

Taxonomic status of Chilean Chondrichthyes

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Near a hundred species of cartilaginous fishes (Chondrichthyes) have been reported to occur along the coast of Chile, among them, a total of 17 was actually described from Chilean waters. However, the quality of some of the original descriptions is deficient and most of type specimens are currently lost. Hence the addition and renewal of reference specimens from their type localities for natural collections and other institutions has become urgent. We will review all the original descriptions of species discovered in Chile, and then we will check the whereabouts of the type material. With that information in hand we will elaborate a list of species in need redescription and of those which type specimens are either lost or may not allow for proper identification. This diagnosis of the taxonomic status of Chilean Chondrichthyes will set the guidelines and also promote future taxonomic research on chondrichthyans off Chile.