

Joint Focus Group between the NWWAC and NSAC on management measures for skates and rays (FG Skates & Rays)



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES



Chair: Paddy Walker NEV

Vice Chair: Loieza Lancelot FROM Nord

Rapporteurs:

Mo Mathies: NWWAC Secretariat

Tamara Talevska: NSAC Secretariat

Meetings

16th November 2020

10th December 2020

19th January 2021

4th March 2021

Time frame and deadline:

A 36-month period (March 2020 – September 2022) to

- 1) respond to the specific request from the Scheveningen Group (Deadline 01 May 2020)
- 2) to address ongoing issues regarding the management of skates and rays
- 3) to address issues arising within the advisory process

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and related restrictions regarding travel, the group will commence its work via virtual meetings. The Secretariats will monitor the situation and organise a face to face meeting for all group members should this be required and once travel restrictions have been lifted.

NWWAC

The FG Skates & Rays will function within the Horizontal Working Group. The paper will undergo a written procedure at the NWWAC ExCom for revision and adoption.

A final report to be presented at NWWAC September 2020 meeting in Dublin

NSAC

Caroline Gamblin is the new Chair of the NSAC Demersal Working Group chair, so the Skates and Rays Focus Group will report to this group, with interim updates to Landing Obligation FG. The paper will undergo a written procedure at the NSAC ExCom for revision and adoption.

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Advice

- Undulate ray advice 7d,e
- Prohibited species list – meeting with Commission

Management

- Thornback ray Fisheries Improvement Project (FIP) FROM Nord and OPN
- SUMARiS request to ICES – size restrictions and Group-TAC
- ICES - WKSURVIVE & WKSHARK5

Research projects:

- Raywatch (ILVO BE)
- Bridging knowledge gaps for sharks and rays in te North Sea (WMR NL)
- Trials on vitality and survival (BIM Ireland)

Roadmap - Landing Obligation

Best-practice table

- avoidance
- selectivity
- survival

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BEST PRACTICE OVERVIEW MEASURES FOR SKATES AND RAYS		
GLOSSARY		
JR Best Practices	Avoidance	Spatial methods to avoid catching individuals and/or aggregations
	Selectivity	Technical measures to prevent individuals being caught in the net
	Handling on board	Methods to increase survival on board
	Training / Communication	Ways to increase knowledge of skate and ray species and their ecological role in the ecosystem, throughout the supply chain
Approach	Measure	1 line description aligned with the exemption text - can be general (e.g. improving ID-skills)
	Projects	Description of the project, can add links to web content here
	Applicable metier/species	For which species or metier has the measure been trialed or is being implemented
	Applied in country	Where is the measure or project being carried out
	Comments	Extra information relevant for reporting on progress in the implementatio of best practices
Categories	Currently in use	What methods/measures are being implemented by the fishing industry
	Could be implemented	What information/method/protocol is available that is not currently being used
	Trials ongoing	What is currently being trialed or tested in fisheries
	Proposed research	Potential measures that could be trialed but no research projects have been formulated
	Survival studies	Overview of studies being carried out to determine survival of skates and rays in fisheries
<p>► Glossary Currently in use Could be implemented Trials ongoing Proposed research Survival studies ◀</p>		