The Angel Shark Project

The Angel Shark Project was set up in 2014 to safeguard the future of Critically Endangered angel sharks throughout their natural range.

These amazing predators spend much of their time camouflaged in sand ready to ambush unsuspecting fish that swim within reach. Three species of angel shark were once widespread throughout East Atlantic and Mediterranean. Decades of unsustainable fishing have led to their decline throughout their former range and angel sharks are now some of the most endangered fish in European waters. All three species are listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

Our work has focused on the Canary Islands to date, a unique stronghold for the angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) where this species is still regularly sighted.

Our Partners

The Angel Shark Project is a collaborative effort by the below stakeholders:

**About ZSL**
The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is a world leader in wildlife conservation, science and education. As a charity we have active conservation projects in over 50 countries together with our two Zoos, ZSL London Zoo and ZSL Whipsnade Zoo.

**About ULPGC**
The University of Las Palmas in Gran Canaria (ULPGC) is one of the leading Spanish universities, a leader in the use of new technologies and research related to marine and maritime areas, it is comprised of 153 research groups covering all fields of knowledge.

**About ZFMK**
The Zoological Research Museum Alexander Koenig (ZFMK) is one of the largest natural history research museums in Germany. The museum has earned its reputation as a leader in the documentation, research, and interpretation of biodiversity.

What does the Angel Shark Project do in the Canary Islands?

1. **Gather sightings of angelsharks**
   We use this information to understand angelshark distribution and identify important angelshark habitats;

   If you see an angelshark when swimming, diving or fishing, please let us know via [angelsharkproject.com](http://angelsharkproject.com)

2. **Train fishing charter boats in what to do when an angelshark is accidentally caught**
   so that it is returned to the water in the best condition to survive. Look out for our logo on fishing boats using the best practice guide to catch and release to help conserve angelsharks.

3. **Study angelshark movement**
   We use tagging and take genetic samples to better understand angelshark ecology in the Canary Islands. This information is very important to inform conservation strategies for the species.

   If you see a tagged angelshark when swimming, diving or fishing, please let us know via [angelsharkproject.com](http://angelsharkproject.com)

4. **Study angelshark nursery areas**
   where angelshark pups are born using a number of monitoring techniques. These are some of the most important areas to protect to conserve angelsharks.

5. **Deliver the Angelshark Action Plan for the Canary Islands** with key stakeholders from across the Canary Islands, as part of the Angel Shark Conservation Network [angelsharknetwork.com](http://angelsharknetwork.com)

6. **Work with local and national governments** to drive legislative change so that angelsharks are better protected in their last stronghold.
Find out more

Follow us on Twitter @angelshark2014
Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/angelsharkproject
You can find out more about the project at angelsharkproject.com and ZSL’s work at zsl.org

How can you help?
Report an angelshark sighting at angelsharkproject.com
Tell your friends about the importance of the Canary Islands as a habitat to conserve the angelshark.
Sign up to the Angel Shark Conservation Network and help deliver the Action Plan and Strategy angelsharknetwork.com
Share our Facebook posts and tweets to help raise awareness of our work.

Contact us
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