



MarLIN

Marine Information Network

Information on the species and habitats around the coasts and sea of the British Isles

Porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*)

MarLIN – Marine Life Information Network
Marine Evidence-based Sensitivity Assessment (MarESA) Review

Morvan Barnes

2008-03-25

A report from:

The Marine Life Information Network, Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom.

Please note. This MarESA report is a dated version of the online review. Please refer to the website for the most up-to-date version [<https://www.marlin.ac.uk/species/detail/67>]. All terms and the MarESA methodology are outlined on the website (<https://www.marlin.ac.uk>)

This review can be cited as:

Barnes, M.K.S. 2008. *Lamna nasus* Porbeagle shark. In Tyler-Walters H. and Hiscock K. (eds) *Marine Life Information Network: Biology and Sensitivity Key Information Reviews*, [on-line]. Plymouth: Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom. DOI <https://dx.doi.org/10.17031/marlin.sp.67.1>



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See online review for
distribution map

Distribution data supplied by the Ocean
Biogeographic Information System (OBIS). To
interrogate UK data visit the NBN Atlas.

Researched by	Morvan Barnes	Refereed by	Admin
Authority	(Bonnaterre, 1788)		
Other common names	-	Synonyms	-

Summary

Description

The porbeagle *Lamna nasus* is a streamlined and robust shark with large conspicuous black eyes. It can reach up to 350 cm in length and is a dark metallic blue colour with a white ventral surface. It has two very strong caudal keels. The caudal fin itself is large and lunate. It has five large conspicuous gill slits. *Lamna nasus* has a pointed snout, slightly longer and more pointed than the salmon shark, *Lamna ditropis*. The first of the two dorsal fins is large and triangular and has a white patch on the back of it. The second is considerably smaller.

Recorded distribution in Britain and Ireland

Widely distributed through British and Irish waters.

Global distribution

-

Habitat

The porbeagle shark is an epipelagic oceanic and coastal species, which can be found in surface

waters down to a depth of over 700 m but can also occasionally venture into close inshore waters.

↓ Depth range

-

Q Identifying features

- Large, robust, streamlined shark reaching up to 350 cm in length.
- Lunate cordal fin and strong caudal keel.
- Large dark eyes.
- Dark metallic blue colour with a paler ventral surface.
- A second caudal keel is present.

🏛️ Additional information

The porbeagle shark is less slender than the shortfin mako *Isurus oxyrinchus* (Compagno, 1984).

✓ Listed by



🔗 Further information sources

Search on:



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