Case study 2: the nurse-hound shark, *Scyliorhinus stellaris*.

The nurse-hound shark is a common inshore and offshore species of the Eastern Atlantic continental shelf. In the Mediterranean, its occurrence is associated with the coralline algal bottom. Described as common in the Mediterranean waters by fishers when? (especially in the Balearic area), its abundance may be in decline. Conservation of this species only occurs in three Balearic marine reserves, and artesanal fishery is still allowed in these areas.

This species is regularly harvested as by catch in some Mediterranean countries where it is sold as a fresh product. The nurse-hound shark seems to be distributed in small populations associated with islands and its vulnerability may depend on the limited capacity of this species to recover. As no population data are available, it has been classified as **Data Deficient** species according to the 2004 IUCN Red List (provisional). Such an assessment stresses that even if the taxon has been well studied, and its biology well known, appropriate data on abundance and/or distribution may be lacking. "Data Deficient" is not a category of threat, but it indicates that more information is required and acknowledges the possibility that future research may show that threatened classifications (such as **Vulnerable, Endangered** and **Critically endangered**) are more appropriate.