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From rarity to reality: the hidden abundance of critically endangered deep-sea little gulper shark (*Centrophorus uyato*) in the southern Adriatic Sea

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From rarity to reality: the hidden abundance of critically endangered deep-sea little gulper shark (*Centrophorus uyato*) in the southern Adriatic Sea

Andrej A. GAJIĆ and James A. SULIKOWSKI

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An example of the interview used for assessing LEK.

NO.	DATE	LOCATION	FISHERMAN / SHIP	GEAR (TRAWL, LONGLINE)
	____/____/2023			
Where do you usually fish, and at what depths do you operate?			What are the most common species you catch?	
LOCATION (ADD TO MAP)	AVG. DEPTH	MAX. DEPTH	LIST THE MOST FREQUENT SPECIES BELOW	
HOW FAR FROM THE SHORE?	FOR HOW LONG?	Months per year		
PLEASE DESCRIBE THE BOAT AND GEAR YOU ARE USING?				
Would you be willing to take the research crew with you?			If YES, please note the contact information!	

MAIN QUESTIONS:

Have you observed any declines in catch rates over recent years or decades? Additionally, have you noticed any new species in the area?

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Are you aware of any regulations or legal restrictions regarding your gear, minimum landing sizes, locations, or seasonal restrictions? If yes, which exactly.

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Do you encounter any shark species in your catch? If so, which species are typically present, and are they usually alive or deceased upon retrieval?

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How do you handle the sharks caught in your fishing operations? Are they typically discarded as by-catch, sold, or used for personal consumption? If sold, who are the usual buyers of these sharks?

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<p>Peshkaqen blu - Mako (<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>) Photo: A. Gajčić</p> 	<p>Peshkaqeni jeshil / blu (<i>Prionace glauca</i>) Photo: A. Gajčić</p> 	<p>Peshkaqni dhalper (<i>Alpias spp.</i>) Photo: A. Gajčić</p> 																																																												
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