



The Isle of Man Shark Tagging Programme

End of Year Report 2022



Written for:

The Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA)

Written by Katie Watson and Dr Lara Howe

Introduction

The Small Shark Tagging Programme in the Isle of Man has been operating since May 2013, with the Manx Wildlife Trust (MWT) working in partnership with the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA) to collect data. Sharks, rays and skates are currently subject to multiple threats from fisheries and harvest, including small-scale subsistence fishing, large scale harvesting and unintentional bycatch. These species are therefore protected in many jurisdictions. However, little is known about the distribution, movement or population sizes of these cryptic species in Manx waters. The Small Shark Tagging Programme aims to work with local anglers to tag small sharks and rays with identification tags or streamers, on a catch and release basis. The data are hoped to provide much needed information on the distribution and numbers of these small shark populations. Going forward, this fundamental understanding is crucial in providing effective and evidence-based data for the future management of these species and the best ways to protect them. The present report is a continuation of this programme, summarising the findings of the ninth year.

Since The Small Shark Tagging Programme's inception, 475 elasmobranch species have been caught and tagged in Manx waters. These species include bull huss (*Scyliorhinus stellaris*), spurdog (*Squalus acanthias*), thornback ray (*Raja clavata*) and tope (*Galeorhinus galeus*). A key success of the programme is the recapture of three tagged tope. Highlighting that as more individuals are tagged, the greater likelihood of more recaptures in the future, further aiding research into the distribution of these species. Recaptures of tagged sharks has also resulted in collaboration with other international programmes, such as Cefas and the Scottish Shark Tagging Programme.

The Scottish Shark Tagging Programme greatly contributed to the inception of this programme and showed what can be achieved through citizen science. Although the Scottish Shark Tagging Programme disbanded in 2018, the programme was a great source of knowledge and resources to the MWT programme. This included the deployment of two officers who trained Manx local anglers in 2013 (funded by DEFA), design of a project logo, and the annual provision of tags/tagging equipment. Then again in 2017, an officer joined MWT for further training and support. In addition, they also increased public awareness highlighting the need for shark protection, the importance of sea angler's conservation efforts, and contributed to shark fisheries management.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Small Shark Tagging Programme was unable to tag any small sharks or complete further training during 2020. The project resumed in 2021 and was one of the most successful years for shark tagging for the project. Now the project has trained 93 anglers in how to tag small sharks.

Project Aims:

- Promote public awareness on the importance of small shark species and the need for their protection.
- Engage with local anglers to undertake tagging and record subsequent recaptures.
- Utilise the data collected to determine the abundance and distribution of Manx small shark populations.
- Examine local threats to small shark species to inform management plans and conservation activities.

Species Overview

Bull huss

Bull huss is globally classified as 'Vulnerable' but listed as 'Near Threatened' in Europe by the IUCN Red List, with an overall decreasing population trend (Figure 1; Ellis *et al.*, 2015a; Finucci, Derrick and Pacoureau, 2021). Falling population trends are due to continuously declining numbers of mature individuals and severely fragmented populations (Finucci, Derrick and Pacoureau, 2021). Bull huss experience a high level of exploitation across the species known range, with an overall population reduction of 30% - 49% over the last 48 years (Sherley *et al.*, 2020, Winker *et al.*, 2020). Contrary to this, standardised catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) data in the Irish Sea and Bristol Channel showed an annual rate of increase of 4.7%. Bull huss is thereby considered locally abundant with a regionally increasing population around the British Isles (ICES-WGEF, 2019).

Females lay eggs two at a time between March and October, taking between 7-12 months to hatch. Sexual maturity is attained for males at 77 cm total length (TL), and females at 79 cm TL, corresponding to an age of four years if hatchling growth rates remain constant (Capapé *et al.*, 2006). This species has a lifespan of approximately 17 - 19 years (Rodríguez-Cabello *et al.*, 2005).

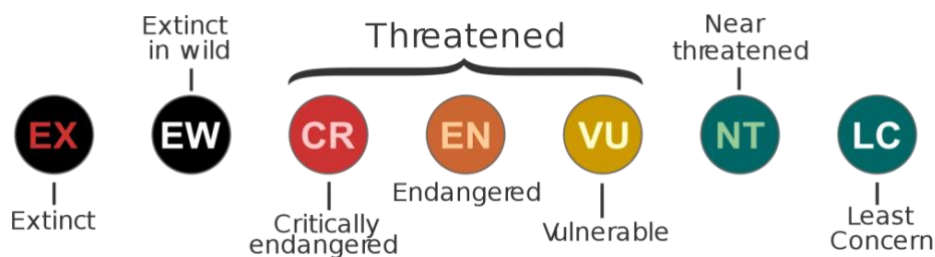


Figure 1. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species categories.

Spurdog

Spurdog is classified as 'Vulnerable' globally by the IUCN Red List (Figure 1; Fordham *et al.*, 2016; Walker *et al.*, 2006), but 'Endangered' in Europe (Ellis *et al.*, 2015b). This assessment is based on a continuing decline in the number of mature individuals and severely fragmented populations. Population genetics has revealed little to no genetic mixing between Northern and Southern Hemisphere populations, even where stocks have overlapping geographic range mixing remains limited (Veríssimo *et al.*, 2010). Within European waters, it is suspected there are three distinct subpopulations (Northeast Atlantic, Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea; Veríssimo *et al.*, 2010). Spurdog are highly migratory, travelling in large, dense aggregations, segregated by size and sex. This aggregating behaviour makes CPUE data an unreliable indicator of population status, as a high CPUE may be maintained even when populations are severely depleted (Ellis *et al.*, 2015b).

Spurdog breed every other year (Holden and Meadows, 1962; Sosinski, 1978; Fahy, 1989), likely mating offshore in winter (Castro, 1983; Compagno, 1984), between October and February (Jones and Ugland, 2001). The central Irish Sea has been suggested as a possible mating site (Dureuil, 2013). Females sexually mature at 74 - 92.5 cm TL and males mature at 57.5 - 64 cm TL (Henderson *et al.*, 2002). The maximum age is at least 40 years (Fahy, 1989), and fecundity increases with size (Ellis and Keable, 2008). The central Irish Sea has been suggested as one of the key mating sites (Dureuil, 2013).

Thornback ray

Thornback ray is classified as 'Near Threatened', with population numbers considered stable in European waters (Ellis, 2016; Ellis *et al.*, 2016). Thornback ray is widespread and one of the more abundant elasmobranchs in the inner continental shelf seas of Europe. Scientific trawl surveys in northern European waters show that relative abundance has been stable or increasing in recent years, following long-term historical declines (McHugh *et al.*, 2011). However, catch analysis from 2000 to 2006 in the North Sea showed 38% of thornback ray were caught prior to reaching sexual maturity (64 cm/~ five years of age; Wiegand *et al.*, 2011). If current fishing patterns continue, it could result in a projected population decline of 90% within 30 years. Therefore, although research indicates that catch rates have increased in core parts of the geographic distribution, this is a recent increase following a longer-term decline.

Kadri *et al.*, (2014) found average age to be at least 15 years. The estimated size at 50% maturity for females have been estimated at 45 cm disc width (DW) and 77 cm TL (eight years), and for males at 42 cm DW and 66.6 cm TL (seven years; Walker, 1998; McCully *et al.*, 2012). This species first spawns in its fifth year (Ryland and Ajayi 1984). The fecundity in British waters has been estimated at between 100 - 140 eggs per year (Holden, 1975; Ryland and Ajayi, 1984). It may not be a continuous spawner and release around 35 eggs over four clutch episodes (Serra-Pereira *et al.*, 2011). The nursery areas used are coastal areas (e.g., the Wash and Thames estuary in the UK).

Tope

Tope is classified as 'Critically Endangered' globally but listed as 'Vulnerable' in Europe by the IUCN Red List, with an overall decreasing population trend (Figure 1; Walker *et al.*, 2020; McCully, Dureuil and Farrell, 2015). Declining population trends have been accredited to severely fragment populations and a continuing decline of mature individuals (McCully, Dureuil and Farrell, 2015). There is believed to be a single stock of tope in the Northeast Atlantic, extending from southern Norway and Scotland, southwards to the coast of northwest Africa and the Mediterranean Sea (ICES, 2012). Tope landings throughout the Northeast Atlantic region have decreased by 83% in the past twenty years (ICES, 2011). Landings off west Scotland, the Celtic Seas and the English Channel are relatively high, but highly variable (ICES, 2012). Greater abundances of mature individuals have also been found off the northern Irish coast, the southern Irish Sea and the east coast of England (Dureuil, 2013).

This species typically occurs in schools, partially segregated by size and sex (Walker *et al.*, 2008). There is regional variation in size at maturity, in the Northeast Atlantic males mature at 121 cm TL and females mature at 155 cm TL (Dureuil, 2013). Female age-at-maturity varies from 10 - 15 years (average 12.5 years) and maximum age is estimated as 40 years (tag returns suggest a possible maximum age of 60 years; Olsen, 1954; Francis and Mulligan, 1998; Walker, 1999). Tope reproductive cycles vary regionally from annual to triennial, although studies with intensive sampling indicate triennial cycles (Walker *et al.*, 2006; Ebert, Fowler and Compagno, 2013). Average litter sizes are between 20 to 35 pups, with litter sizes increasing in larger females (Ebert, 2003). Shallow, protected bays and estuaries serve as pupping and nursery area where young remain for up to two years (Walker *et al.*, 2006; Bovcon, 2018; McMillan *et al.*, 2018).

Methodology

The project is advertised locally and interested anglers targeting small sharks are invited to partake in the programme. In 2022, 14 anglers were trained to administer tags. Since the beginning of the programme, 93 anglers have been received small shark tagging training.

All trained anglers were given a minimum landing size crib sheet, recording cards and tagging equipment (Appendix 1 and 2). Prior to tag application, the condition of each shark was visually assessed to ensure normal appearance and minimum landing size. Any injured or otherwise abnormally appearing sharks, or those below the minimum landing size, would have been rejected from the tagging pool. Next, information was recorded on the species, location, date, length, girth, sex and condition. The tagging equipment consisted of a micro gun with ten micro-tags for tagging smaller sharks. Tag equipment was replaced in small quantities when required, depending on angler's likelihood of being able to fish. One external tag with imprinted unique identification numbers was applied to each fish, which was recorded on the recording card.

The micro-tags were inserted at a 45° angle, then the trigger was pushed to insert the tag. The needle was then removed, and the tag lightly tugged to set the dart. Following tagging, all sharks were released and monitored to ensure normal post capture behaviour. Currently, the data is stored with the MWT. Previously data had also been stored with the SSTP. Anglers were able to email tagging information directly to the MWT.

Results

Sharks tagged in 2022

In 2022, two boat trips were organised by the MWT (14th August, from Post St. Mary and 21st August, from Peel), aiding the tagging effort for the year. In total, 120 individuals were tagged, including 4 bull huss, 1 spurdog, 7 thornback rays and 108 tope (Figure 2). Most individuals caught and tagged were female, as shown in Figure 2. Bull huss was tagged for the first time since 2014 and thornback ray were tagged for the first time since the programme's inception (Table 1).

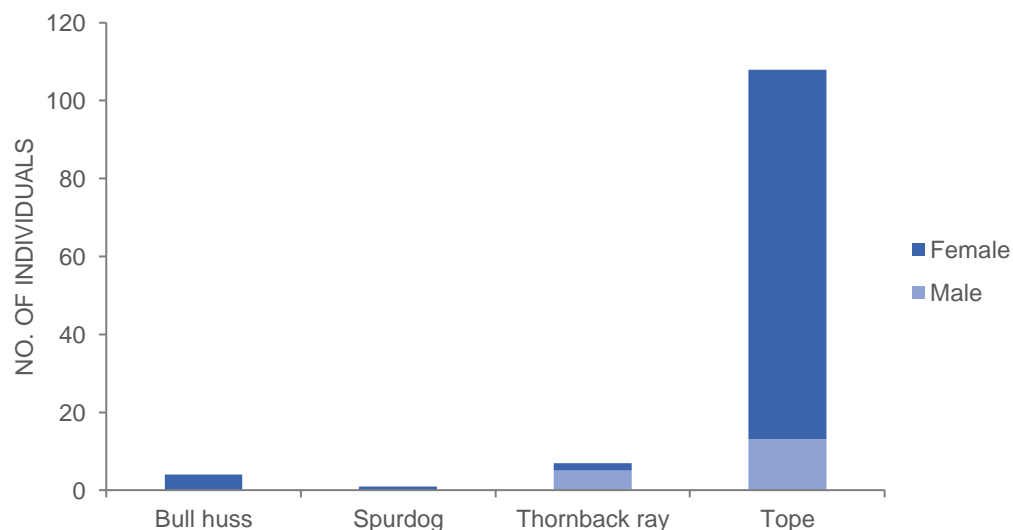


Figure 2. The number and sex of small sharks tagged in Manx waters during 2022.

The range in length of bull huss was 74.00 – 100.00 cm, with an average length of 86.00 cm (± 9.90 cm). Only one spurdog was tagged, which was 70.00 cm in length. The range in length of thornback ray was 60.00 cm – 145.00 cm, with an average length of 103.14cm (± 36.14 cm).

Tope ranged in length from 99.00 cm to 173.00 cm, with an average length of 149.34 cm (± 14.32 cm). The tope tagged in 2022 were the largest caught in the project to date. Figure 3 shows the range and average length of tagged small sharks from 2022 (Appendix 3).

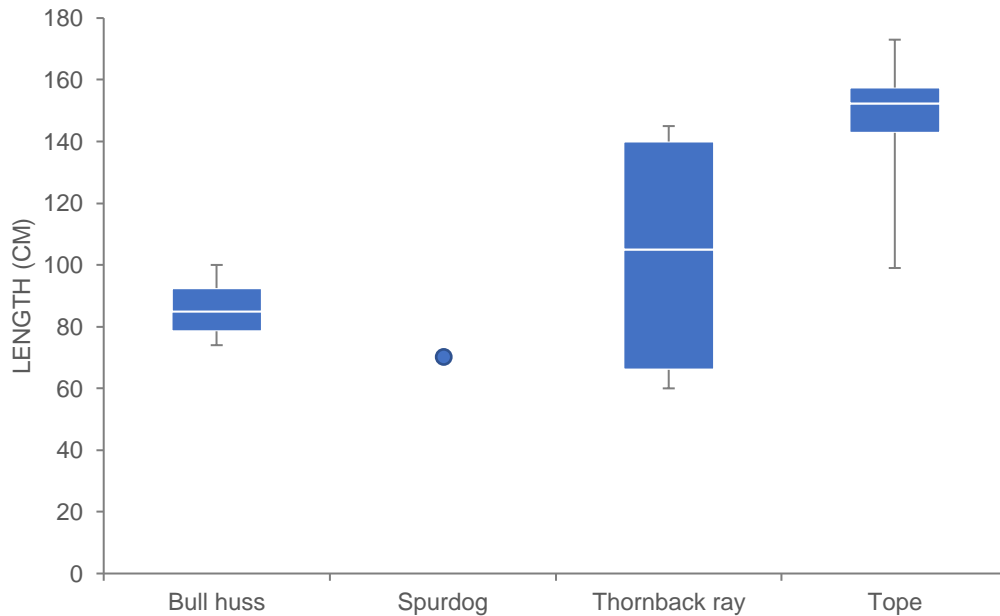


Figure 3. Box plot showing the medium length, and interquartile range (i.e., the range in values of the central 50% of the data) of tagged small sharks in 2022. Whiskers indicate the minimum and maximum lengths recorded. N.B.: Averages were not able to be calculated for spurdog as only one individual was tagged.

Distribution of sharks tagged in 2022

Sharks were tagged towards the east and west of the Island during the 2022 tagging season, as shown in Figure 4. It should be noted that Figure 4 may not reflect survey effort and may potentially be unrepresentative of species distribution. However, anglers do tend to fish in areas where certain species are known to be found. Nevertheless, in combination with data obtained in subsequent tagging years, this data may contribute to the identification of hotspots, sex aggregations or nursery areas.

Recaptures

Excitingly, two recaptures were reported in 2022. The first recapture was a female tope caught off Niarbyl in August 2022. This shark was originally tagged in Scotland as part of the Scottish Shark Tagging Programme. The second recapture was also a female tope, originally tagged on the Isle of Man in August 2022 and then recaptured in the Bay of Biscay, west coast of France in November 2022.

Previous to this, the first recapture was a tope in July 2014 off Point West on the Isle of Man and a second recapture in September 2018 from the Netherlands, originally tagged in May 2018 on the Isle of Man. Recaptures provide interesting data, suggesting tope inhabiting Manx waters are migratory across European waters. These recaptures are substantiated by research findings, which consider there to be a single stock of tope throughout European waters (ICES, 2012).

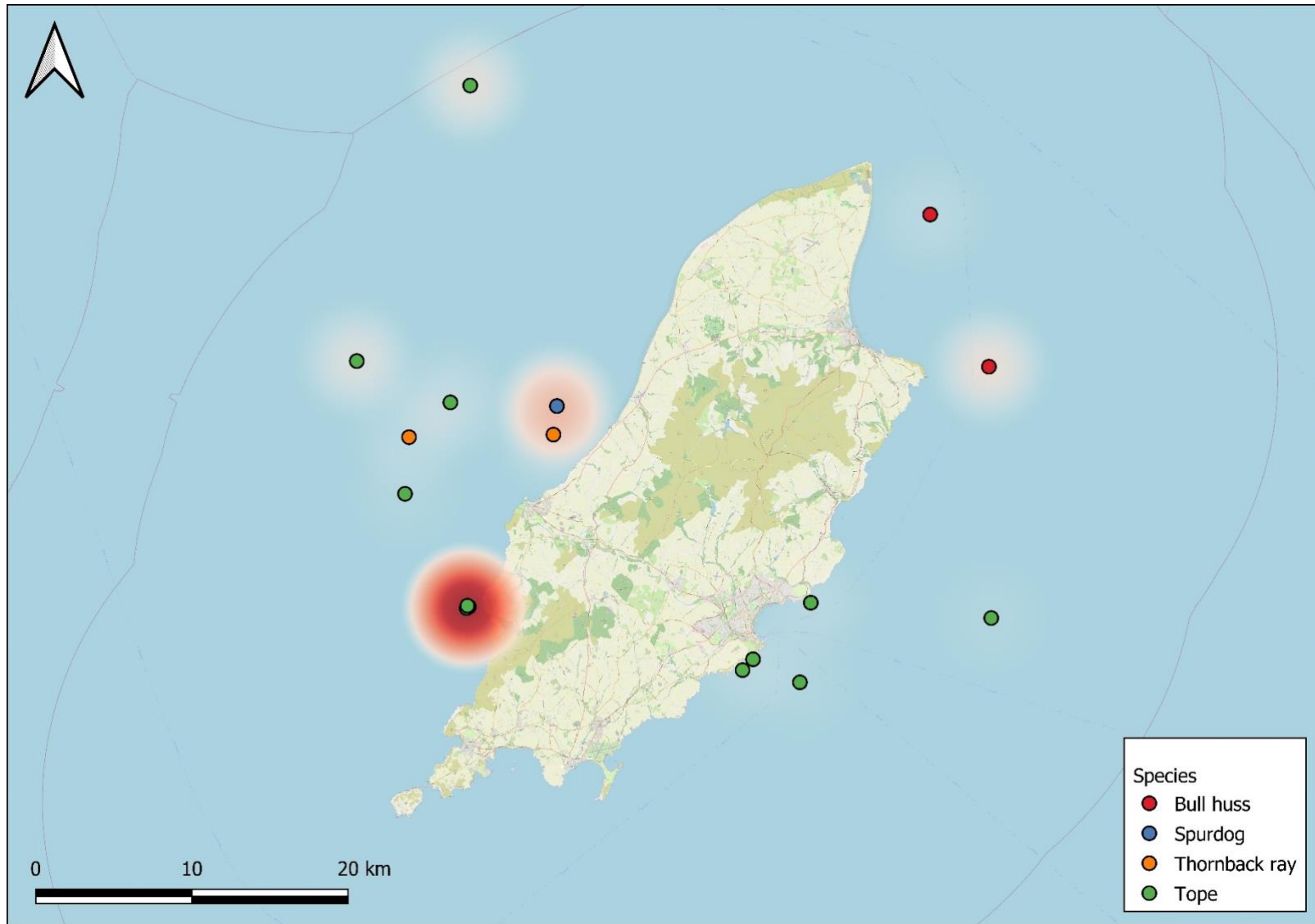


Figure 4. Locations of tagged small sharks in Manx waters during the 2022 survey season including a heatmap indicating the abundance of small sharks at tagging locations.

Comparison of sharks tagged 2013-2022

In total, 475 small sharks have been tagged since 2013 (Table 1). Significantly more individuals were tagged in 2022 than in comparison to previous years, which were predominantly tope. Such high tagging success is in part thanks to two angling trips organised by the MWT, and the continued support of several anglers. Furthermore, bull huss was tagged for the first time since 2014 and thornback ray were tagged for the first time since the project's inception (Table 1).

Table 1. The number of small sharks per species tagged between 2013 – 2022.

| Species | Year | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|--|
| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2021 | 2022 | |
| Bull huss | 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | |
| Spurdog | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 90 | 14 | 8 | 31 | 1 | |
| Thornback ray | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | |
| Tope | 28 | 22 | 20 | 12 | 40 | 30 | 10 | 22 | 108 | |
| Total | 50 | 24 | 21 | 16 | 130 | 44 | 18 | 53 | 120 | |

Bull huss

Prior to the 2022 tagging effort, bull huss had only been tagged in 2013 and 2014 (Table 1). In 2022, four female bull huss were tagged towards the north of the Island off Maughold and the Point of Ayre (Figure 4). In previous survey years, bull huss have exclusively been found off the northwest coast. It is unclear why more bull huss have not been tagged throughout the programme, as research suggests bull huss are locally abundant in the Irish Sea and populations are slowly increasing (ICES-WGEF, 2019).

The average length of bull huss caught and tagged is 91.06 cm (Table 1, Appendix 3). Sexual maturity is for males and females is reached at 77cm and 79 cm respectively, corresponding to an age of four years if growth rates remain constant (Capapé *et al.*, 2006). Of the individuals tagged throughout this project, 82.35% have been over the minimum length of maturity.

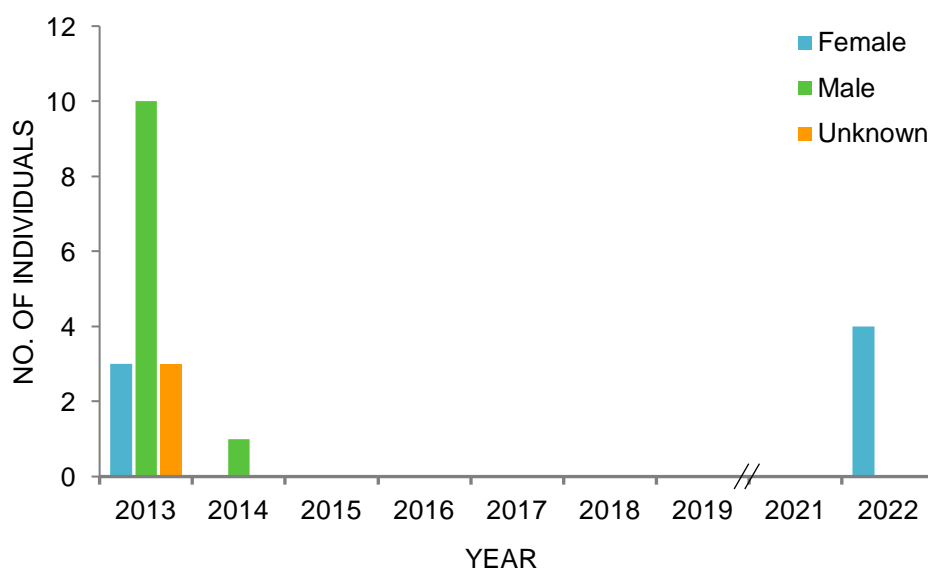


Figure 5. The number of individual bull huss females (blue) and males (green), as well as the unidentified individuals (orange) between 2013 – 2022.

Spurdog

Only one female spurdog was tagged during the 2022 tagging effort. Females have been more frequently tagged than males across the entire programme, as shown in Figure 6. In terms of the distribution, spurdog were tagged to the west of the Island, near Kirk Michael (Figure 4). Spurdog travel in large, dense aggregations, segregated by size and sex (Henderson *et al.*, 2002). This makes it unsurprising that females have been primarily tagged but highlights that Manx waters may be crucial migratory routes or pupping grounds for female spurdog.

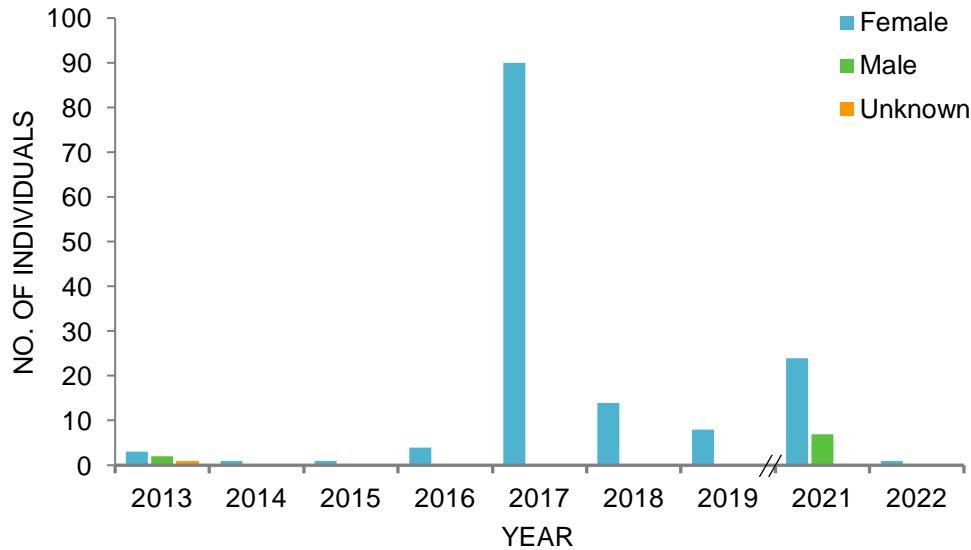


Figure 6. The number of individual spurdog females (blue) and males (green), as well as the unidentified individuals (orange) between 2013 – 2022. The dotted line indicates average number of females over time.

Figure 7 illustrates the average length of female spurdog between 2013 to 2022 (Appendix 3). Only one spurdog was tagged in 2022, however, by modelling the data it highlights there has been a continuous decline in tagged spurdog size over the past four tagging years (Figure 7). The minimum total length for females at sexual maturity (50 % certainty) is 74 cm (Henderson *et al.*, 2002). Throughout the programme, only 7.05 % tagged spurdog have been < 74 cm. Therefore, the majority of tagged females were likely to be sexually mature and indicates that Manx waters may provide nursery grounds for this species.

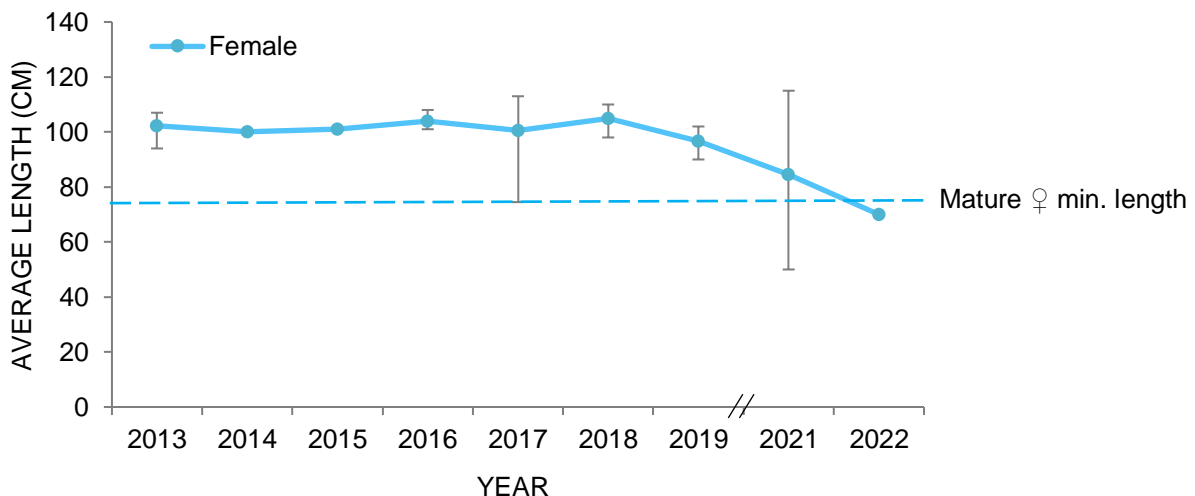


Figure 7. The minimum and maximum length (cm) of tagged female spurdog (whiskers) and average length between 2013 – 2021. Dashed line indicates minimum length of maturity (74 cm). One individual was tagged in 2014, 2015 and 2022 respectively, therefore data was modelled for these years to generate an average length.

Thornback ray

Thornback ray were tagged for the first time in the programme in 2022. Seven individuals were tagged, five of which were male. Evidence suggests that the relative abundance of thornback ray has been stable or increasing in recent years (McHugh *et al.*, 2011), which may be why this species has only been tagged in 2022. The tagged individuals were found off the east and west coast, off Maughold and Peel. Figure 8 shows that most individuals tagged were the average total length and disc width for males and female that have reached sexual maturity.

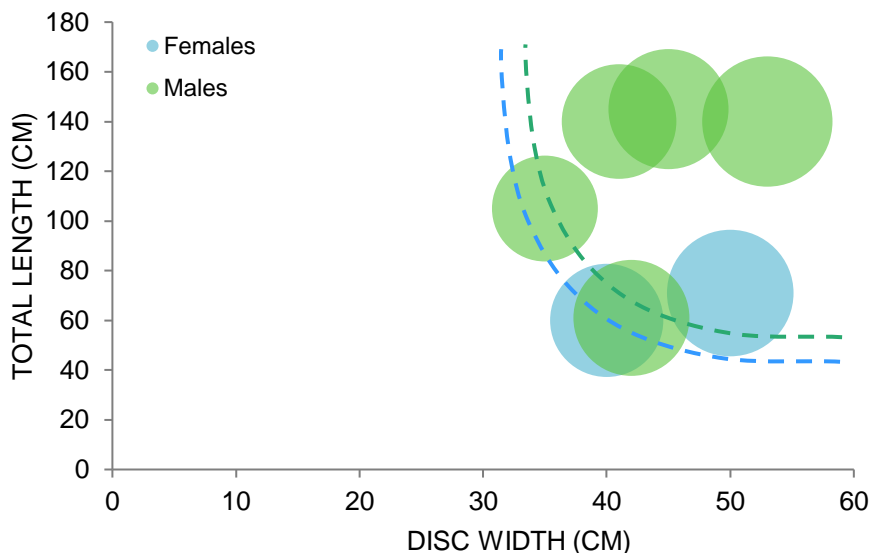


Figure 8. The disc width (cm) and total length (cm) of tagged thornback ray in 2022. Dashed lines indicates average length and width at maturity of females (blue; 45 cm x 77 cm) and males (green; 42 cm x 67 cm).

Tope

Whilst the sex ratio of tagged tope shows annual variation, females have been more frequently tagged than males over the last five years, as shown in Figure 9. Also, the total average number of females seems to be relatively increasing, whilst the number of males caught is more annually variable. The proportion of females to males could be interpreted to suggest that Manx waters may predominantly be used by females, perhaps utilising the area as a small shark nursery ground. However, this is deemed unlikely as the majority of tagged female tope do not meet the 50% certainty of maturity threshold of 155 cm TL (Figure 10; Dureuil, 2013). Although male tope have consistently been above the equivalent threshold of 121 cm TL (Figure 10; Dureuil, 2013). This may be due to this species typically being partially segregated by size and sex (Walker *et al.*, 2008).

In terms of the distribution of tope during the 2022 survey period, individuals were caught around most of the Island, except to the south (Figure 4). One Individual was also tagged further offshore towards the northwest.

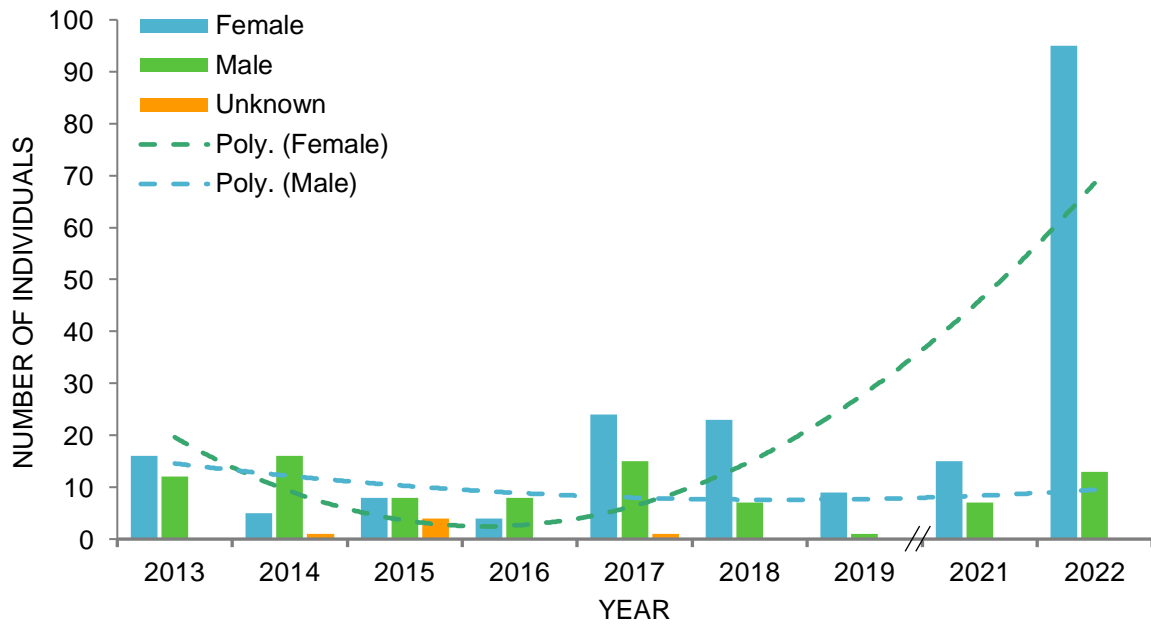


Figure 9. The number of individual tope females (blue) and males (green), as well as the unidentified individuals (orange) between 2013 – 2022. The dotted line indicates average number of males and females over time.

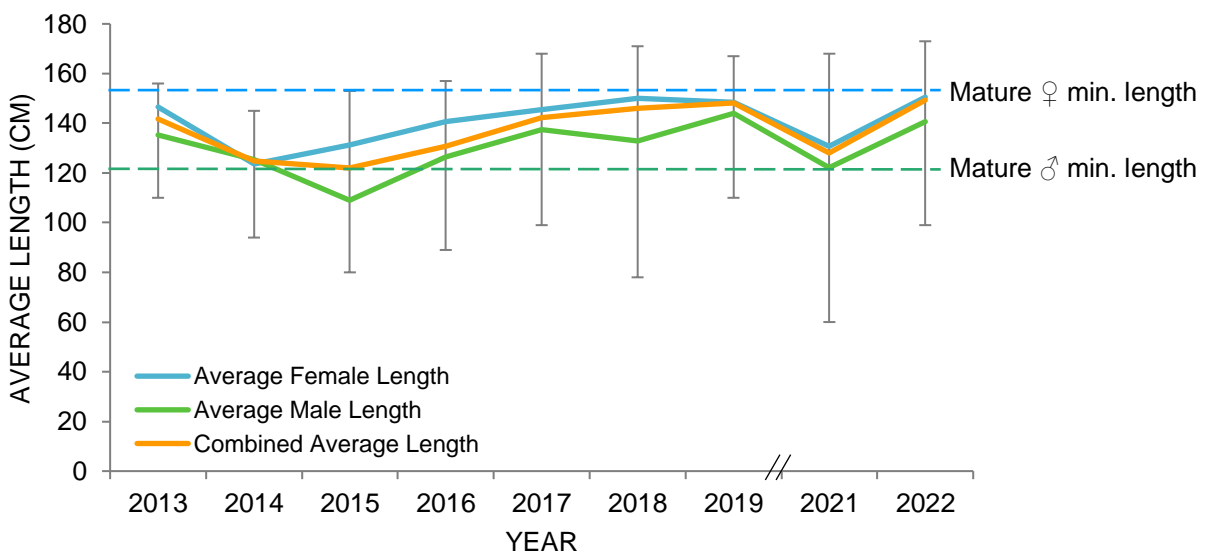


Figure 10. The minimum and maximum range in tagged tope length (whiskers); average length (cm) of total tagged tope (orange); average length (cm) of female tagged tope (blue); average length (cm) of male tagged tope (green); and average length for sexually mature females (155 cm, dashed blue) and males (121 cm, dashed green) between 2013 – 2022.

Overview of Programme

The numbers of tagged individuals for the 2022 survey period vastly increased on the previous year's numbers. In 2022, tope were the species caught and tagged the most. Most individuals caught and tagged were female, as shown in Figure 2. Bull huss was tagged for the first time since 2014 and thornback ray were tagged for the first time in the programme (Table 1).

The average length of tope increased in 2022, whereas spurdog average length continued to decline. Average size of small sharks tagged remains variable over the years across both

species. Tagging a wider range of shark sizes may provide the programme with more insight into whether Manx waters are important for part of their reproductive cycles, such as for breeding or as a nursery for young.

Figure 11 illustrates shark tagging hotspots across the course of the programme. The south of the island remains a key hotspot for small shark species. Small sharks have also consistently been tagged near Douglas and off Niarbyl, which may highlight these are other key areas important for these species. Effort was made in the 2022 survey season to tag small sharks towards the more northerly parts of the Island, to gain an understanding of the gender and size ratios of species in this area. Appendix 5 contains maps showing the tagging locations between 2013 – 2022.

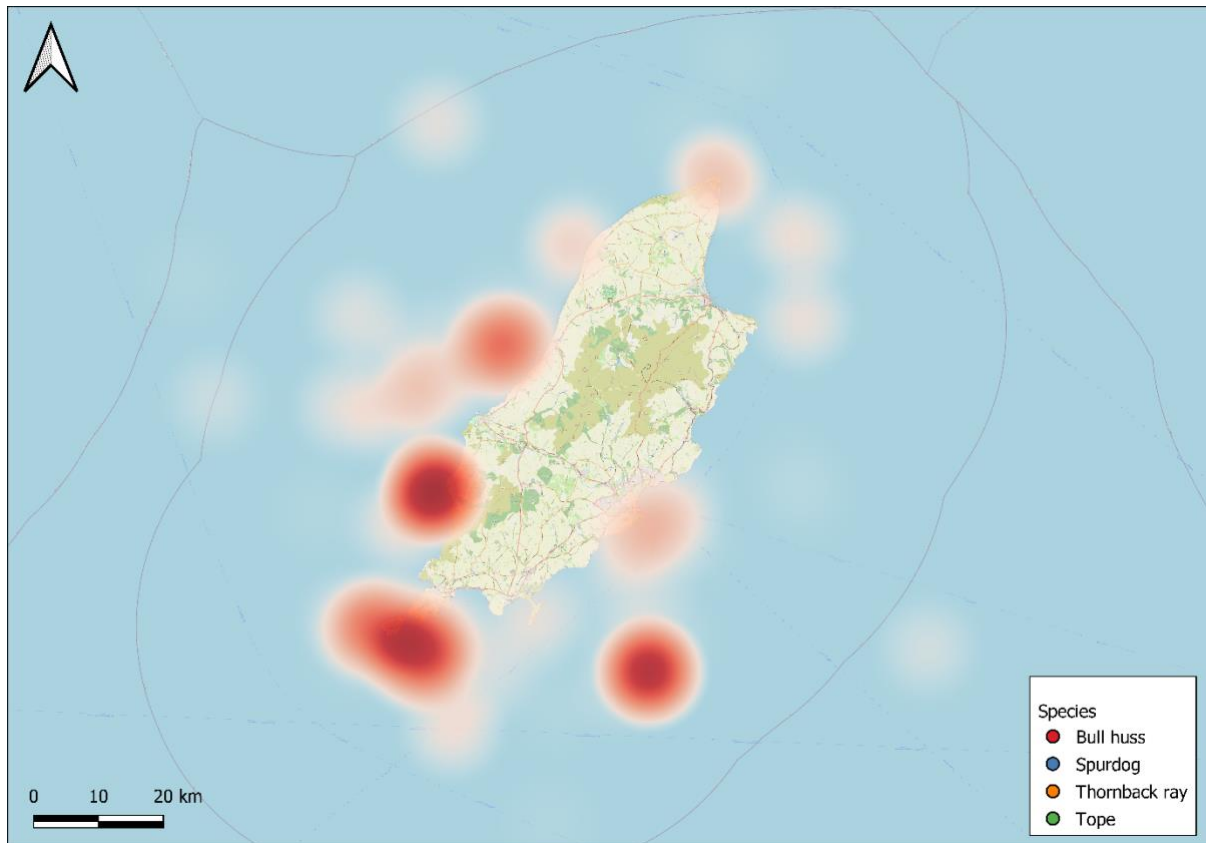


Figure 11. A heatmap indicating where small sharks have been most commonly tagging in Manx waters during 2013 – 2022.

Conclusions and Recommendations

In total, 475 small sharks have been tagged since 2013. An additional 13 small sharks were tagged prior to the formal commencement of the Small Shark Tagging Project in 2013. Increased tagging effort in 2022 in tagging bull huss, which had not been caught since 2014. Thornback ray was also tagged for the first time since the project's inception. Gaining more data on a greater variety of small shark species is hugely beneficial in furthering our understanding of where and how these species use Manx waters.

The project has resulted in a total of four recaptures, two of which have occurred from sharks originally tagged on the Island and recapture in other areas (France and the Netherlands). The further two recaptured in Manx waters were both originally tagged in Scotland. Although more recaptures had been anticipated throughout the project, two recaptures from 2022 suggests that recaptures will increase as tagging effort increases. Overall, it is too soon to determine whether small sharks are utilising Manx waters for migrations, feed grounds or as part of their reproductive cycles. Continued tagging and recapture of previously tagged individuals are crucial to obtain useful information about the distribution and population structure of small sharks in Manx waters.

Currently, small sharks have been tagged in several Marine Nature Reserves (MNRs) including West Coast, Calf and Wart Bank, Baie ny Carrickey, Langness, Little Ness and Ramsey Bay. These sites only cover up to the 3 nm boundary of Manx waters and are not formally designated to protect small shark species. This is in part due to small shark species not receiving formal protection in the Isle of Man currently. However, small sharks will benefit from these MNRs due to restrictions against damaging protected habitats and fishing.

Based on our current understanding of the tagged shark species, we recommend greater protection in the form of restrictions or reserve formation/extension into the 3-12 nm zone of the Calf and Wart Bank, Langness and West Coast MNRs. Extending protection into the wider 3-12 nm zone around the Island is crucial to protect these areas from damaging marine developments and fishing.

The Manx Wildlife Trust is grateful for the support of this programme from the angling community and from TLC Solutions Ltd for the financial support for the purchase of more tags, and is optimistic for future data collection.

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Appendices

Appendix 1. Tagging guidance crib sheet.

SSTP Micro-Tag Guidelines



Micro-tags are inserted using a tagging gun. When not in use we recommend that you use the needle guard to prevent injury!

1. Fit a strip of micro-tags into the tagging gun
2. Insert the needle at an angle of 45°
3. Push the trigger to insert a single tag into the fish
4. Remove the needle and give the tag a short tug to set the barb

Submit your data to Eleanor – eleanor@manxwt.org.uk or drop in at 7-8 Market Place, Peel, IM5 1XF or online at: www.tagsharks.com

These tagging guidelines are for tagging guns and micro-tags **ONLY**. SSTP minimum sizes are set to protect fish, if for any reason you are unsure about tagging please **do not tag the fish!**

| SSTP Micro-Tag Minimum Sizes | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Common Skate (wingspan) | Canula |
| Tope | 65cm (2.8lb) |
| Spurdog | 65cm (2.3lb) |
| Smooth-hound | 70cm (2.2lb) |
| Bull Huss | 65cm (2.5lb) |
| Rays (wingspan) | 35cm (2.1lb) |

Appendix 2. Record card.

Please send details to Eleanor by email: eleanor@manxwt.org.uk
Or drop in/post to: 7-8 Market Place, Peel, IM5 1XF


Name/s: _____

Email address: _____




Date: _____ Time start: _____ Time end: _____

Location (please circle): NE NW SW SE

Lat/Long (this will NOT be made public):
_____ N _____ W



In association with:

| Tag No. | Species | Sex | Length (cm) | Girth (cm) | Condition |
|---------|---------|-----|-------------|------------|-----------|
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Appendix 3. The range and average length (cm) of tagged sharks between 2013 – 2022.

Table 1. The range and average length (cm) of tagged bull huss for 2022. N.B.: averages for 2014 were not able to be calculated as only one individual was tagged.

| Year | Length range (cm) | | Average length (cm) | Standard deviation (±) |
|------|-------------------|---------|---------------------|------------------------|
| | Minimum | Maximum | | |
| 2013 | 63.00 | 110.00 | 91.06 | 13.71 |
| 2014 | 89.00 | | - | - |
| 2022 | 74.00 | 100.00 | 86.00 | 9.90 |

Table 2. The range and average length (cm) of tagged spurdog between 2013 – 2021. N.B.: averages for 2014, 2015 and 2022 were not able to be calculated as only one individual was tagged in each of these years respectively.

| Year | Length range (cm) | | Average length (cm) | Standard deviation (±) |
|------|-------------------|---------|---------------------|------------------------|
| | Minimum | Maximum | | |
| 2013 | 75.00 | 107.00 | 94.17 | 11.92 |
| 2014 | 100.00 | | - | - |
| 2015 | 101.00 | | - | - |
| 2016 | 101.00 | 108.00 | 104.00 | 3.16 |
| 2017 | 74.50 | 113.00 | 100.49 | 6.76 |
| 2018 | 98.00 | 110.00 | 104.93 | 3.67 |
| 2019 | 90.00 | 102.00 | 96.75 | 3.83 |
| 2021 | 50.00 | 115.00 | 84.48 | 19.02 |
| 2022 | 70.00 | | - | - |

Table 3. The range and average length (cm) of tagged thornback ray for 2022.

| Year | Length range (cm) | | Average length (cm) | Standard deviation (±) |
|------|-------------------|---------|---------------------|------------------------|
| | Minimum | Maximum | | |
| 2022 | 60.00 | 145.00 | 103.14 | 36.14 |

Table 4. The range and average length (cm) of tagged tope between 2013 – 2022.

| Year | Length range (cm) | | Average length (cm) | Standard deviation (±) |
|------|-------------------|---------|---------------------|------------------------|
| | Minimum | Maximum | | |
| 2013 | 110.00 | 156.00 | 141.71 | 12.32 |
| 2014 | 94.00 | 145.00 | 124.95 | 14.95 |
| 2015 | 80.00 | 153.00 | 122.00 | 24.10 |
| 2016 | 89.00 | 157.00 | 130.70 | 24.07 |
| 2017 | 99.00 | 168.00 | 142.38 | 14.51 |
| 2018 | 78.00 | 171.00 | 145.93 | 21.97 |
| 2019 | 110.00 | 167.00 | 148.10 | 17.88 |
| 2021 | 60.00 | 168.00 | 127.91 | 26.54 |
| 2022 | 99.00 | 173.00 | 149.34 | 14.32 |

Appendix 5. The capture location of small sharks tagged in Manx waters during 2013 (a), 2014 (b), 2015 (c), 2016 (d), 2017 (e), 2018 (f), 2019 (g), 2021 (h) and 2022 (i).

