

27th EEA Annual Scientific Conference

29-31 October 2025

Abstract submission form



Submission deadline: August 3rd 2025

	Please fill out all sections
Title of presentation	Pathologic findings and causes of death of stranded elasmobranchs in the Canary Islands (2022-2025)
Oral / Poster presentation	Poster presentation
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Are you applying for a Student Bursary <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	

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Please fill in abstract (Maximum 300 words)

Since 2022, the Fish Pathology Unit of the Institute of Animal Health and Food Safety (ULPGC) has performed necropsies on 105 stranded elasmobranchs along the coasts of the Canary Islands (Spanish archipelago in the Atlantic Ocean). This work is conducted within the framework of the Canarian Network for the Surveillance of Wildlife Health (Red Vigía Canarias), coordinated by the regional government, and supported by the Angelshark Guard Network Project, (AGN project, Loro Parque Fundación). The specimens examined included 69 angelsharks (*Squatina squatina*), 9 smooth hammerhead sharks (*Sphyrna zygaena*), 7 spiny butterfly rays (*Gymnura altavela*), 5 common eagle rays (*Myliobatis aquila*), 5 common stingrays (*Dasyatis pastinaca*), 4 marbled torpedo rays (*Torpedo marmorata*), 2 tope sharks (*Galeorhinus galeus*), along with individual specimens of *Rostroraja alba*, *Taeniurops grabatus*, *Mustelus mustelus* and *Alopias superciliosus*. No significant sex bias was observed (51.4% females, 48.6% males). The degree of decomposition was assessed upon necropsy, with a numeric value assigned between 1 and 5 (1-very fresh (7.6%), 2-fresh (5.7%), 3-early decomposition (26.7%), 4-advanced decomposition (41.9%), 5-severe decomposition (18.1%)). The causes of death were categorized as: 50.5% natural, 26.7% anthropogenic origin and 22.9% not determined (due to advanced or severe degree of decomposition). This research contributes to determine the causes of death in elasmobranchs in the Canarian archipelago, enhancing our understanding of this highly threatened group of animals. Furthermore, the stranding network has facilitated the creation of a tissue bank that allows the development of new lines of research on anatomy, histology, pathological and forensic diagnosis in elasmobranchs, contributing significantly to the conservation of the species and to the broader objective of preserving marine biodiversity.

Keywords (max 4): veterinary, pathology, elasmobranch, Atlantic Ocean

Please submit the completed form either by uploading it on the website or by email to eea2025@elasmobranch.nl



Note: Potential speakers must have registered and purchased their conference ticket prior to abstract selection.

The conference Scientific Committee will select the presentations from the abstracts judging on the scientific relevance and quality. Participants will be notified about the approval of their abstract submission by **September 26th**. We may request oral presentation submissions to be presented as a poster, depending on the number of delegates and the number of available oral presentations.