



ANGELSHARK

Squatina squatina

A large flat-bodied shark that looks more like a ray than a shark. But with their gills positioned on the sides, rather than underneath their body, they're classified as sharks.

Grey to reddish or greenish brown in colour, with lots of small white and black spots, this bottom-dwelling shark blends in perfectly with the sandy seabed.

Angelsharks use their huge pectoral fins to nestle themselves into the sand. With their gills buried, they 'breathe' using two small holes that sit behind the eyes, known as spiracles.

Once settled for the day Angelsharks are very reluctant to move. Even when disturbed by divers. But, at night, they come alive.

Masters of stealth they lie in wait, poised to ambush any potential meal that ventures too close. Striking, with lightning speed, they snap up their prey in huge trap-like jaws.

Angelsharks give birth to 7-25 pups after 8-10 months. In England these are born in July, and in the Mediterranean from December-February. Pups are born 24-30cm.

FAST FACTS

SIZE:

Matures at:

♀ 126-167cm

♂ 80-132cm

Max: 244cm

DIET:

Flatfish, skates, crabs, shrimp & molluscs.

RANGE:

Northeast Atlantic, Canary Islands & Mediterranean.

HABITAT:

Temperate coastal waters & estuaries, over mud or sand. Depths of 5-150m.

STATUS:

Critically Endangered



SHARK*partners*



We're proud to be working with Shark SUPs to create positive change for sharks.

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ANGELSHARK THREATS

Angelsharks face a high risk of extinction and have disappeared from much of their former range. Yet, they're often still encountered in the Canary Islands, giving hope that they can still be saved.

- **FISHERIES** – Their large size, shape, and demersal nature, make them vulnerable to being caught in demersal trawls, bottom-set longlines, gillnets, and dredges.
- **RECREATIONAL ANGLING** – Likely to have significantly contributed to Angelshark decline in Irish waters. This is still a concern in the Canary Islands.
- **HABITAT DESTRUCTION** – Unsustainable coastal developments are damaging important Angelshark habitat. Particularly inshore shallow waters where their young develop.

Protecting Angelsharks in their last remaining stronghold is vital. You can find out more about our work saving angels at www.sharktrust.org/angelsharks.

3 WAYS TO HELP SHARKS

1. Sign up to our newsletter - keep up to date with all the latest news and campaign updates.
2. If you see a shark, record your sighting on our Sightings Database.
3. Join us in safeguarding the future of sharks by becoming a Shark Trust member.

Safeguarding the future of sharks - www.sharktrust.org