



Thornback Ray FIP in the Eastern English Channel

Joint NWWAC/NSAC FG Skates & Rays - 28/09/21



FROM
NORD

POSEIDON
AQUATIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



FIP Overview

- ▶ **Target stock** : Thornback ray (*Raja clavata*) in the eastern channel (7d)
- ▶ **Fishing method/gear**: bottom trawls, trammel nets and Danish seines
- ▶ **FIP Steering Committee** : [OPN](#), [FROM NORD](#), [WWF France](#), Carrefour France and NFM (project management support) + **Poseidon**
- ▶ **FIP Stakeholders**: Fisheries representatives (committees, FFP), public organizations (MSC, APECS, DRDH), scientists (MNHN, Agrocampus Ouest), administration (DPMA, DIRM MMdN DIRM Haut de France , DDTM DML 62)
- ▶ Fishery pre-assessed in 2019 according to the MSC standard
- ▶ **1st phase** : Development and approval of the FIP (specifically its action plan)
- ▶ **2nd phase** : FIP's implementation. From June 2021 to May 2026 (5 years maximum)

Why initiate this FIP ?

- ▶ The Thornback ray is a commercially important fish species in the eastern channel
- ▶ Over the 2013-2016 period, the Thornback ray accounted for 80% of international landings of rajids in 7d.
- ▶ Thornback ray biomass index increases since 2011 reaching in 2018 a relative biomass up to three times higher than other species.

Thornback ray fishery in the eastern Channel

- ▶ At the EU level, the thornback ray is subject each year to an overall TAC and quotas for rays by fishing areas (excluding brown skate)
- ▶ EU TAC skates & rays (2021) : 1183 t & 1051 for France. Bit more than 300 for FROM Nord. OPN + FROM Nord catch : about 600 t per year (2018 -> 2020).
- ▶ Mixed fishery
- ▶ Minimum landing size : 45 cm (since 2017)
- ▶ Exempted from EU landing obligation regulation 2020 => Improvement of discard data (accuracy)
- ▶ Listed under the OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic as declining in OSPAR Area II including the Eastern Channel, however the information available (increase in abundance) justifies the species being de-listed in the future according to ICES
- ▶ The thornback ray is not listed as ETP or about to become endangered under CITES

Summary of the action plan

- ▶ Action 1 : To improve knowledge about the Thornback ray stock in the Eastern English Channel
- ▶ Action 2: Moving from a global TAC , common for all Rajidae species, to a specific TAC for thornback rays
- ▶ Action 3: Improved data on fishing activities to support the management strategy
- ▶ Action 4: Minimizing the effects of Danish seine fishery on the stock status of red striped mullet.
- ▶ Action 5 : Monitoring the VMEs in the fishery's geographical area (7d) and effective application of measures to minimize the impacts of the fishery on sensitive habitats if required
- ▶ Action 6: Development and subsequent implementation of a management plan for Thornback ray fishing activities (and associated species) in the Eastern English Channel.
- ▶ Action 7: Identification - traceability of ray species, in particular the Thornback ray
- ▶ Action 8 : Communications

Letter of commitment

To the extent of their commitment and possibilities, partners/observers are committed to :

	Partner	Observer
▶ Contributing to the definition of the action plan and its evolution.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
▶ Participating in the Steering Committee and / or specific Working Groups .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
▶ Contributing to the implementation of the workplan actions and funding.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>