

measurements, habitat characterization to be compared with species occurrence in modern fishing records, and estimating specific size ranges of prehistoric fish to spot temporal trends in size distributions. As such, archaeological data can aid in spotting anthropogenic impacts on reef fisheries.

## RESEARCH & OTHER NEWS

### An inventory of Bramble sharks in natural history collections for conservation status assessment.

In Oceans Past News No. 10 and No. 17 (November 2018 and July 2020), we featured **Samuel Iglésias's** and **Frederik Mollen's** ongoing Bramble shark Cold Case in our spotlight. Their study in historical ecology was initiated to document the suspected decline of *Echinorhinus brucus* (Bonnaterre, 1788) by inventorying all possible records of this little-known shark species using different data sources. This data mining project resulted in a wealth of new historical information, too many to discuss in a single paper. Their second academic contribution is out now, solely focusing on Bramble sharks in natural history collections worldwide. This search resulted in 169 individuals, of which 64 records are reported for the first time. As such, museum collections have proven an important data source by supplying unique physical evidence of their past existence. All these new records will be included in an integrative paper to demonstrate the species' relative abundance and geographical distribution in time, and to implement appropriate conservation measures for this iconic and endangered shark species. ~ **Frederik Mollen**, *Elasmobranch Research, Bonheiden, Belgium* and **Samuel Iglésias**, *Institut de Systématique, Évolution, Biodiversité (ISYEB), Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, CNRS, Sorbonne Université, EPHE, Université des Antilles, Station marine de Concarneau, Concarneau, France*



Examples of Bramble sharks *Echinorhinus brucus* (Bonnaterre, 1788) in the collections of the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (Paris). Photo credits: Samuel Iglésias (MNHN).

**Related publication:** Mollen F.H. & Iglésias S.P. 2023. — An inventory of Bramble sharks *Echinorhinus brucus* (Bonnaterre, 1788) (Elasmobranchii, Echinorhinidae) in natural history collections worldwide for conservation status assessment. *Zoosystema* 45 (22): 653-748. <https://doi.org/10.5252/zoosystema2023v45a22>