



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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Agenda Item 25.6.3

**ANNEX IV TO THE SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN FOR THE ANGELSHARK
(*Squatina squatina*) IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

This document contains the updated *Annex IV Tools and Guidelines to Support Implementation* to the Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) in the Mediterranean Sea.

Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark in the Mediterranean Sea & CMS Decision 14.104

Annex IV

Tools and Guidelines to Support Implementation



Notes to reader:

This document represents the materials which contribute to the Annex IV archive. The archive is intended to be a living document, to be updated as new products develop. This will be hosted on the Angel Shark Conservation Network (ASCN) website.

Not all of the products displayed in this document have been produced for Mediterranean. Despite this, these additional products represent examples of positive resources which could be adapted to further support the delivery of the Mediterranean SSAP.

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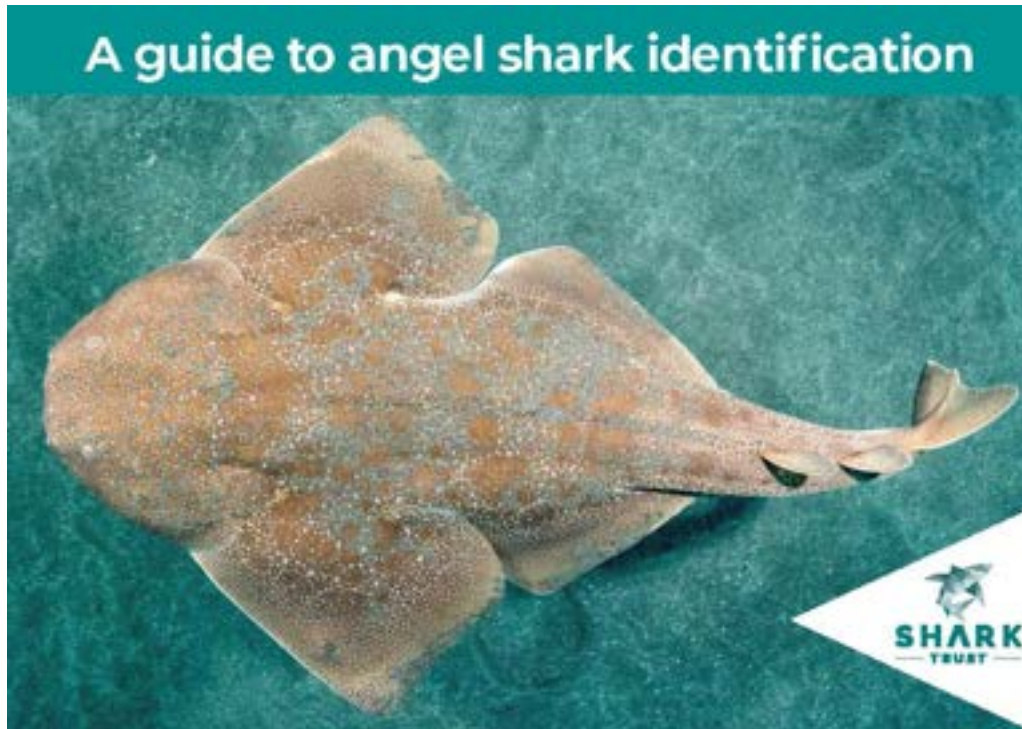
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Section 1: Identification



Global ID Guide





EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN

Angelshark *Squatina squatina*

Distribution: Northwest Atlantic (off Newfoundland), Canary Islands, and Mediterranean Sea.

Habitats: Intertidal to several fishing practices over the past century led to widespread declines and fragmented populations. This species now receives full protection in the UK and Canary Islands. Prohibitions on retention are in place in the Mediterranean, however it is still widely caught and retained as bycatch.

Gardner et al., 2019; Gordon et al., 2019

EU UK FR IT ES PT MA SA CR

EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN

Smoothback Angelshark *Squatina oculata*

Distribution: Eastern Atlantic from Senegal to Libya and the Mediterranean Sea (predominantly the central and eastern basins).

Habitats: Despite prohibitions on retention in the Mediterranean, this species is still caught and retained as bycatch.

Gardner et al., 2019; Gordon et al., 2019

EU UK FR IT ES PT MA SA CR

EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN

Sawback Angelshark *Squatina oculata*

Distribution: Eastern Atlantic from Senegal to Sierra Leone and the Mediterranean Sea.

Habitats: Despite prohibitions on retention in the Mediterranean, this species is still caught and retained as bycatch.

Gardner et al., 2019; Gordon et al., 2019

EU UK FR IT ES PT MA SA CR



Mediterranean ID Materials

ARABIC | GREEK | TURKISH (Türkiye) | TURKISH (Cyprus)



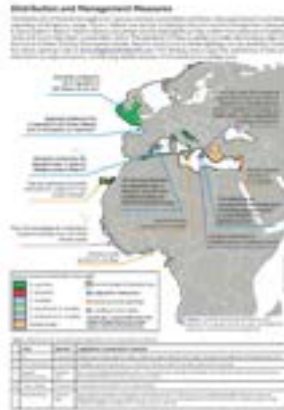
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Section 2: Management



Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Angel Shark Conservation Strategy

ENGLISH | FRENCH | SPANISH



Angelshark *Squatina squatina* Sawback Angelshark *Squatina aculeata* Smoothback Angelshark *Squatina oculata*

Species Background

Angel sharks exist in the poorest most threatened state of animals such as crocodiles, whales, and large blue whales. Characterized by its flat body, which makes this body shape and performance, as well as large, but toothless, jaws.

The family Squatinidae contains at least 15 species, but if we take into account the species Endemism, we have 10 species in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. Most of the remaining species are other fish, defined as fish. The size, growth and survival rates of angel sharks have been negatively impacted by intense fishing activities. Consequently, many species in this family have suffered steep population declines with some local populations at risk of extinction.

Here listed throughout the Atlantic waters of the northeast Atlantic, Mediterranean and Black Seas, Angel sharks have been documented in the entire range. Of the three species, the most common in these regions is the smoothback Squatinidae (Sawback Angelshark). Further to the east and towards the northeast, the distribution, density and biomass of Squatinidae species are lower and are critically endangered.

About this Strategy

The Angel Shark Conservation Strategy provides a framework for improved fisheries of the three vulnerable threatened species present in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. The Strategy aims to improve the status of Angel sharks, reduce the mortality of fishing fleets, generate a better understanding of current distribution patterns and habitat, and to improve and clarify your collaboration opportunities to achieve conservation action.

Some of the key threats to these species and outlined within this Strategy. These priority goals and measures provided important first steps towards an action to address the issue that Angel sharks in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean are reduced to critical populations and collapsed throughout their range.

The recommended next steps outlined in this document are a guideline for further conservation actions necessary and advocated in all regions are needed to contribute additional information to support the Strategy, enhance existing specific actions to mitigate threat through enhanced action.

More need to be done to improve the status of the three vulnerable species. This report is part of the SSAP for the Angel Shark in the Mediterranean Sea.



Mediterranean Angel Sharks: Regional Action Plan

ENGLISH | FRENCH | SPANISH | ARABIC





Wales Angelshark Action Plan





Angel Shark Action Plan for the Canary Islands

ENGLISH | SPANISH





SubRegional Action Plans for the Mediterranean

SubRegional Action Plan for Aegean Sea & Crete:

[ENGLISH](#) | [GREEK](#) | [TURKISH](#)

SubRegional Action Plan for Republic of Cyprus:

[ENGLISH](#) | [CYPRIOT GREEK](#)

SubRegional Action Plan for Southern Ionian Sea:

[ENGLISH](#) | [ARABIC](#)

SubRegional Action Plan for Northern Levant Sea: [ENGLISH](#) | [TURKISH](#)





Flat Shark Showcase

The [Flat Shark Showcase](#) presents the breadth of work being delivered across the Mediterranean by a diversity of partners and organisations, collaborating across multiple countries.

Flat sharks: sawfish, giant guitarfishes, guitarfish, angel sharks and rays, rank as the most threatened families of elasmobranchs on the IUCN Red List. Flat sharks represent over 50% of the elasmobranchs listed on Annex II of the Barcelona Convention & GFCM/42/2018/2. Yet conservation action in the Mediterranean is still urgently required for: three species of Critically Endangered angel shark; the Blackchin Guitarfish; Common Guitarfish, and a host of rays – from the sizeable Endangered Giant Devil Rays to Butterfly Rays, and the endemic skates.

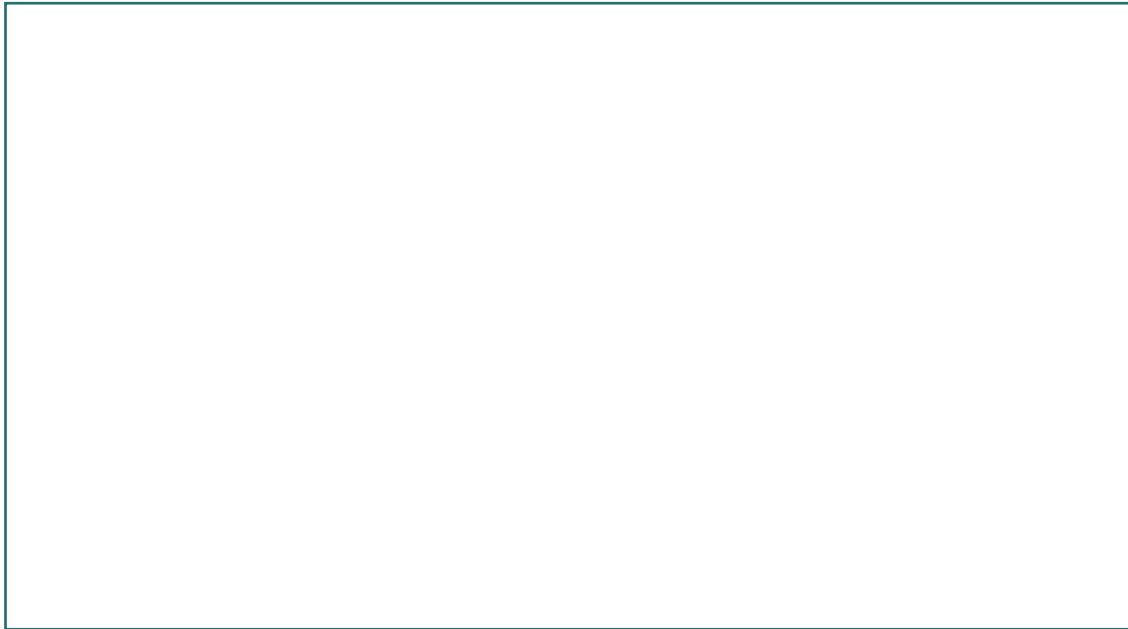
This online content will signpost delegates to opportunities, resources, and willing project partners. Facilitating efforts for countries to honour existing conservation commitments, and establish - and implement - domestic and regional regulations to better protect highly threatened flat sharks across the region and beyond.



Section 3: Safe Release and Code of Conduct



Shark Trust Angel Shark Safe Release Animation



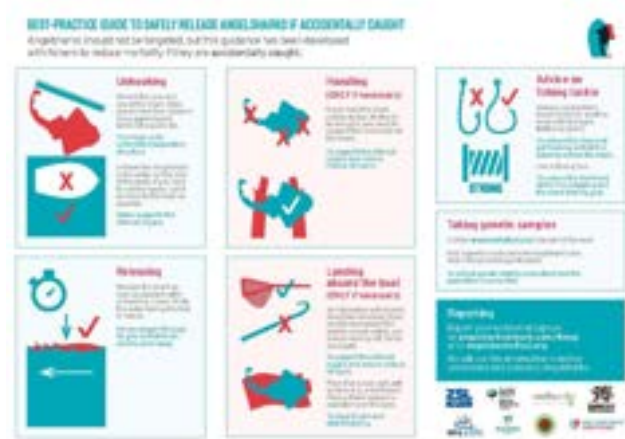
*Translation into French, Spanish, Italian, Greek, Turkish and Arabic underway



Angel Shark Project: Wales

Best Practice Leaflet

ENGLISH | WELSH





Angel Shark Project: Canaries

Best Practice for Commercial Fishers

SPANISH

GUÍA DE BUENAS PRÁCTICAS PARA LIBERAR UN ANGELOTE CORRECTAMENTE EN CASO DE SU CAPTURA ACCIDENTAL

Un angelote no debe ser un objetivo de captura, sin embargo por error puede ser capturado accidentalmente con el desarrollo de procedimientos como el de C.I. en función de su estado capturable accidentalmente.

- 1. Desenganche y desvenenar**

La intención de desenganchar debe ser por beneficio al pez siempre que se pueda en un momento o poco tiempo de la intervención.

El factor que controla el estado, sigue siendo más como posible del pez.

Desvenenar al angelote de todas partes, sin perder el tiempo e intentar que no se lo dañen en los apuñales. El agua reduce los síntomas tóxicos.
- 2. Liberación**

Libera al Escorpión pronto como sea posible después de desengancharlo. Círculo de lanzamiento en el agua donde se cayó. No se lo libere de sus brazos.

Debe asegurarse y asegurarse de proporcionar agua que el Escorpión se salte y nada fuera de fondo.
- 3. Reportar**

Registra la captura accidental en www.angelsharkproject.com. Para el desarrollo de la información posible (investigación, tamaño, profundidad de captura, foto) se sugiere contactar con el Observatorio, SAGSI o Seleguap (tel: 928 809 900).

Conservar toda información para cualquier investigación de este pez.

ANGEL SHARK PROJECT: CANARY ISLANDS

ANGELOTES Y PESCADORES PROFESIONALES: GUÍA DE BUENAS PRÁCTICAS PARA LAS ISLAS CANARIAS



Angel Shark Project: Wales

Code of Conduct for Scuba and Snorkel

ENGLISH | WELSH



ANGEL SHARK CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SCUBA AND SNORKEL

If the Angelshark is buried in the sand:

- Keep a minimum distance of 1.5m between you and the Angelshark.
- Do not touch them.
- Do not remove the sand or sediment covering them.
- Do not try and feed them.

If the Angelshark is swimming:

- Do not touch them.

If multiple people see the Angelshark:

- Do not crowd around the Angelshark.
- Do not stand in front of the light and, keeping a minimum distance of 1.5m, and make sure the area is isolated near the light.
- Do not feed the Angelshark swimming direction.



QR Code Reporting Stickers

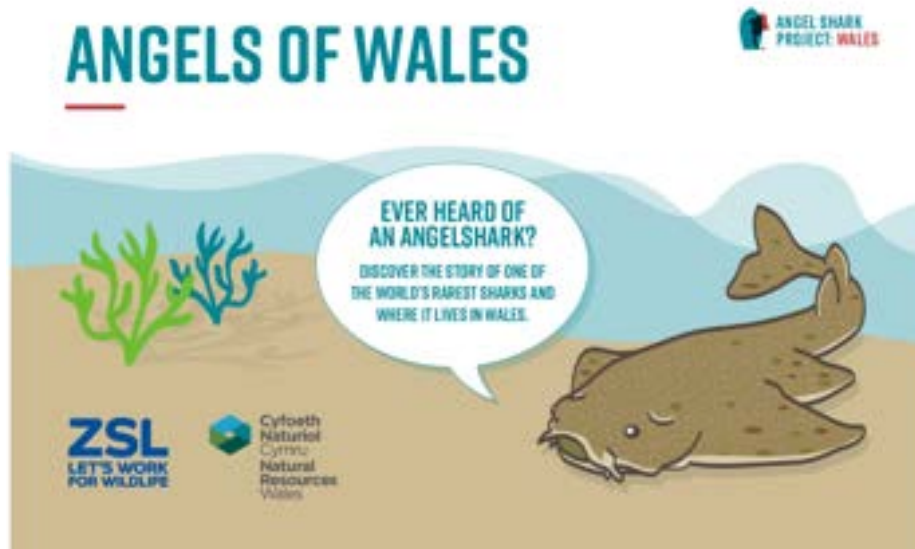
ARABIC | FRENCH | GREEK (Enalia Physis) | GREEK (iSea)
| TURKISH (Mersea) | TURKISH (SPOT)



© Marios Papageorgiou



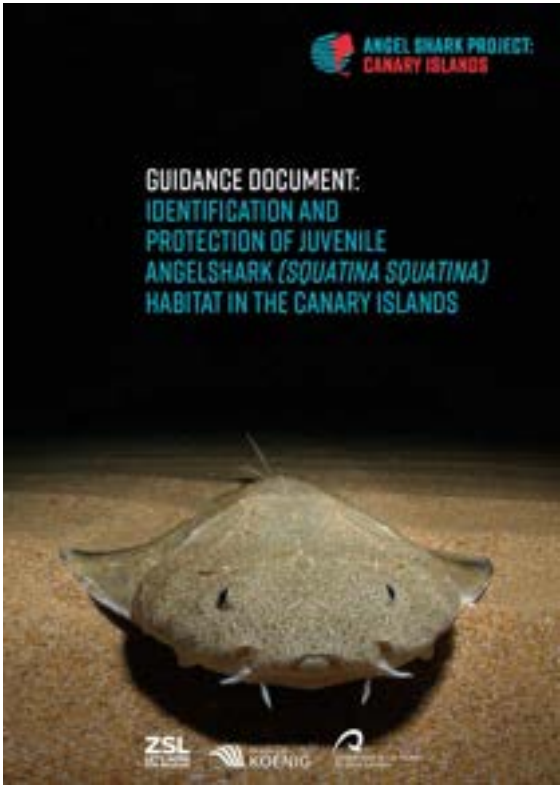
Angels of Wales eBook





Guidance Document for Juvenile Angelshark Habitat

ENGLISH | SPANISH



Annex IV Materials corresponding to the objectives of the SSAP

Objective 1 – Ensure appropriate species-level protection for Angelshark *Squatina squatina*

Action	Supporting Annex IV Materials
1.1 Prohibition in fisheries regulations	Flat Shark Showcase
1.2 Species-protection	
1.3 Awareness programmes	Shark Trust Global ID Guide Shark Trust Mediterranean ID Guides Shark Trust Safe Release Animation ASP Canaries Commercial Best Practice Materials ASP Canaries Recreational Best Practice Materials Wales Best Practice Leaflet
1.4 Monitoring and enforcement	QR Code Reporting Stickers

Objective 2 – Identification of sites and habitats of Angelshark *Squatina squatina*

Action	Supporting Annex IV Materials
2.1 Data collation	Guidance document: Identification and Protection of Juvenile Angelshark (<i>Squatina squatina</i>) habitat in the Canary Islands
2.2 Habitat modelling	
2.3 Environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling	
2.4 Non-destructive site sampling	
2.5 Role of current MPA network	

Objective 3 – Support and undertake scientific studies, including data collection and liaison with the fishing sectors, to improve scientific knowledge of Angelsharks *Squatina squatina*, including population trends.

Action	Supporting Annex IV Materials
3.1 Scientific monitoring	
3.2 Commercial fishery-dependent catch-per-unit-effort data	
3.3 Recreational fishery	Shark Trust QR Code Reporting Stickers
3.4 Citizen science	ASP Canaries Code of Conduct (Divers) ASP Wales Code of Conduct
3.5 Fishery-independent survey trends	
3.6 Quantification and characterization of discarded Angelshark survival and options for minimising discard mortality	
3.7 Tagging	Guidance document: Identification and Protection of Juvenile Angelshark (<i>Squatina squatina</i>) habitat in the Canary Islands
3.8 Population structure and connectivity	
3.9 Life-history studies	
3.10 Longer-term, historical population dynamics	

Objective 4 – Sufficient resources secured for long-term Angelshark *Squatina squatina* conservation actions

Action	Supporting Annex IV Materials
4.1 Provide Resources	Strategic Conservation Planning Documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Angel Shark Conservation Strategy • Mediterranean Angel Sharks: Regional Action Plan • Wales Angelshark Action Plan • Angel Shark Action Plan for the Canary Islands • Mediterranean Angel Sharks: Sub-Regional Action Plans
4.2 Establish an international working group (IntWG) for the Mediterranean region	
4.3 Appraise protected areas	



Compiled by the Shark Trust on behalf of the Angel Shark Conservation Network. If you have resources to contribute to this document, please contact angels@sharktrust.org