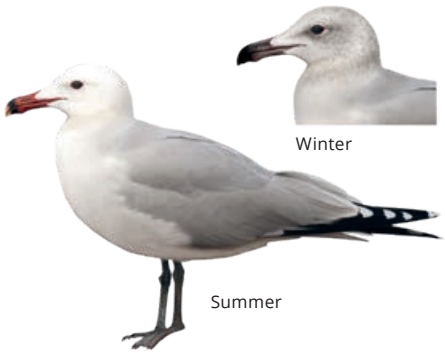
Balaenoptera physalus
Fin whale / Balenottera comune
♂: 18 – 20 m / ♀: 20 – 22 m / NB: 6 – 6.5 m

VU VU
Glo Med

SEABIRDS

LC **Glo**

Larus michahellis
Yellow-legged gull / Gabbiano reale
Wingspan: 120 – 140 cm



VU **Glo**

Larus audouinii
Audouin's gull / Gabbiano corso
W: 117 – 128 cm

LC **Glo**

Phalacrocorax carbo
Great Cormorant / Cormorano
W: 77 – 94 cm

LC **Glo**

Gulosus aristotelis desmarestii
European shag / Marangone dal ciuffo
W: 115 – 125 cm

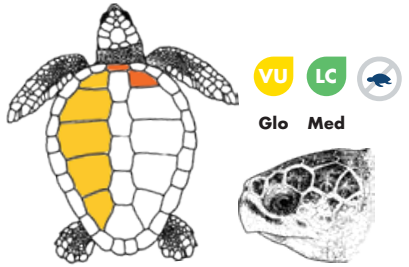
VU **Glo**

Puffinus yelkouan
Yelkouan shearwater / Berta minore
W: 70 – 84 cm

LC **Glo**

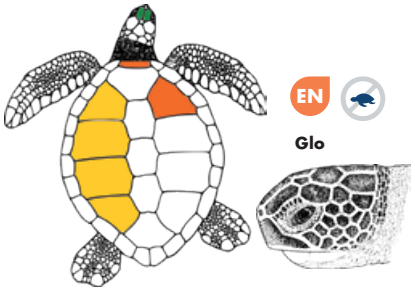
Calonectris diomedea
Scopoli's shearwater / Berta maggiore
W: 112 – 122 cm

SEA TURTLES



VU LC **Glo** **Med**

Caretta caretta
Loggerhead turtle / Tartaruga caretta
♂: 75 – 80 cm; ♀: 66 – 85 cm



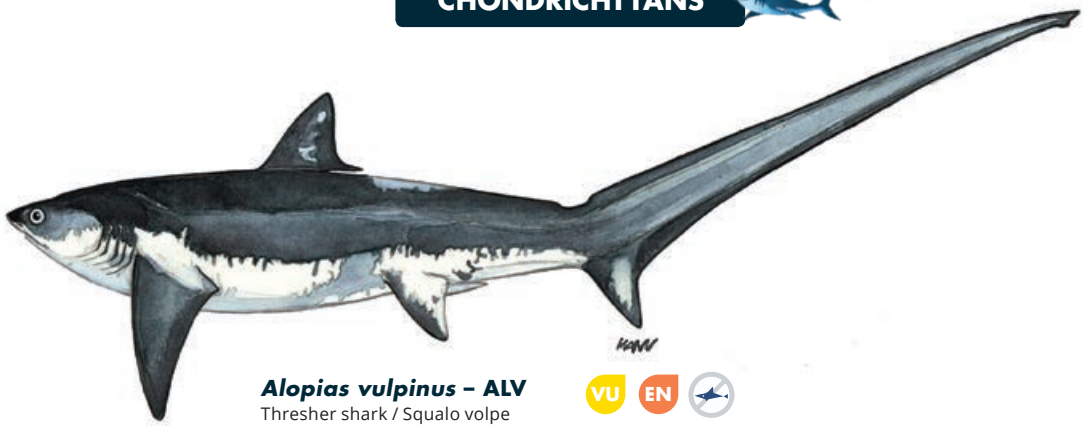
EN **Glo**

Chelonia mydas
Green turtle / Tartaruga verde
Ad (♂ and ♀): 80 – 120 cm

VU **Glo**

Dermochelys coriacea
Leatherback sea turtle /
Tartaruga liuto
Average adult length 1.4 – 1.6 m

CHONDRICHTYANS

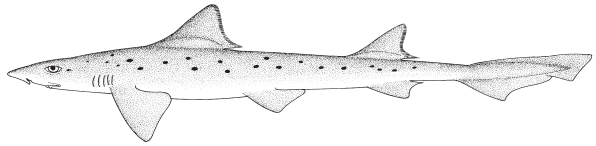


***Alopias vulpinus* – ALV**
Thresher shark / Squalo volpe
Ad: up to 6 m

VU EN
Glo Med

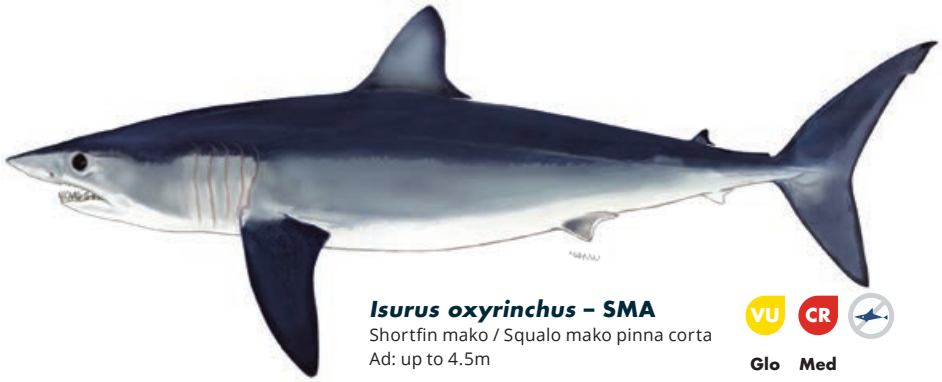
***Galeorhinus galeus* – GAG**
Tope shark / Canesca
Ad: up to 1.6m

VU VU
Glo Med



***Mustelus punctulatus* – MPT**
Blackspotted smooth-hound /
Palombo punteggiato
Ad: up to 1.9 m

DD VU
Glo Med



***Isurus oxyrinchus* – SMA**
Shortfin mako / Squalo mako pinna corta
Ad: up to 4.5m

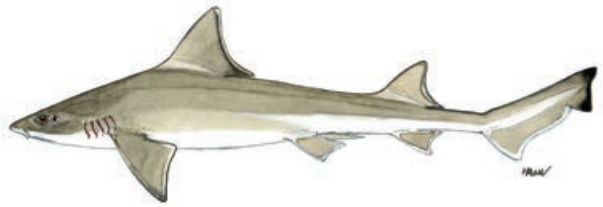
VU CR
Glo Med

***Mustelus asterias* – SDS**
Starry smooth-hound shark /
Palombo stellato
Ad: up to 1.4 m

LC VU
Glo Med

***Hexanchus griseus* – SBL**
Bluntnose six-gill shark /
Squalo capopiatto
Ad: up to 5 m

NT DD
Glo Med



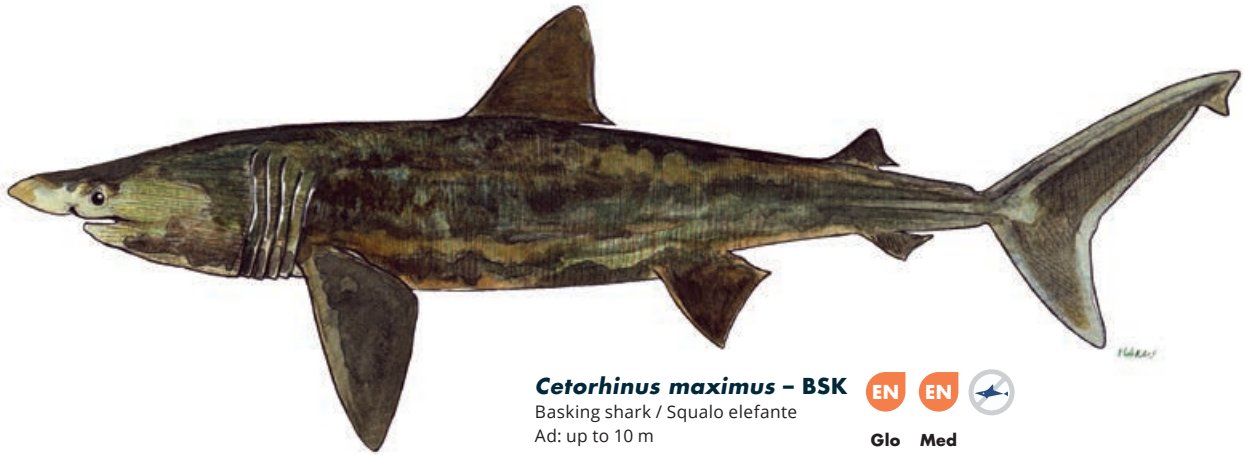
***Mustelus mustelus* – SMD**
Smooth-hound / Palombo
Ad: up to 2 m

VU VU
Glo Med

CHONDRICHTYANS

***Galeus melastomus* – SHO**
Blackmouth catshark / Gattuccio boccanera
Ad: up to 90 cm

LC Glo LC Med

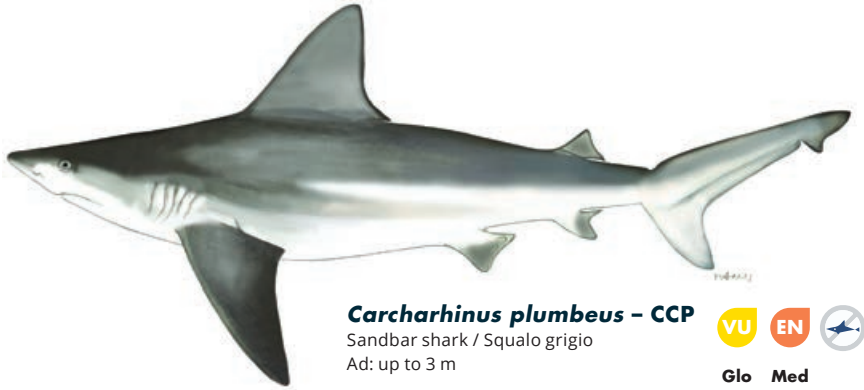


***Cetorhinus maximus* – BSK**
Basking shark / Squalo elefante
Ad: up to 10 m

EN Glo EN Med

***Scyliorhinus canicula* – SYC**
Small-spotted catshark / Gattuccio
Ad: up to 1 m (60 cm in Mediterranean)

LC Glo LC Med



***Carcharhinus plumbeus* – CCP**
Sandbar shark / Squalo grigio
Ad: up to 3 m

VU Glo EN Med

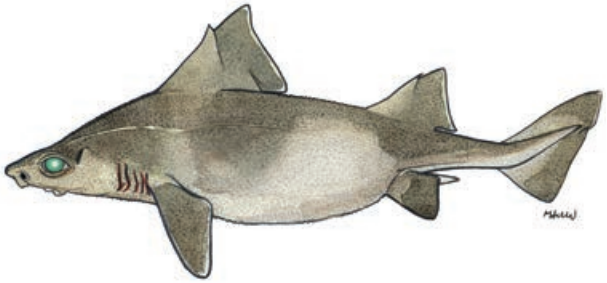
***Scyliorhinus stellaris* – SYT**
Nursehound / Gattopardo
Ad: up to 1.7 m

NT Glo NT Med

***Prionace glauca* – BSH**
Blue shark / Verdesca
Ad: up to 4 m

NT Glo CR Med

CHONDRICHTYANS



***Oxynotus centrina* – OXY**
Angular rough shark / Pesce porco
Ad: up to 1.5 m

VU CR
Glo Med

***Squalus acanthias* – DGS**
Picked dogfish / Squalus acanthias
Ad: up to 2 m

VU EN
Glo Med

***Dalatias licha* – SCK**
Kitefin shark / Zigrino
Ad: up to 1.82 m

VU VU
Med

***Squalus blainville* – QUB**
Longnose spurdog / Spinarolo bruno
Ad: 50 – 80 cm in total length, occasionally until 1.1 m

DD DD
Glo Med

***Centrophorus* cf *uyato* – GUP**
Gulper shark / Sagrì
Ad: up to 1.2 m

DD CR
Glo Med

***Etmopterus spinax* – ETX**
Velvet belly / Sagrì nero o Moretto
Ad: up to 60 cm

LC LC
Glo Med

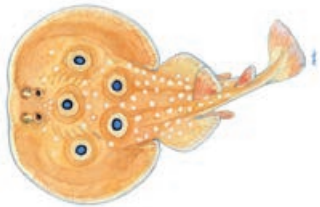
***Heptranchias perlo* – HXT**
Sharpnose sevengill shark /
Squalo manzo
Ad: up to 1.4m

NT DD
Glo Med

CHONDRICHTYANS

***Torpedo marmorata* – TTR**
Marbled elettric ray /
Torpedine marezzata
Ad: up to 1 m in total length

DD LC
Glo Med



***Torpedo torpedo* – TTV**
Common torpedo /
Torpedine occhiuta
Ad: 60 cm in total length

DD LC
Glo Med

***Pteroplatytrygon violacea* – PLS**
Pelagic stingray /
Trigone viola
Ad: up to 80 cm
total length

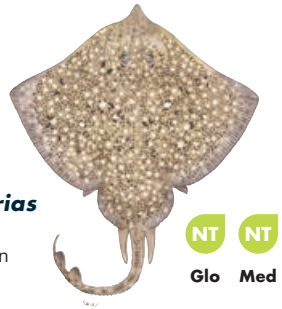
LC LC
Glo Med

***Tetronarce nobiliana* – TTO**
Electric ray /
Torpedine nera
Ad: up to 1.8m

DD LC
Glo Med

***Leucoraja circularis* – RJI**
Sandy ray / Razza rotonda
Ad: up to 1.2 m total length

EN CR
Glo Med



***Raja asterias* – JRS**
Mediterranean
starry ray /
Razza stellata
Ad: up to 80 cm in total length

NT NT
Glo Med

***Raja clavata* – RJC**
Thornback ray / Razza chiodata
Ad: up to 90-130 cm in total length

NT NT
Glo Med

***Raja miraletus* – JAI**
Brown ray / Razza quattrocchi
Ad: up to 70 cm in total length

LC LC
Glo Med

***Raja polystigma* – RJM**
Speckled skate / Razza polistimma
Ad: up to 70 cm

LC LC
Glo Med

***Dasyatis pastinaca* – JDP**
Common stingray / Pastinaca
Ad: Disc wide up to 68 cm

DD VU
Glo Med

***Myliobatis aquila* – MYL**
Common eagle ray / Aquila di mare
Ad: Disc wide up to 1.5 m

DD VU
Glo Med

***Mobula mobular* – RMM**
Devil fish / Mobula o Diavolo di mare
Ad: Disc wide up to 5.2 m

EN EN
Glo Med

***Dipturus oxyrinchus* – RJO**
Pocheteau noir /
Razza monaca
Ad: Disc wide up to 1.5 m

NT NE
Glo Med

***Chimaera monstrosa* – CMO**
Rabbit fish / Chimera
Ad: up to 1 m

NT NT
Glo Med

SPONGES

Massive keratose sponges – KERA

Sarcotragus sp.

Sarcotragus sp.

Hippospongia communis

Ircinia variabilis

Globular sponges – GLOS

Suberites domuncula

Tethya aurantium

Thenea spp.

Massive Mediterranean stony sponge – PETR

Petrosia ficiformis (burgundy morph)

Petrosia ficiformis (white morph)

Lamellate to cup-shaped sponges – LAMS

Spongia lamella

Calyx nicaeensis

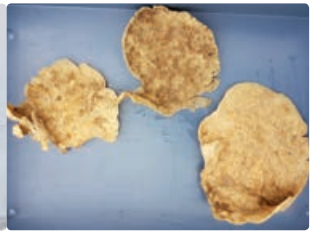
Arborescent sponges – ARBS

Axinella sp.

Axinella cannabina

Fan-shaped sponges – FANS

Phakellia ventilabrum



Phakellia robusta

Massive, (sub-) spherical hard sponges (*Geodia* spp.) – GEOD

Geodia cydonium

Lamellate rock sponges (*Leiodermatium* sp.) – ROCK

Leiodermatium pfeifferae

Massive-tubular gold sponges (*Aplysina* spp.) – APLY

Aplysina spp.

Other massive sponges (to be recorded as "Other massive") – OTHR

Agelas oroides

Birds' nest glass sponge – BIRD

Pheronema carpenteri

Felt vase glass sponge – FELT

Asconema setubalense

CORALS

Soft corals – SOFT

Alcyonium palmatum

Thick and tall red, yellow fan-shaped gorgonians – FANG

Acanthogorgia hirsuta

Paramuricea clavata VU

Seapens – PENS

Pteroeides spinosum and *Pennatula* spp.

Bamboo corals – BAMB

Isidella elongata CR

Bright yellow or salmon-pink hard corals (*Dendrophyllia* spp.) – DEND

Dead dendrophyllids

Dendrophyllia cornigera EN

Dendrophyllia ramea VU

Thin, delicate white, reddish, yellow fan-shaped gorgonians – THIG

Paramuricea macrospina

Precious red coral – REDC

Corallium rubrum EN

Flexible white and salmon-pink fan-shaped gorgonians (*Eunicella* spp.) – EUNI

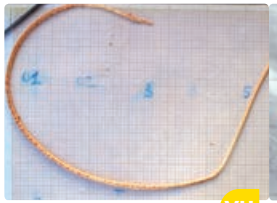
Eunicella cavolini

Eunicella verrucosa

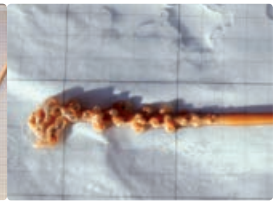
Salmon-pink, brittle fan-shaped gorgonians – CALL

Callogorgia verticillata

White, stem-like sea pens – STEM

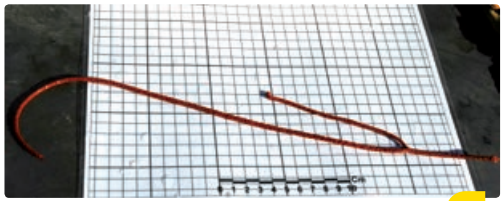


Funiculina quadrangularis VU



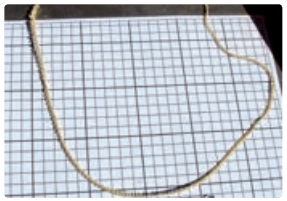
Kophobelemnon stelliferum

Candelabrum-shaped, red gorgonians – ELLP



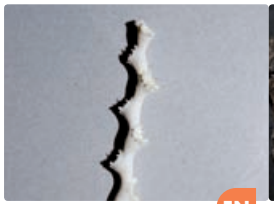
Ellisella paraplexauroides VU

Tall, white or yellow whip gorgonians (*Viminella flagellum*) – VIMF



Viminella flagellum

White corals – WHIT



Madrepora oculata EN

Lophelia pertusa EN

Colonial hard corals – CLAD

Cladocora caespitosa EN

Arborescent black corals – BLAC

Antipathella subpinnata

Parantipathes larix

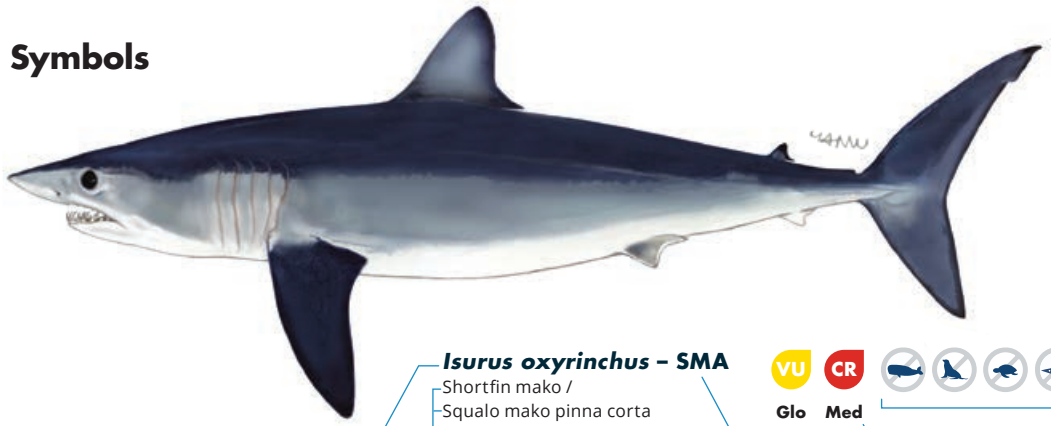
Leiopathes glaberrima EN

Antipathes dichotoma

Abbreviations

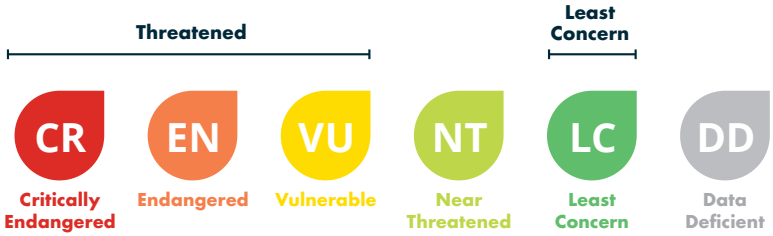
Ad: Adult
♂: Male
♀: Female
NB: New Born
W: Wingspan

Symbols



Key to IUCN Red List category symbols

For each species sheets, the IUCN categories relating to the conservation status both globally (Glo) and Mediterranean (Med) level are reported, according to the following scheme:



Geographical subarea (GSA) 18 refers to the Southern Adreatic Sea. If the incidentally caught species is not included in this guide, please refer to the **Identification guide of vulnerable species incidentally caught in Mediterranean fisheries**, which also provides detailed information on the conservation status, regulations and protection of each species (under ACCOBAMS, SPA/BD Protocol, CITES, CMS, GFCM, IUCN). Illustration source of sharks and rays: FAO Original scientific illustrations archive. Reproduced with permission.

* GFCM recommendations related to the management and conservation of vulnerable species in the GFCM area of application: seabirds (Rec. GFCM/35/2011/3); sea turtles (Rec. GFCM/35/2011/4); cetaceans (Rec. GFCM/36/2012/2; Res. GFCM/43/2019/2); sharks and rays (Rec. GFCM/36/2012/3; Rec. GFCM/42/2018/2) and corals (Res. GFCM/43/2019/6).

QR Code