

Presence of the bluntnose sixgill shark *Hexanchus griseus* (Chondrichthyes: Hexanchidae) in Patagonian waters

Hexanchus griseus (Bonnaterre, 1788) is a species of the family Hexanchidae, commonly known as the bluntnose sixgill shark and widely distributed in coastal waters worldwide. In the southwestern Atlantic Ocean it was recorded for southern Brazilian and northern Argentinean waters (Compagno, 1984, *FAO Fish. Synop.*, 125 4 (1): 249). The species was previously mentioned by Menni *et al.* (1984, *Peces marinos de Argentina y Uruguay*, Hemisferio Sur, 359 p.) from an original record quoted by Lahille (1906, *An. Minist. Agric.*, 3 (1): 1-212) in a fishery bulletin, referred to a specimen caught at Miramar (Buenos Aires Province). No other information was given on the subject. The objective of this note is to document the finding of a male and a female specimens of *H. griseus* caught off the coasts of Patagonia, in southern Argentinean waters.

The male specimen was caught by a bottom trawler vessel fishing for hake at Golfo San Jorge (46° 20' S, 66° 20' W) in May 1996, while the female was caught under similar conditions in the same area (45° 20' S, 64° 20' W) exactly one year later. Both individuals were brought back to port by fishermen of the company ALPESCA S. A., preserved with ice on board, and landed at Puerto Madryn, Chubut, few days after capture. Measurements (Table) and weight of the specimens were taken according to Compagno (*op. cit.*), and stomach content and gonads were analyzed.

The stomach contents of the male were composed mainly by digested cephalopods and its total weight was 598 g. One lower and two upper beaks of the red octopus *Enteroctopus megalocyathus* were found, as well as valves of the scallop *Zigochlamis patagonica* and the nipper of a crustacean (presumably *Euripodius latreillei*). A nematode was found in the stomach, and it was not attached to the organ's wall.

The female stomach contents weighted 319 g, containing a digested *Callorbynchus callorbynchus*. Only a part of the spinal cord of the fish was preserved, weighting 10 g. A total of 8 cestodes were found in the stomach.

The sexual maturity of the first specimen was

Table. Standard measurements (in cm) of the bluntnose sixgill sharks captured in Patagonian waters.

Measurements	Male	Female
Weight	51.50 kg	22.50 kg
Total Length	219.00	174.50
Fork Length	151.50	120.00
Prenatal Length	110.00	90.00
Dorsal Caudal Margin	65.50	54.00
Pre-Dorsal Length	122.00	97.00
Dorsal Anterior Margin	25.00	11.80
Right Pectoral Anterior Margin	27.00	19.80
Left Pectoral Anterior Margin	25.60	19.50
Right Clasper Inner Length	12.70	-
Left Clasper Inner Length	14.00	-
Right Testicle Weight	9.10 g	-
Left Testicle Weight	8.20 g	-
Right Testicle / Uterus Length	20.60	20.00
Left Testicle / Uterus Weight	21.20	13.20
Right Testicle / Uterus Weight	1.15	0.87
Left Testicle / Uterus Length	0.91	0.98
Liver Weight	10.73 kg	3.83 kg

determined by means of examination of the hardness of the claspers, histological samples of the testicles and epididymis smears (Pratt, 1979, *Fish. Bull.*, 77 (2): 445-470; Brick Peres and Vooren, 1991, *Fish. Bull.*, 89: 655-667). The claspers were lightly calcified and no spermatozoa were found, therefore the specimen was immature. The sexual maturity of the female was determined by measuring the size of the oocytes. It presented 6 oocytes in the right ovary (\bar{x} = 0.523 ± 0.110 cm) and 5 oocytes in the left one (\bar{x} = 0.589 ± 0.174 cm). Given the state of development of the uterus, the maturity length given by Compagno (*op. cit.*) for females of the species and the size of the oocytes, the specimen was classified as immature.

These are the second and third reports for *H. griseus* off Argentinean waters, based on the preservation of the whole body. The finding of 1996 enlarges the distribution range for the species in over 1000 km, standing as the southernmost record in the southwestern Atlantic.

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