

PORBEAGLE STAY SHARK SAVVY



IDENTIFYING, SAFELY RELEASING, AND RECORDING BYCATCH OF SHARKS

THIS GUIDE IS TO HELP YOU...



IDENTIFY DIFFERENT SHARKS [2-4]

SAFELY HANDLE AND RELEASE SHARKS BIG AND SMALL [5]

RECORD SHARK BYCATCH AND DISCARDS [6]

CONTRIBUTE TO RESEARCH VIA THE CLEAN CATCH APP [7]

KEY WAYS TO ID



PORBEAGLE SHARK

Lamna nasus

Considered **Critically Endangered**
in Europe and in decline.



AKA: PORGIE, ATLANTIC MACKEREL SHARK, BEAGLE

Narrow, crescent shaped caudal fin with **two keels** at the base of the tail.

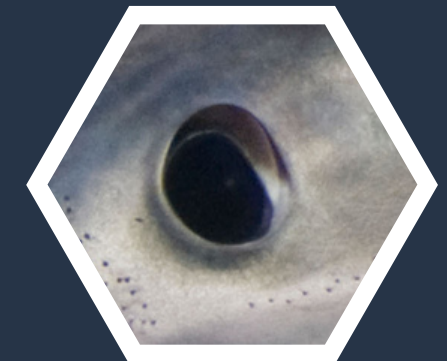
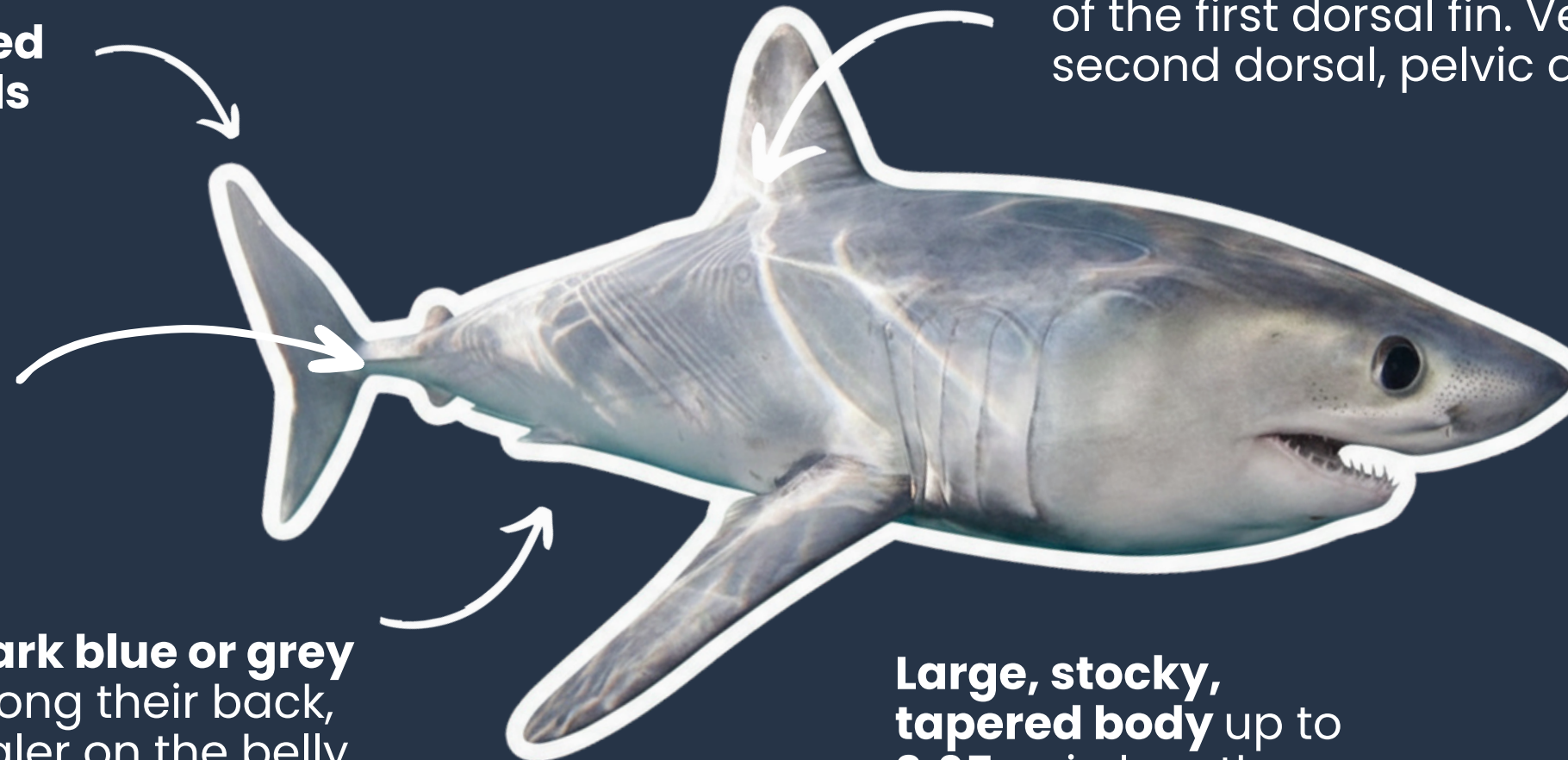
Keel – A ridge found along the base of the caudal fin.

Dark blue or grey along their back, paler on the belly.

Distinctive white/grey tip at the rear of the first dorsal fin. Very small second dorsal, pelvic and anal fins.

Large black eyes without protective eyelids.

Large, stocky, tapered body up to **3.65 m** in length.



Juvenile porbeagle sharks (<1.5m in length) **grow fast** and have the **same key ID features as adults.**

VIEW THE
SHARK TRUST'S
PORBEAGLE ID GUIDE



SIMILAR SPECIES



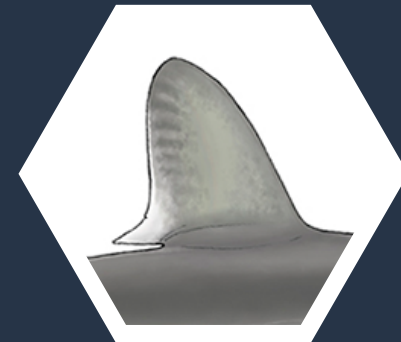
These features can be used to tell porbeagle and shortfin mako sharks apart.

Porbeagle sharks are **stockier** and **more rounded** in the mid-body than the shortfin mako shark, which have a **slender, torpedo-shaped** body.

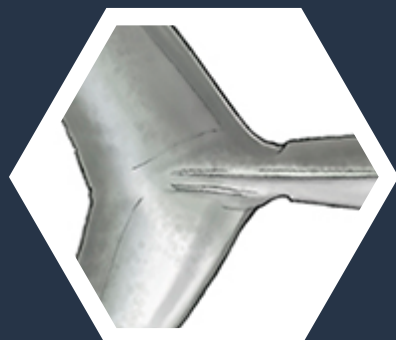
PORBEAGLE SHARK

Lamna nasus

Distinctive
white/grey tip at
the rear of the first
dorsal fin.



**Smaller,
more rounded**
dorsal fin.



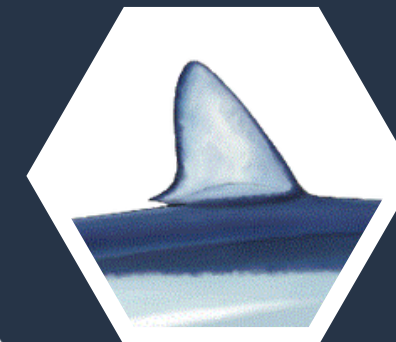
**Main keel
and
secondary
keel** on tail.



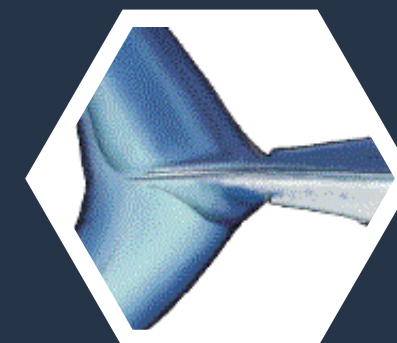
**Large triangular
teeth** with a cusp
each side of the
base

SHORTFIN MAKO SHARK

Isurus oxyrinchus



Taller
dorsal
fin.



**Only one
keel** on tail.



Teeth are
**long and lack
serrations**
or basal
cusps.

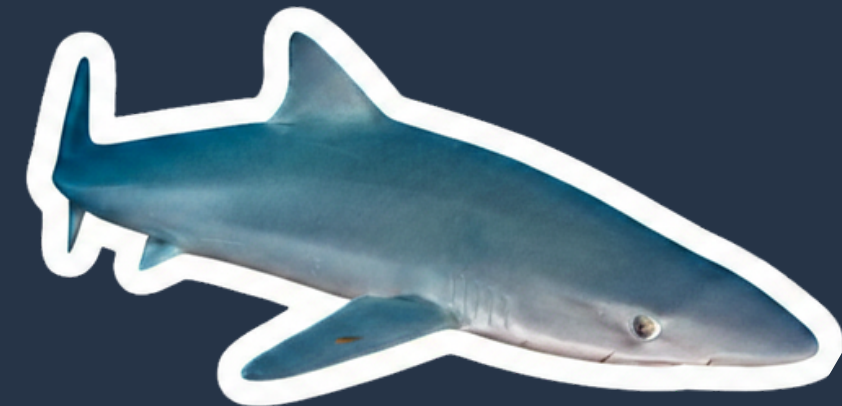
MORE SHARKS TO LOOK OUT FOR



The UK's waters are home to many other threatened sharks too – here are some of those you may encounter. Find out more in the [Clean Catch Wildlife ID Guide](#).



SPURDOG
SPURRIES / SPINY
DOGFISH / DOGS



TOPE
PENNY'S DOG



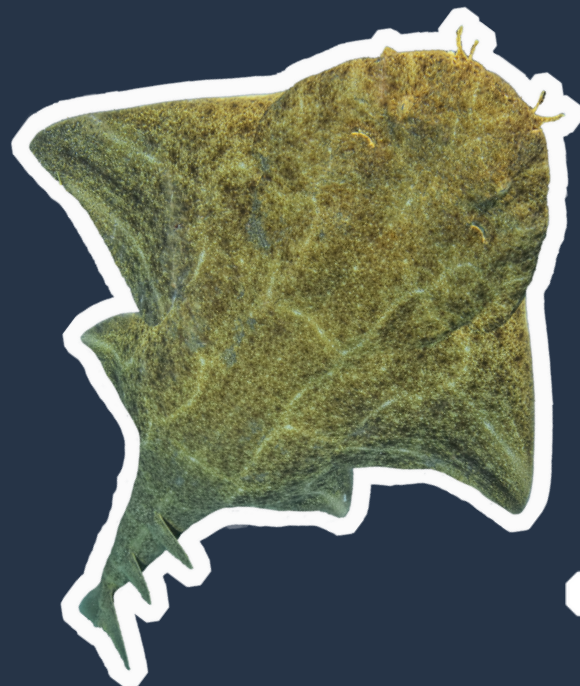
**BLUNTNOSE SIX-GILL
SHARK**
COW /
MUD SHARK



BLUE SHARK
BLUES



**STARRY
SMOOTHHOUND**
SPOTTY DOG / HOUND



ANGELSHARK
MONK /
FIDDLE FISH



**SHORTFIN MAKO
SHARK**
BLUE DYNAMITE



THRESHER SHARK
FOX / SLASHER



BASKING SHARK
BIGMOUTH / BONE SHARK

SAFE HANDLING & RELEASE



Safe handling and release can greatly improve the chances of survival for a shark. Here's how to minimise the risk of stress or injury, for both the shark and you.

- Where possible, **leave the shark in the water and avoid bringing on board.** If already onboard, **carefully return the shark to the water, and avoid dropping them from height.**
- If onboard **always lift a shark to move it,** using both hands and working together where possible.
- **Support the shark under its mid-body, behind the pectoral fins and near the base of the tail.**
- **Avoid touching the gills,** as these can be easily damaged.
- **Avoid dragging or holding the shark solely by its tail,** as this could injure you or the shark.
- If you can, **cover the shark's eyes with a wet dark cloth** to help keep them in a calmer state.



Shark Trust Illustrations (C) Marc Dando

SAFETY GEAR

- **Wear heavy duty protective gloves and long sleeves** to avoid 'shark burn' from contact with the shark's rough skin.
- When the shark is in the water **use long-handled tools** (for cutting hooks or tangled rope), and **use a soft rope to loop over the snout if absolutely necessary.**
- **Never use a gaff!**

THE LAW ON RECORDING BYCATCH

THERE ARE NO PENALTIES FOR ACCIDENTALLY CATCHING PROHIBITED SHARKS, SKATES, AND RAYS – BUT **YOU MUST LOG SUCH EVENTS**

Bycatch of porbeagle and other prohibited sharks, skates, and rays must be recorded in your vessel logbook, as part of fishing vessel licence conditions.

Why is recording bycatch of these animals important?

- Data provided by you and other fishermen can help to improve knowledge about these often data-limited species.
- Better data supports the setting of sustainable catch limits.
- Healthy populations of sharks, skates, and rays are part of a healthy, balanced ecosystem.

Targeting or retaining porbeagle is prohibited.



Species regulations can change. Follow the QR code to stay up to date with the latest regulations for sharks, skates, and rays in your region.

HELP US BE SHARK SAVVY: GET THE CLEAN CATCH SELF-REPORTING APP



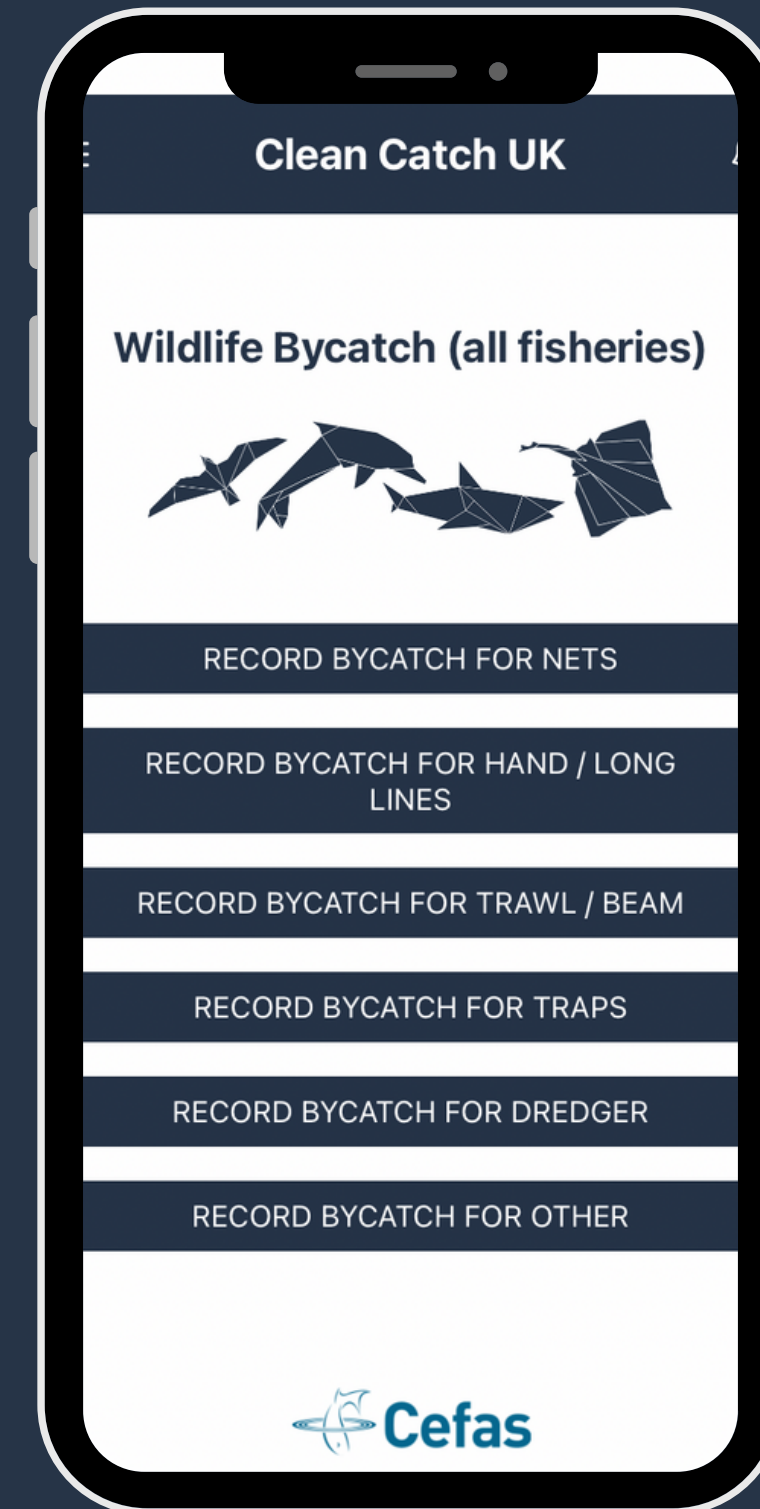
With the Clean Catch self-reporting app, your data could do even more to improve knowledge and sustainable management of porbeagle and other sharks, skates, and rays.

The Clean Catch Self-Reporting App:

- A voluntary “add-on” for recording bycatch of and other interactions with sensitive marine species (including sharks, skates, rays, dolphins, porpoises, whales, seals, and seabirds).
- Lets users log their bycatch and catch, see their own fishing data over time, and get alerts for any bycatch hotspots identified by other app users.
- Developed and tested in close collaboration with fishermen.
- Designed to be practical and easy to use at sea.
- Available to all UK fishermen.

Visit the [**Clean Catch website**](#) for more information on how to register to use the app, and how the data you submit through the app will be protected.

All app users must still record shark, skate, and ray bycatch in vessel logbooks.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & FURTHER INFO



This guidance has been developed by Clean Catch and The Shark Trust in collaboration with the UK fishing industry. We would like to thank all the fishermen and other representatives who gave us their time and expert insights.



Looking for information on ways to avoid bycatch as well as recording it and safely handling and releasing animals? Head to the [Clean Catch Bycatch Mitigation Hub](#) to explore our “library” of mitigation measures.



Clean Catch champions collaborative working to help monitor and minimise the bycatch of sensitive marine species in UK fisheries, and facilitates the exchange of knowledge globally.

The Shark Trust works globally to improve the conservation status of sharks, skates and rays. Advocating for policy changes. And generating collective action to support their goals.



**Clean
Catch**





**Clean
Catch**

Joint Action on Sensitive Species Bycatch



SHARK
— TRUST —