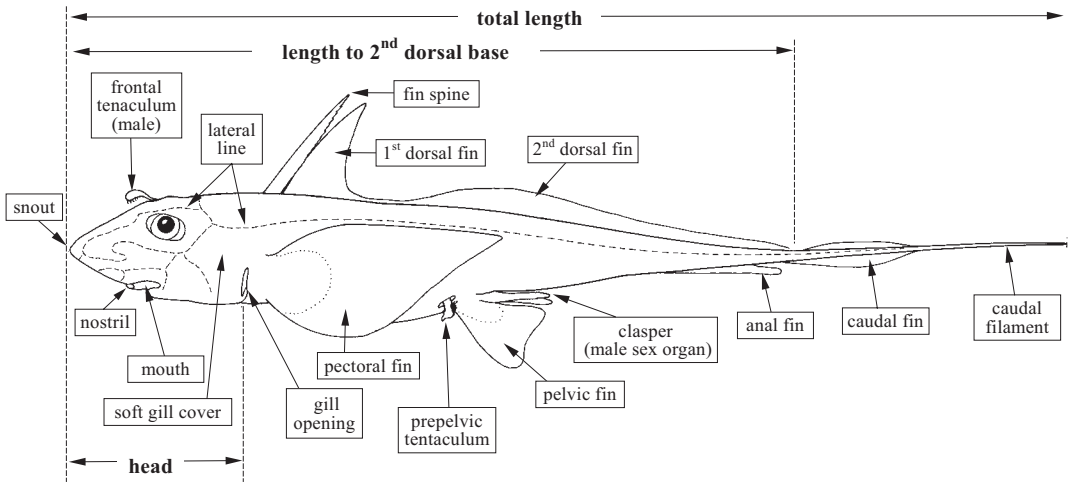


CHIMAERAS

TECHNICAL TERMS AND MEASUREMENTS



ORDER, FAMILY AND SPECIES OF CHIMAERAS OCCURRING IN THE AREA

Order **CHIMAERIFORMES**

Family **CHIMAERIDAE**

Chimaera monstrosa

Order CHIMAERIFORMES – Chimaeras

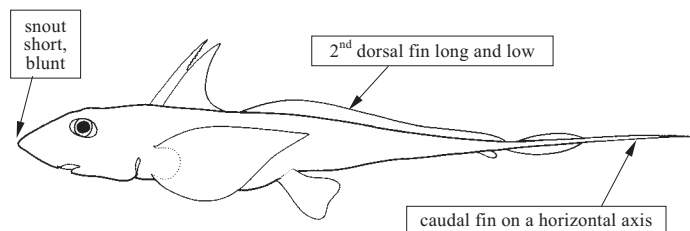
A cartilaginous skeleton; a simple external gill opening on each side of head; naked skin; 2 dorsal fins, the first with a long spine; elongate tapering tail. A single family and a species in the region.

CHIMAERIDAE

Page 74

Shortnose chimaeras

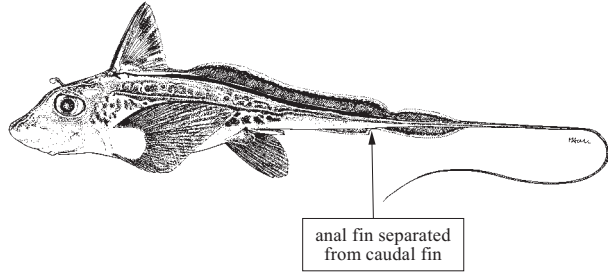
One species in the area. Demersal in depths between 300 and 1 200 m. Size to 100 cm TL.



CHIMAERIDAE

Chimaera monstrosa Linnaeus, 1758

(Plate XI, 86)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:
None / None.**FAO names:** En – Rabbitfish; Fr – Chimère commune; Sp – Quimera.**Size:** To about 100 cm TL.**Habitat and biology:** Benthopelagic in the upper continental slope area at 200 to 700 m, occasionally to 1 000 m, on mud bottom. Usually occurring in small groups. Oviparous, size at maturity over 70 cm TL (males and females), egg-cases deposited mainly in spring and summer and hatching after 9 to 12 months. Feed on bottom-living invertebrates.**Distribution:** Western Mediterranean (rare records from eastern part). Atlantic from Iceland and Norway to Morocco, Madeira and the Azores.**Importance to fisheries:** Bycatch in deep trawling fisheries (discarded).**Conservation and exploitation status:** Mediterranean, stable biomass.

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INDEX OF SCIENTIFIC AND VERNACULAR NAMES

EXPLANATION OF THE SYSTEM

- Italics* : Valid scientific names (double entry by genera and species)
- Italics* : Synonyms and misidentifications (double entry by genera and species)
- ROMAN** : Family names
- ROMAN : Names of orders, class, subclass
- Roman** : FAO names.

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