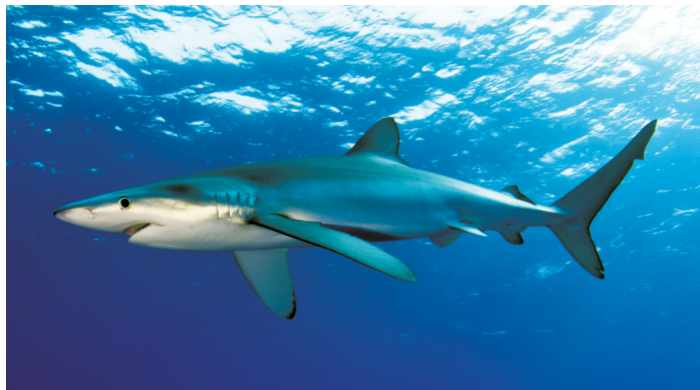


Blue Shark

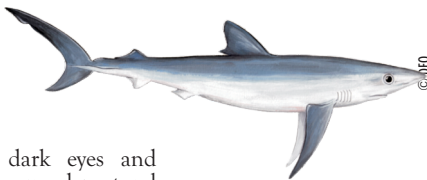
Prionace glauca



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Species Description

The Blue Shark is an elongated, slender shark, up to 4 m long. As its name suggests, its top and sides are a deep indigo blue and it has white undersides. It has a long, pointed snout, large dark eyes and triangular teeth. It has long, curved pectoral fins, two triangular dorsal fins (the first is large and the second very small), and a crescent-shaped tail (caudal fin), that has a notch on the upper lobe.



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Key ID Features: * slender, elongated shape * indigo blue colouration

STATUS



Special Concern COSEWIC

Not Listed

SARA

Population
Range



The Blue Shark is found throughout the world's temperate and tropical oceans. It occurs year-round in the waters off Nova Scotia, with potentially higher abundance in the summer and early winter.

Interesting Points

- One of the most abundant, widely distributed and fastest growing large sharks on earth.
- Feeds on prey such as squid, cuttlefish, lobster, crab and fish.
- Transoceanic migrant.

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Threats

- High incidental catch in the fishing industry (particularly pelagic longline fishing). Around 1000 tons of Blue Sharks are caught as bycatch each year in Atlantic Canada.
- Globally impacted by direct and recreational fishing practices.

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Acoustic telemetry, deployed by the Ocean Tracking Network, is being used to study juvenile blue sharks in Nova Scotia.

Learn how you can help on page 136.

Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

Contact: DFO Species at Risk 1-866-891-0771 or xmarsara@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Info: Canadian Shark Research Lab: www.bio.gc.ca/sharks, www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes

Sighting Reports: Shark Identification Network: <http://sharkidnetwork.com>

Stewardship: Ocean Tracking Network: <http://oceantrackingnetwork.org>