

Considering the proximity between the area in which the species was recorded and the harbour of Livorno (one of the largest in Italy), the species was probably introduced by ballast water, as was assumed in the case of the other Indo-Pacific species of the genus recorded in Italian waters: *C. (Charybdis) lucifera* (Mizzan & Vianello, 2009; Frogliola, 2010) (Adriatic Sea, first Mediterranean record). Furthermore, a juvenile specimen of *C. ferriata* was found in the sediment of ballast water tanks of a ship docking in Germany (Gollasch, 2002). Although *C. ferriata* actually seem to be rare in the Mediterranean Sea, we cannot exclude the possibility of a future spread in the Basin, as in the case of the invasive Atlantic species *Callinectes sapidus* (Stasolla & Innocenti, 2014).

3.2 New record of the great white shark *Carcharodon carcharias* from Lampedusa

P. Micarelli and E. Sperone

The great white shark *Carcharodon carcharias* (Linnaeus, 1758) is widely distributed throughout most oceans in temperate and subtropical regions, and it is relatively abundant in some areas such as Australia, California and South Africa (Sperone *et al.*, 2010, 2012a). Records of this species in the Mediterranean are well documented. Regarding the Italian seas, a high frequency of records is reported, in particular along the coasts of Sicily, with 56 records from 1666 to 2009, but also along the coasts of Calabria, Tuscany and Sardinia (Micarelli *et al.*, 2011; Sperone *et al.*, 2012b). However, with the exception of the Medlem program, no specific research on white sharks in the Italian seas is actually carried out. This note reports a new record of the white shark from the Central Mediterranean Sea. On December 23rd 2015, the specimen was incidentally caught by a professional fishing boat using fishing nets deployed for bottom fishing, off Lampedusa Island (Sicily), 500 m from the coast. A colleague at the Shark Study Centre of Massa Maritima managed to collect some biometric data. The white shark measured approximately 200 cm in total length and



Fig. 7: Specimen of the young white shark in the cold room of the boat (A, B) and details of a tooth from the upper jaw (C).

weighed 35 kg. It was an immature female (Fig. 7A, B). The teeth of the upper jaw (Fig. 7C) were of typical juvenile shape, not being perfectly triangular, with lateral serrations; the crown was high (17 mm). The lower teeth presented lateral cuspids and no serrations. The specimen had been discarded by the fishermen, so it was not possible to preserve any tissues.

This new record confirms that the Central Mediterranean, and Sicilian coasts in particular, still represent a key area for the population of Mediterranean white sharks, but also for other shark species (Bilecenoglu *et al.*, 2013); in fact, 43% of all white shark sightings in the Italian seas (Micarelli *et al.*, 2011) are from this area. Moreover, the fact that the female was an immature specimen confirms previous observations showing that 90% of white shark sub-adults observed in the Italian seas originated from Sicily. These data support the hypothesis suggested by Fergusson (1996) that the waters around Sicily could represent a potential reproductive site for this species in the Mediterranean Sea.

3.3 First record of *Seriola fasciata* (Carangidae) in the SCI of Capo Peloro - Laghi di Ganzirri, Sicily

L. Castriota and A. Spinelli

The lesser amberjack *Seriola fasciata* (Bloch, 1793) is a subtropical Atlantic carangid, which has extended its natural geographical range by entering the Mediterranean Sea through the Strait of Gibraltar. Since its first record in 1989, in the Balearic Islands (Massutí & Stefanescu, 1993), *S. fasciata* has been reported from several different locations within the Mediterranean, both in the western and in the eastern Basin, mostly in its epipelagic juvenile stage.

On November 28th 2014, at 11:30 a.m., one specimen of *S. fasciata* was observed by the authors (A. Spinelli) during a SCUBA dive, under a wooden floating object in the Canale Faro (38.265333° N, 15.642626° E; Fig. 8), a

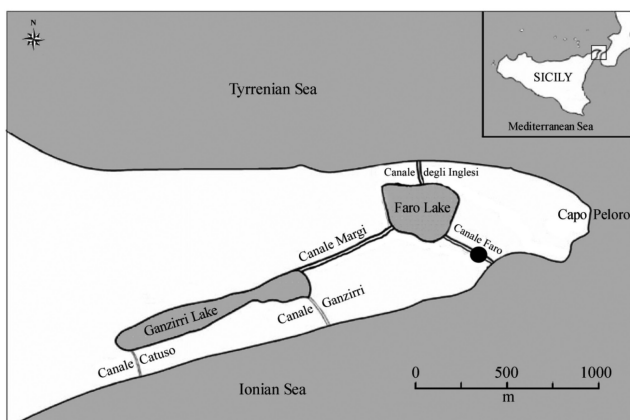


Fig. 8: SCI of Capo Peloro - Laghi di Ganzirri, the black dot indicates the record site.