

Region Under Threat: Arctic Waters, Celtic Seas, Bay of Biscay & Iberian Coast, Wider Atlantic

# Species: Portuguese Dogfish

OSPAR Recommendation 2014/05:

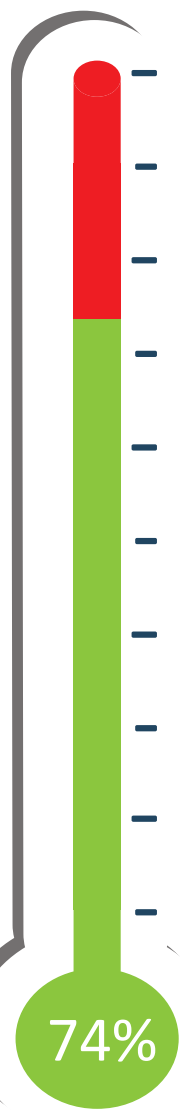
Contracting Parties are required to report progress with implementation of recommendations every six years, with initial more frequent reporting until 2019.

Measures taken by Contracting Parties to protect the Portuguese dogfish include monitoring programmes, MPAs and awareness raising with the fisheries industry



## Description

The Portuguese dogfish (*Centroscymnus coelolepis*) inhabits continental and insular slopes and abyssal plains, on or near the bottom at depths of 270-3,675 m and temperatures of 5-13°C. In the OSPAR Maritime Area it occurs from Greenland to Iceland and the Faroe Banks south along the east Atlantic continental slope to Portugal, primarily in the deep waters of OSPAR. All reproductive stages, including mature and pregnant females, occur in the OSPAR Area. There appears to be some vertical migration and the largest mature females move to shallower waters to give birth where they are more likely to be targeted by fisheries. Indeed, mature females (a large proportion of them pregnant) have been predominant in catches; exploitation of this sector of the population is particularly damaging to the stock.



## Action Highlights

Each Recommendation requires Contracting Parties to report on the methods used to implement the measures. The methods are Legislation, Administrative action and Negotiated agreement, or any combination of these. Some recent examples include:

1. There is a Zero Total Allowable Catch in fisheries;
2. France, Spain, and the UK have monitoring programmes;
3. Spain undertakes awareness raising with the fishing industry;
4. France and the UK have identification guides;
5. Spain has 3 Marine Protected Areas.

## Engagement

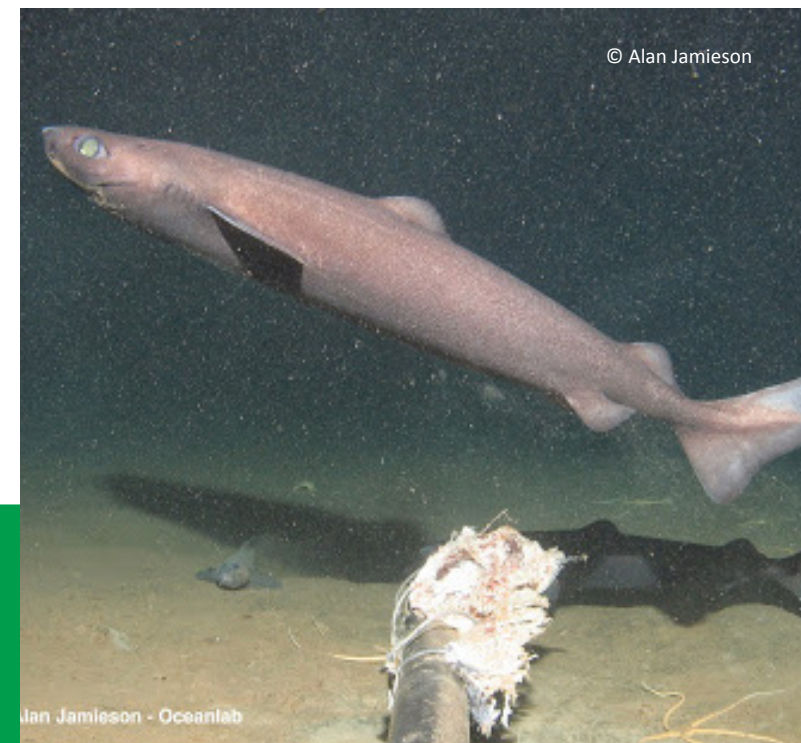
The engagement index (left) measures how well Contracting Parties have engaged with the national measures in the Recommendation. The higher the score the greater the number of actions that Contracting Parties, which have reported, have taken to implement the measures in the Recommendation. Click here for more information on the index.

### References:

- References: Background Document for Portuguese dogfish (OSPAR Publication 469)
- OSPAR Recommendation 2014/05
- OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats (Agreement 2008-06)

## Condition

The population of Portuguese dogfish in the OSPAR Area is severely depleted. Directed fishing is currently prohibited by NEAFC but bycatch continues. Large mature pregnant females are particularly vulnerable because they occur in slightly shallower water, where they are more likely to interact with fisheries. The biology of this species means that, even when all deepwater fisheries mortality ceases, recovery will be extremely slow (in the order of many decades).



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