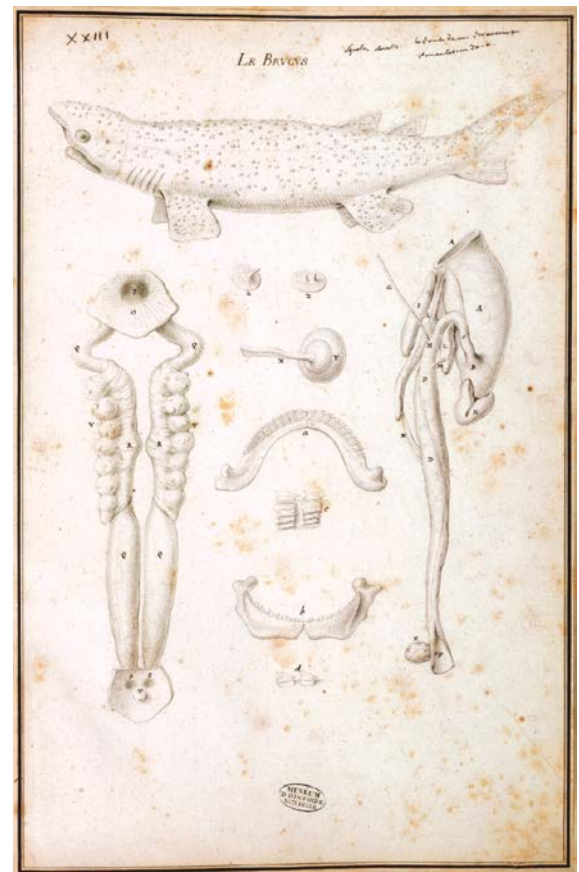


FAREWELL

Ron O'Dor, Senior Scientist (Census of Marine Life), professor emeritus (Dalhousie University, Canada). Renowned scientist Ron O'Dor recently passed away due to COVID19 complications. People who were part of the **History of Marine Animal Populations** (HMAP) project got to know Ron as the senior scientist of the **Census of Marine Life** and a strong supporter of HMAP. His vision and sense of humour was an inspiration. He always introduced himself as a squid person and his last paper was on flying squid. As squid propel themselves like rockets forward up and out of the water to 'fly', Ron's response to a journalist when he was asked why they fly was typical Ron: "Who wouldn't want to be a rocket? Why be an astronaut when you can be a rocket?" A lasting legacy is his pioneering efforts to develop the **Ocean Tracking Network**, placing a chain of receivers and oceanographic sensors in all the oceans of the world to track 200 keystone tagged animals along migratory routes. Ron was a great friend and he will be sorely missed. ~ Poul Holm, Trinity College (Ireland)

RESEARCH NEWS

First and last record of Bramble sharks in France spans 300 years at exactly the same location. In Oceans Past News No.10 (November 2018), we featured **Samuel Iglésias's** and **Frederik Mollen's** ongoing research on the **Bramble shark** (*Echinorhinus brucus*) in our spotlight. Their 'coldcase' illustrated that the disappearance of large and charismatic species, such as the Bramble shark, may go totally unnoticed and even unsuspected from datasets of modern fishery surveys. Iglésias's and Mollen's first academic paper on this topic is out now, focusing on the history of the species description and the lost holotype identifying the species. **Bonnaterre** was the first to make the scientific name available in 1788, but his description did not include a holotype nor an illustration. The description was instead based on a paper by **Broussonet** eight years earlier. Again, Broussonet did not illustrate the species but referred to a fresh specimen drawn and collected by members of the **Royal Academy of Sciences (Paris)** along the French Atlantic coast. Based on this clue, the authors were able to rediscover the original drawings as well as other unpublished manuscripts and illustrations that includes much new information. The holotype, now considered lost, was drawn by **Philippe de La Hire** in 1680 at the Bayonne coast. What La Hire could not have expected is that exactly 300 years later, in 1981, the last French Bramble shark would be caught at exactly the same locality off southwestern France. Now the species can be considered virtually extirpated from European waters. ~ Samuel Iglésias and Frederik Mollen



Original manuscript drawing by Philippe De la Hire of the fresh holotype of the Bramble shark *Echinorhinus brucus* caught in 1680 at Bayonne (southwestern France). It represents a gravid female of 227 cm in total length. Photo credit: Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (Paris).

Publication: Iglésias SP and Mollen FH (2020). *L'histoire de la description du squalo bouclé Echinorhinus brucus (Bonnaterre, 1788) (Echinorhinidae) et la redécouverte des illustrations du type perdu*. *Zoosystema* 42(13): 173-193 (in French, with English abstract). <https://doi.org/10.5252/zoosystema2020v42a13> or <http://zoosystema.com/42/13>.