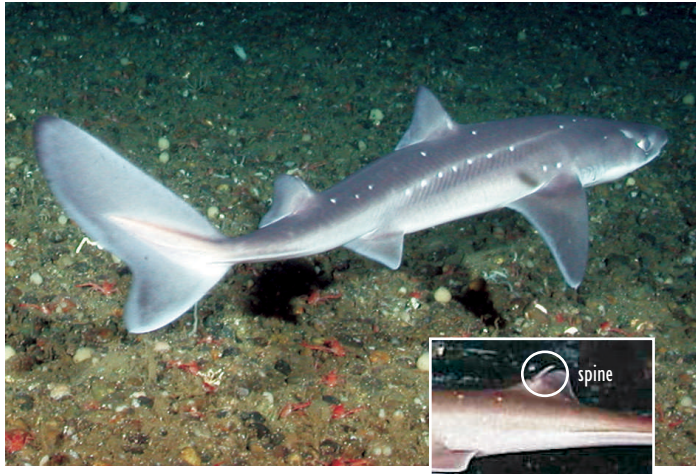


Spiny Dogfish

Squalus acanthias



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Species Description

The Spiny Dogfish is a small, slender shark, 0.8-1.2 m long, with a small snout. It is grey-brown coloured with white spots on its side and back, and with white undersides. It has a sharp spine located just before each of its dorsal fins, curved pectoral fins, no anal fin and a v-shaped tail with the upper lobe longer and wider than the lower lobe.



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STATUS



Special Concern COSEWIC

Not Listed

SARA

Population Range



Found throughout the world's temperate oceans. In the coastal waters off Nova Scotia, Spiny Dogfish are found year-round throughout the Bay of Fundy, southwest Scotian Shelf and Georges Bank.

Interesting Points

- Name comes from the spines in front of its dorsal fins, which contain a mild poison and are used for defence to pierce the skin of an attacker.
- Lives at least 40 years.



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Threats

- Direct and indirect fishing practices pose the greatest threat (gillnet, longline, trawlers).
- Its long life span and gestation period make population recovery difficult.
- Bioaccumulation of toxins.



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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: ShARCC: <http://atlanticsharks.org>

Key ID Features: * small and slender * row of white spots * spines before dorsal fins