

Skates and rays in the Celtic Seas ecoregion

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Foras na Mara

Recent updates

- WKSHARKS
 - February 2016. Re-evaluated all ICES elasmobranch landings, 2010-2015.
 - Used at WGEF in June 2016.
 - Species-specific landings still not at 100%, but much improved in recent years
 - All *Dipturus* species now combined into one advice stock

Current advice

Species	Stock	2017 advice	2017 advice
Blonde ray	7e	107%	333
Blonde ray	6 & 4a	100%	6
Blonde ray	7afg	100%	895
Cuckoo ray	6,7, 8abd	120%	2734
Other skates and rays	6 & 7	-	na
Sandy ray	6 & 7	100%	42
Shagreen ray	6 & 7	100%	210
Small-eyed ray	7de	100%	36
Small-eyed ray	7fg	80%	154
Spotted ray	6 & 7bj	120%	67
Spotted ray	7a & 7-e-h	101%	1197
Thornback ray	7e	80%	212
Thornback ray	7a, 7f-g	110%	1386
Common skate	6 & 7	-	0
Undulate ray	7de	-	65
Undulate ray	7bj	-	0
White skate	6 & 7	-	0
			7004

Advice in tonnes does NOT mean species-specific TACs.

Potential issues

- Sensitive habitats, e.g. Tralee Bay
 - Smaller-scale spatial management may be required in future.
- Vulnerable species e.g. large skates
 - Potential choke species under Landings Obligation. Currently unclear how will be treated / interpreted by different bodies

Potential issues continued

- Mismatch in stock discrimination and TAC areas e.g. blonde ray in 6 and 4a
- Big areas of overlap for some stocks, e.g. cuckoo ray in 4,6,7 and 8
- TAC areas may change in medium term. Could lead to species-specific quotas.

How can industry help the advice process?

- Accurate species recording, both landings and discards.
- Discards workshop planned for February 2017
 - Continue allowing observers on board
 - Provide additional records (position, number, sex) of large *Dipturus* skates
 - Additional information may be required on e.g discard patterns by area or time (Vessels not individually identifiable)
- Potential white skate project in 2017
 - Provide any records or eggcases