
A LIST OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN CHONDRICHTHYAN SPECIES



204 of worldwide 1188 Chondrichthyan species are known to occur in Southern Africa^[1] - 117 shark, 79 batoid and 8 chimaera species – making it the 4th most diverse region for cartilaginous fish globally^[2]. The East coast (175 species) is more diverse than the West coast (96 species)^[1]. According to the IUCN Redlist, 32.7% of Southern African Chondrichthyan species are classified as vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered - this is twice as high as the global percentage (15.9%)^[1].

This list includes Chondrichthyan records in Namibia, South Africa and Mozambique. Please consult the references given at the end of the document for more information.



Order [1,2]	Family [1,2]	Scientific name [1,2]	Common name [1,2]	Max. Size (mm) ^[1]	Depth distribution (m) ^[1]
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HETERODONTIFORMES / BULLHEAD SHARKS

Heterodontidae

<i>Heterodontus ramalheira</i>	Whitespotted bullhead shark	830	40–305
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ORECTOLOBIFORMES / CARPET SHARKS

Ginglymostomatidae / Nurse sharks

<i>Nebrius ferrugineus</i>	Tawny nurse shark	3200	0–70
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Rhincodontidae / Whale sharks

<i>Rhincodon typus</i>	Whale shark	17000	0–1928
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Stegostomatidae / Zebra sharks

<i>Stegostoma fasciatum</i>	Zebra shark	2500	0–90
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LAMNIFORMES / MACKERAL SHARKS

Alopiidae / Thresher sharks

<i>Alopias pelagicus</i>	Pelagic thresher / Smalltooth thresher	4280	0–300
<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>	Bigeye thresher / False thresher	4840	0–723
<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>	Thresher (shark) / Common thresher shark / Thintail thresher / Fox shark	5733	0–650

Cetorhinidae / Basking sharks

<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	Basking shark / Bone shark / Liver shark	10 973	0–1264
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Lamnidae / Mackerel sharks

<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	Great white shark / White shark / White pointer	5944	0–1200
<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	Shortfin mako / Mako shark / Blue pointer / Snapper shark	4450	0–750
<i>Isurus paucus</i>	Longfin mako / Longfinned mako shark	4270	0–1752
<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle (shark)	3650	0–1809

Megachasmidae / Megamouth sharks

<i>Megachasma pelagios</i>	Megamouth shark	5760	0–1000
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Mitsukurinidae / Goblin sharks

<i>Mitsukurina owstoni</i>	Goblin shark	4100	0–1300
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Odontaspidae / Sandtiger sharks / Raggedtooth sharks

<i>Carcharias taurus</i>	Sandtiger (shark) / Spotted ragged-tooth shark / Grey nurse shark	3250	0–232
<i>Odontaspis ferox</i>	Smalltooth sandtiger / Ragged-tooth shark / Bumpytail ragged-tooth / Herbst's nurse shark	4500	10–1015

Pseudocarchariidae / Crocodile sharks

<i>Pseudocarcharias kamoharai</i>	Crocodile shark	1220	0–590
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CARCHARHINIFORMES / GROUND SHARKS

Carcharhinidae / Requiem sharks

<i>Carcharhinus albimarginatus</i>	Silvertip shark	3000	0–800
<i>Carcharhinus altimus</i>	Bignose shark	3000	0–810
<i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i>	Blacktail reef shark / Grey reef shark / Longnose blacktail shark / Black-vee whaler	2650	0–275
<i>Carcharhinus amboinensis</i>	Pigeye shark / Java shark	2800	0–100
<i>Carcharhinus brachyurus</i>	Copper shark / Bronze whaler / New Zealand whaler / Cocktail shark Spinner shark /	3250	1–145
<i>Carcharhinus brevipinna</i>	Longnose grey shark / Inkyltail shark / Smoothfang shark	3040	0–200
<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	Silky shark	3500	0–500
<i>Carcharhinus humani</i>	Human's whaler shark	946	0–43
<i>Carcharhinus leucas</i>	Bull shark / River whaler / Swan river whaler / Freshwater whaler	3660	1–164
<i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i>	Blacktip shark / Common blacktip shark / Blacktip whaler	2860	0–140
<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	Oceanic whitetip shark / Whitetip whaler	3500	0–1082
<i>Carcharhinus melanopterus</i>	Blacktip reef shark / Guliman	1800	0–100
<i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i>	Dusky shark / Black whaler	4200	0–500
<i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i>	Sandbar shark / Thickskin shark	2430	0–280
<i>Carcharhinus signatus</i>	Night shark	2800	0–600
<i>Carcharhinus sorrah</i>	Spot(-)tail shark / School shark / Sorrah shark	1660	0–140
<i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i>	Tiger shark	7400	0–1112
<i>Loxodon macrorhinus</i>	Sliteye shark / Slender dogshark	990	7–120
<i>Negaprion acutidens</i>	Sicklefin lemon shark / Sharptooth (lemon) shark	3100	0–90
<i>Prionace glauca</i>	Blue shark / Blue whaler / Great blue shark	3835	0–1000
<i>Rhizoprionodon acutus</i>	Milk shark / Fish shark / Longman's dogshark / White-eye shark	1780	1–200
<i>Triaenodon obesus</i>	Whitetip reef shark	1680	1–330

Hemigaleidae / Weasel sharks

<i>Hemipristis elongata</i>	Snaggletooth shark / Fossil shark	2300	1–131
<i>Paragaleus leucolomatus</i>	Whitetip weasel shark	957	20

Proscylliidae / Finback catsharks

<i>Eridacnis sinuans</i>	African ribbontail catshark	370	180–480
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Scyliorhinidae / Catsharks					
		<i>Apristurus manis</i>	Ghost catshark	880	600–1900
		<i>Apristurus melanoasper</i>	Black roughscale catshark / Fleshynose catshark	790	512–1683
		<i>Apristurus microps</i>	Smalleye catshark	730	700–2200
		<i>Apristurus saldanha</i>	Saldanha catshark	885	344–1009
		<i>Bythaelurus lutarius</i>	Mud catshark / Brown catshark	390	338–766
		<i>Cephaloscyllium sufflans</i>	Balloon shark	1100	40–605
		<i>Galeus polli</i>	African sawtail catshark	430	159–720
		<i>Halaaelurus lineatus</i>	Lined catshark	560	0–290
		<i>Halaaelurus natalensis</i>	Tiger catshark	500	0–172
		<i>Haploblepharus edwardsii</i>	Puffadder shyshark / Happy Eddie	641	0–288
		<i>Haploblepharus fuscus</i>	Brown shyshark / Plain happy	692	0–35
		<i>Haploblepharus kistnasamyi</i>	Natal shyshark / Eastern shyshark / Happy chappie	504	0–30
		<i>Haploblepharus pictus</i>	Dark shyshark / Pretty happy	700	0–35
		<i>Holohalaaelurus favus</i>	Honeycomb Izak (catshark)/ Natal Izak (catshark)	515	200–1000
		<i>Holohalaaelurus punctatus</i>	African spotted catshark / White-spotted Izak	355	220–420
		<i>Holohalaaelurus regani</i>	Izak (catshark)	685	15–1075
		<i>Poroderma africanum</i>	Striped catshark / Pyjama shark	1090	0–108
		<i>Poroderma pantherinum</i>	Leopard catshark	774	0–274
		<i>Scyliorhinus capensis</i>	Yellowspotted catshark	1220	26–695
Sphyrnidae / Hammerhead sharks					
		<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	Scalloped hammerhead	4300	0–1043
		<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	Great hammerhead	6100	0–300
		<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	Smooth hammerhead	4000	0–200
Triakidae / Houndsharks					
		<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>	Tope (shark) / School shark/ Snapper shark / Soupfin shark	1990	0–800
		<i>Hypogaleus hyugaensis</i>	Blacktip tope (shark) / Pencil shark	1500	40–480
		<i>Mustelus mosis</i>	Arabian smooth(-) hound / Moses smooth(-)hound / Hardnose smooth(-)hound	1500	20–250
		<i>Mustelus mustelus</i>	Smooth(-)hound / Common smooth(-)hound	1745	0–800
		<i>Mustelus palumbes</i>	Whitespot(ted) smooth(-) hound	1130	0–443
		<i>Scylliogaleus queckettii</i>	Flapnose houndshark	1110	0–73
		<i>Triakis megalopterus</i>	Sharptooth houndshark / spotted gully shark	2075	0–50



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HEXANCHIFORMES / COW SHARKS

Chlamydoselachidae / Frilled sharks

<i>Chlamydoselachus africana</i>	(Southern) African frilled shark	>1170	300–1400
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Hexanchidae / Cow sharks

<i>Heptranchias perlo</i>	Sharpnose sevengill shark / Perlon shark	1400	0–1000
<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>	Bluntnose sixgill shark / Sixgill shark	5500	0–2490
<i>Hexanchus nakamurai</i>	Bigeye(d) sixgill shark	1778	0–702
<i>Notorynchus cepedianus</i>	Broadnose sevengill shark	2960	0–570

ECHINORHINIFORMES / BRAMBLE SHARKS

Echinorhinidae / Bramble sharks

<i>Echinorhinus brucus</i>	Bramble shark / Spiny shark / Spinous shark	3940	10–900
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SQUALIFORMES / DOGFISH SHARKS

Centrophoridae / Gulper sharks

<i>Centrophorus granulosus</i>	Gulper shark	1760	50–1500
<i>Centrophorus harrissoni</i>	Dumb gulper shark / Longnose gulper shark	1120	220–1050
<i>Centrophorus moluccensis</i>	Smallfin gulper shark	1017	128–823
<i>Centrophorus squamosus</i>	Leafscale gulper shark / Deepwater spiny dogfish	1660	0–3366
<i>Centrophorus uyato</i>	Little gulper shark	1280	50–1400
<i>Deania calcea</i>	Birdbeak dogfish / Shovelnose spiny dogfish	1620	60–1504
<i>Deania profundorum</i>	Arrowhead dogfish	970	205–1800
<i>Deania quadrispinosa</i>	Longsnout dogfish	1180	150–1360

Dalatiidae / Kitefin sharks

<i>Dalatias licha</i>	Kitefin shark / Seal shark / Darkie Charlie / Black shark	1820	37–1794
<i>Euprotomicroides zantedeschia</i>	Taillight shark	570	0–641
<i>Euprotomicros bispinatus</i>	Pygmy shark	265	0–1800
<i>Heteroscymnoides marleyi</i>	Longnose pygmy shark	365	0–502
<i>Isistius brasiliensis</i>	Cookiecutter shark	560	0–3700
<i>Isistius plutodus</i>	Large-tooth cookiecutter shark	423	30–2060

Etmopteridae / Lantern sharks

<i>Centroscyllium fabricii</i>	Black dogfish	1200	<130–2250
<i>Etmopterus bigelowi</i>	Blurred smooth lanternshark	730	0–1000
<i>Etmopterus compagnoi</i>	Brown lanternshark	674	383–1300
<i>Etmopterus granulosus</i>	Southern lanternshark / Giant lanternshark	870	220–1500
<i>Etmopterus molleri</i>	Mollers lanternshark / Slendertail lanternshark	460	238–655
<i>Etmopterus pusillus</i>	Smooth lanternshark	502	0–1120



Order [1,2]	Family [1,2]	Scientific name [1,2]	Common name [1,2]	Max. Size (mm) ^[1]	Depth distribution (m) ^[1]
		<i>Etmopterus sculptus</i>	Sculpted lanternshark	590	240–1023
		<i>Etmopterus sentosus</i>	Thorny lanternshark	270	200–500
		<i>Etmopterus viator</i>	Traveller lanternshark	577	830–1610
Oxynotidae / Roughsharks					
		<i>Oxynotus centrina</i>	Angular roughshark	1500	35–805
Somniosidae / Sleeper sharks					
		<i>Centroscymnus coelolepis</i>	Portuguese dogfish	1300	128–3675
		<i>Centroscymnus owstonii</i>	Roughskin dogfish	1200	150–1459
		<i>Centroselachus crepidater</i>	Longnose velvet dogfish	1050	200–2080
		<i>Scymnodalatias albicauda</i>	Whitetail dogfish	1110	0–572
		<i>Somniosus antarcticus</i>	Southern sleeper shark	6000	0–1440
		<i>Zameus squamulosus</i>	Velvet dogfish	840	0–1511
Squalidae / Dogfish sharks					
		<i>Cirrhigaleus asper</i>	Roughskin spurdog / Roughskin (spiny) dogfish	1235	73–600
		<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	Spurdog / Spiny dogfish / Dogfish / Pi(c)ked dogfish / Dog / Bone dog	2000	0–1978
		<i>Squalus acutipinna</i>	Sharpfin houndshark	n/a	n/a
		<i>Squalus blainville</i>	Longnose spurdog	920	15–1500
		<i>Squalus mitsukurii</i>	Shortspine spurdog	1250	4–954

SQUATINIFORMES / ANGELSHARKS

Squatinae / Angelsharks					
		<i>Squatina aculeata</i>	Sawback angelshark / Spiny angelshark / Monkfish	1880	30–500
		<i>Squatina africana</i>	African angelshark	1220	0–600
		<i>Squatina oculata</i>	Smoothback angelshark	1600	10–500

PRISTIOPHORIFORMES / SAWSHARKS

Pristiophoridae / Sawsharks					
		<i>Pliotrema warreni</i>	Sixgill sawshark	1360	37–500
		<i>Pristiophorus nancyae</i>	African dwarf sawshark	621	286–570

TORPEDINIFORMES / ELECTRIC RAYS

Narcinidae / Numbfishes					
		<i>Narcine rierai</i>	Slender electric ray	301	169–500
Narkidae / Sleeper rays					
		<i>Electrolux addisoni</i>	Ornate sleeper ray	515	6–50
		<i>Heteronarce garmani</i>	Natal electric ray	289	73–329
		<i>Narke capensis</i>	Onefin electric ray	380	0–180
Torpedinidae / Torpedo rays					
		<i>Tetronarce cowleyi</i>	Cowley's torpedo ray	1200	110–457
		<i>Torpedo fuscomaculata</i>	Black(-)spotted torpedo	640	0–439
		<i>Torpedo sinuspersici</i>	Variable torpedo ray / Gulf torpedo	1300	2–200



Order [1,2]	Family [1,2]	Scientific name [1,2]	Common name [1,2]	Max. Size (mm) ^[1]	Depth distribution (m) ^[1]
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PRISTIFORMES / SAWFISHES

Pristidae / Sawfishes

<i>Pristis pristis</i>	Common sawfish / Largetooth sawfish / Freshwater sawfish	7000	0–60
<i>Pristis zijsron</i>	Longcomb sawfish / Green sawfish	7300	0–100

RHINIFORMES / WEDGEFISHES

Rhinidae / Sharkrays

<i>Rhina ancylostoma</i>	Bowmouth guitarfish	2750	0–75
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Rhynchobatidae / Wedgefishes

<i>Rhynchobatus australiae</i>	Whitespotted wedgefish	3000	0–60
<i>Rhynchobatus djiddensis</i>	Giant guitarfish	3100	1–75

RHINOBATIFORMES / GUITARFISHES

Rhinobatidae / Guitarfishes

<i>Acroteriobatus annulatus</i>	Lesser sandshark	1400	0–73
<i>Acroteriobatus blochii</i>	Bluntnose guitarfish	1020	0–11
<i>Acroteriobatus leucospilus</i>	Grayspotted guitarfish	1200	0–100
<i>Acroteriobatus ocellatus</i>	Speckled guitarfish	810	60–185
<i>Rhinobatos holcorhynchus</i>	Slender guitarfish	1270	68–348

RAJIFORMES / SKATES

Arhynchobatidae / Softnose skates

<i>Bathyraja smithii</i>	African softnose skate	1200	250–1040
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Rajidae / Hardnose skates

<i>Amblyraja hyperborea</i>	Arctic skate	1120	167–3167
<i>Amblyraja taaf</i>	Whiteleg skate	900	150–600
<i>Dipturus campbelli</i>	Blackspot skate	663	137–403
<i>Dipturus doutrei</i>	Violet skate / Javelin skate	1150	163–1200
<i>Dipturus lanceorostratus</i>	Rattail skate	824	430–439
<i>Dipturus pullopunctatus</i>	Slime skate	1300	15–457
<i>Dipturus springeri</i>	Roughbelly skate	1920	50–970
<i>Dipturus stenorhynchus</i>	Prownose skate	904	253–761
<i>Leucoraja compagnoi</i>	Tigertail skate	>517	480–625
<i>Leucoraja wallacei</i>	Yellowspotted skate	963	73–517
<i>Malacoraja spinacidermis</i>	Soft skate	705	450–1568
<i>Neoraja stehmanni</i>	African dwarf skate / (South) African pygmy skate	376	102–1025
<i>Okamejei heemstrai</i>	East African skate / narrow skate	605	200–500
<i>Raja clavata</i>	Thornback ray	1300	7–1020
<i>Raja miraletus</i>	Brown ray	717	10–556
<i>Raja straeleni</i>	Spotted skate / Biscuit skate	910	0–690



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		<i>Rajella barnardi</i>	Bighorn skate	750	102–1207
		<i>Rajella caudaspinosa</i>	Munchskin skate	651	102–1098
		<i>Rajella dissimilis</i>	Ghost skate	823	400–1640
		<i>Rajella leoparda</i>	Leopard skate	950	130–1920
		<i>Rajella paucispinosa</i>	Sparsely-thorned skate	500	1230–1260
		<i>Rajella ravidula</i>	Smoothback skate	792	496–1477
		<i>Rostroraja alba</i>	White skate / Bottlenose skate	2400	10–750
Anacanthobatidae / Legskates					
		<i>Anacanthobatis marmorata</i>	Spotted legskate	290	200–433
		<i>Indobatis ori</i>	Black legskate	429	1000–1725
Crurirajidae / Legskates					
		<i>Cruriraja durbanensis</i>	Smoothnose legskate	>311	860
		<i>Cruriraja hulleyi</i>	Hulley's legskate	594	39–545
		<i>Cruriraja parcomaculata</i>	Roughnose legskate	429	65–680

MYLIOBATIFORMES / STINGRAYS

Dasyatidae / Whiptail stingrays

<i>Dasyatis brevicaudata</i>	Short-tail stingray / Smooth stingray	4300 (2100 DW)	5–480
<i>Dasyatis chrysonota</i>	Blue stingray	750 DW	1–100
<i>Dasyatis microps</i>	Smalleye stingray	3200 (2220 DW)	0–200
<i>Dasyatis thetidis</i>	Thorntail stingray / Black stingray / Black stingaree	4000 (1800 DW)	0–440
<i>Himantura fai</i>	Pink whiplay	5000 (1840 DW)	0–200
<i>Himantura gerrardi</i>	Sharpnose stingray / Whitespotted whiplay	1070 DW	0–75
<i>Himantura jenkinsii</i>	Jenkins(') whiplay	3000 (1500 DW)	5–90
<i>Himantura leoparda</i>	Leopard whiplay	4100 (1400 DW)	1–70
<i>Himantura uarnacoides</i>	Whitenose whiplay	3000 (1190 DW)	0–75
<i>Himantura uarnak</i>	Honeycomb stingray / Teticulate whiplay / Longtail ray	4500 (1600 DW)	0–50
<i>Himantura undulata</i>	Honeycomb whiplay / Ocellate whiplay / Bleeker's variegated whiplay	1340 DW	1–70
<i>Neotrygon kuhlii</i>	Bluespotted maskray / Blue(-)spotted stingray / Bluespotted stingaree	760 (470 DW)	0–170



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		<i>Pastinachus sephen</i>	Cowtail stingray	3250 (1490 DW)	0–60
		<i>Pteroplatytrygon violacea</i>	Pelagic stingray / Violet stingray / Black flapper	1635 (800 DW)	0–381
		<i>Taeniura lymma</i>	Bluespotted fantail ray / Bluespotted ribbontail ray / Ribbontail(ed) stingray / Bluespotted lagoon ray / Lesser fantail ray	750 (350 DW)	0–50
		<i>Taeniurops meyeri</i>	Round ribbontail ray / Blotched fantail ray / Black-blotched stingray / Giant reef ray	3300 (1800 DW)	0–500
		<i>Urogymnus asperrimus</i>	Porcupine ray / Roughskin stingaree / Solander's ray	1468 DW	0–130
Gymnuridae / Butterfly rays					
		<i>Gymnura natalensis</i>	Butterfly ray / Backwater butterfly ray / Diamond ray / Short-tailed ray	2500 DW	0–75
Hexatrygonidae / Sixgill stingrays					
		<i>Hexatrygon bickelli</i>	Sixgill stingray	1680	300–1636
Mobulidae / Devil rays					
		<i>Manta alfredi</i>	Alfred manta / Reef manta ray / Inshore manta ray / Coastal manta ray / Resident manta ray	5500 DW	0–432
		<i>Manta birostris</i>	Giant manta (ray) / Pacific manta ray / Devilfish / Chevron manta / Pelagic manta / Oceanic manta	7000 DW	0–>1000
		<i>Mobula eregoodootenkee</i>	Longhorned mobula / Pygmy devil ray	1000 DW	0–50
		<i>Mobula japanica</i>	Spinetail mobula / Japanese devil ray	3140 DW	0–649
		<i>Mobula kuhlii</i>	Shortfin devil ray	1197 DW	0–50
		<i>Mobula tarapacana</i>	Chilean devil ray / Sicklefin devil ray / Spiny mobula	3700 DW	0–1896
		<i>Mobula thurstoni</i>	Smoothtail mobula / Bentfin devil ray / Thurton's devil ray	1850 DW	0–100
Myliobatidae / Eagle rays					
		<i>Aetobatus narinari</i>	Spotted eagle ray / Whitespotted eagle ray	2260 DW	0–60
		<i>Aetomylaeus bovinus</i>	Bull ray / Duckbill	2220 DW	0–100
		<i>Aetomylaeus nichofii</i>	Banded eagle ray	720 DW	0–115
		<i>Aetomylaeus vespertilio</i>	Ornate eagle ray / Reticulate eagle ray	3000 DW	0–110



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		<i>Myliobatis aquila</i>	Common eagle ray	2600 (1500 DW)	0–60
Rhinopteridae / Cownose rays					
		<i>Rhinoptera javanica</i>	Flapnose ray / Javanese cownose ray	1500 DW	0–50
Plesiobatidae / Deepwater stingrays					
		<i>Plesiobatis daviesi</i>	Deep-water stingray / Giant stingaree	2695 (1514 DW)	44–901
CHIMAERIFORMES / CHIMAERAS					
Callorhynchidae / Elephantfishes					
		<i>Callorhynchus capensis</i>	Cape elephantfish / St. Joseph	1200	0–600
Chimaeridae / Shortnose chimaeras					
		<i>Chimaera notaficana</i>	Cape chimaera	930	680–1016
		<i>Hydrolagus africanus</i>	African chimaera / African rabbitfish	984	303–1570
		<i>Hydrolagus trolli</i>	Abyssal ghostshark / Pointy-nosed blue chimaera / Ray Troll's chimaera	1204	612–2000
Rhinochimaeridae / Longnose chimaeras					
		<i>Harriotta raleighana</i>	Narrownose chimaera / Pacific longnose chimaera / Bigspine spookfish / Bentnose rabbitfish	1200	350–2600
		<i>Neoharriotta pinnata</i>	Sicklefin chimaera	1470	150–550
		<i>Rhinochimaera africana</i>	Paddlenose spookfish / Spearnose chimaera / Paddle-nose chimaera	1500	430–1450
		<i>Rhinochimaera atlantica</i>	Straightnose rabbitfish / Atlantic longnose chimaera	1410	400–1849

References

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