

Other skates and rays in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a (Bay of Biscay and Atlantic Iberian waters)

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES cannot provide catch advice for these stocks due to a lack of reliable survey and catch data. Discarding is known to take place; however, ICES cannot quantify the corresponding catches.

Note: This advice sheet is abbreviated due to the COVID-19 disruption. The previous advice issued for 2019 and 2020 is attached as Annex 1.

Stock development over time

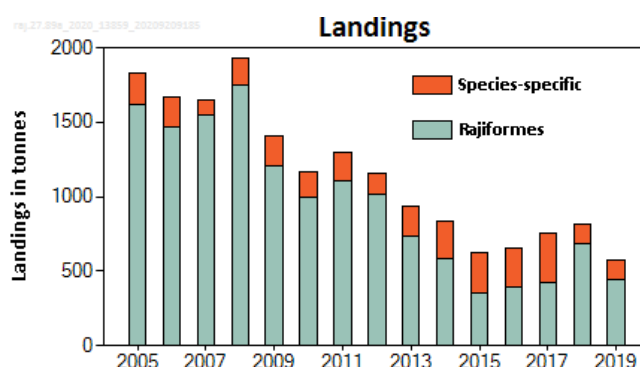


Figure 1 Other skates and rays in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. ICES estimated landings for species covered by this advice includes species not reported elsewhere (*Dipturus oxyrinchus*, *Leucoraja circularis*, *Leucoraja fullonica*, *Raja microocellata*, *Raja miraletus*, and *Rajella fyllae*), species outside the currently recognized stock boundaries in this ecoregion (*Leucoraja naevus* and *Raja brachyura*), and generic reported landings (indeterminate Rajiformes). All landings are in tonnes.

Stock and exploitation status

Table 1 Other skates and rays in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. State of the stock and the fishery relative to reference points.

		Fishing pressure				Stock size			
		2017	2018	2019		2017	2018	2019	
Maximum sustainable yield	F_{MSY}	?	?	?	Unknown	$MSY B_{trigger}$?	?	?
Precautionary approach	F_{pa}, F_{lim}	?	?	?	Unknown	B_{pa}, B_{lim}	?	?	?
Management plan	F_{MGT}	—	—	—	Not applicable	B_{MGT}	—	—	—
Qualitative evaluation	-	?	?	?	Unknown	-	?	?	?

Catch scenarios

ICES cannot provide catch advice for these stocks, owing to a lack of reliable survey and catch data. Recent landings are not considered reliable to provide advice because of progressive changes in the level of species-specific reporting.

Discarding is known to take place; however, ICES cannot quantify the corresponding dead catch.

Table 2 Other skates and rays in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. The basis for the catch scenarios.

Advised landings for 2019 and 2020, issued in 2018	No advice	
Discard rate	Unknown	
Precautionary buffer	Not applied	-
Landings advice	-	
% advice change *	-	

* Advice value 2021–2022 relative to the advice value 2019–2020.

History of the advice, catch, and management

Table 3 Other skates and rays in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. History of ICES advice and ICES estimates of landings*. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Landings corresponding to advice	ICES landings
2011	No specific advice		1293
2012	No specific advice		1153
2013	No TAC, species-specific measures needed, catch to decrease by at least 20%	-	940
2014	No new advice, same as 2013	-	831
2015	Decrease landings by at least 20% **	≤ 614	620
2016	No new advice, same as 2015 **	≤ 614	653
2017	No advice	-	755
2018	No advice	-	819
2019	No advice	-	570
2020	No advice	-	
2021	No advice	-	
2022	No advice	-	

* There is no specific TAC for these stocks. Fishing opportunities are managed through an overall TAC by management unit, which includes all species of skates and rays.

** ICES provided advice for these skates in 2014 as a large proportion of the total skate landings were not assigned to assessed stock units.

Summary of the assessment

There are no assessments for the stocks addressed here.

Sources and references

ICES. 2020. Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes (WGEF). ICES Scientific Reports, 2:77. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.7470>.

Recommended citation: ICES. 2020. Other skates and rays in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a (Bay of Biscay and Atlantic Iberian waters). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2020. ICES Advice 2020, raj.27.89a. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.5781>.

Annex 1

ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort
Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast and Azores Ecoregions
raj.27.89a

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Other skates and rays in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a (Bay of Biscay and Atlantic Iberian waters)

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES cannot provide catch advice for these stocks due to a lack of reliable survey and catch data. Discarding is known to take place, but ICES cannot quantify the corresponding catches.

Stock development over time

There are insufficient survey or abundance data available to assess these species individually. All stocks are considered as minor ones for the commercial fisheries in this ecoregion. The apparent reduction in landings since 2009 is attributed to improved reporting at the species level, which has reduced the amount of skates reported as unidentified.

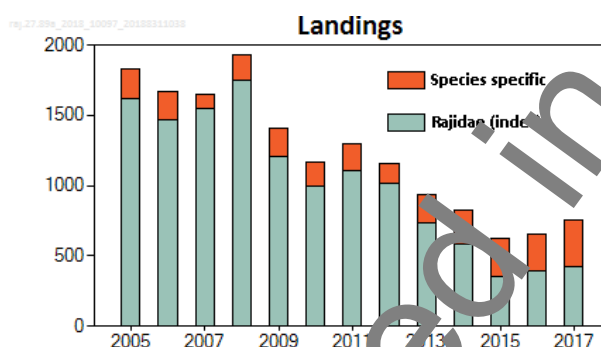


Figure 1 Other skates and rays in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. ICES estimated landings for species covered by this advice includes species not reported elsewhere (*Dipturus ophiodon*, *Leucoraja circularis*, *Leucoraja fullonica*, *Raja microocellata*, *Raja miraletus* and *Rajella fyllae*), species outside stock boundaries (*Leucoraja naevus* and *Raja brachyura*) and generic reported landings (indeterminate Rajiformes) in tonnes.

Stock and exploitation status

ICES cannot assess the stock and exploitation status relative to maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and precautionary approach (PA) reference points because the reference points are undefined.

Table 1 Other skates and rays in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. State of the stock and fishery relative to reference points.

Table 1. Other states and ways in which the Bureau and Division did state the state of the stock and fishery relative to reference points.										
		Fishing pressure				Stock size				
		2015	2016	2017		2015	2016	2017		
Maximum sustainable yield	F_{MSY}	?	?	?	Unknown	$MSY B_{trigger}$?	?	?	Unknown
Precautionary approach	F_{pa}	?	?	?	Unknown	B_{pa}, B_{lim}	?	?	?	Unknown
Management plan	F_{MGT}	—	—	—	Not applicable	B_{MGT}	—	—	—	Not applicable
Qualitative evaluation		?	?	?	Unknown	-	?	?	?	Unknown

Catch scenarios

ICES cannot provide catch advice for these stocks owing to lack of reliable survey and catch data. Recent landings are not considered reliable to provide advice due to progressive changes in the level of species-specific reporting.

Discarding is known to take place, but ICES cannot quantify the corresponding dead catch.

Table 2 Other skates and rays in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. The basis for the catch scenarios.

Advised landings for 2017 and 2018, issued in 2016	No advice	
Discard rate	Unknown	
Precautionary buffer	Not Applied	-
Landings advice		-
% Advice change*		-

* Advice value 2019 relative to advice value 2017.

There is no change to the advice.

Basis of the advice

Table 3 Other skates and rays in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	Precautionary approach
Management plan	ICES is not aware of any agreed precautionary management plan for these stocks.

Quality of the assessment

There is no assessment for these stocks in this area.

Issues relevant for the advice

This advice relates to skates (order Rajiformes) not specified elsewhere in ICES advice for this ecoregion. Specifically, it refers to: i) skates not reported to species level, ii) commercial species (Cuckoo ray (*Leucoraja naevus*) and Blonde ray (*Raja brachyura*)) reported from divisions outside defined stock boundaries, and iii) other skates and rays landed in this ecoregion (*Dipturus oxyrinchus*, *Leucoraja circularis*, *Leucoraja fullonica*, *Raja microocellata*, *Raja miraletus*, and *Rajella fyllae*). See Table 8 for more details.

Most nations have reported the species separately in recent years, even though current EU regulations only require *Leucoraja naevus*, *Raja clavata*, and *Raja brachyura* to be reported separately to species level in landings. The collection of species-specific landings data for *Dipturus oxyrinchus*, *Leucoraja circularis*, *Leucoraja fullonica*, *Raja microocellata* and *Raja montagui*, including dedicated sampling programmes, would facilitate the assessment and advisory process.

On 22 August 2014 the Portuguese government adopted national legislation (Portaria no. 170/2014) that established a minimum landing size of 520 mm (total length) for specimens of the genus *Leucoraja* or *Raja*, covering all of the continental Portuguese EEZ.

The national legislation adopted on 9 December 2011 (Portaria no. 315/2011) was updated by the Portuguese government on 21 March 2016 (Portaria no. 47/2016). The new legislation prohibits, throughout the whole of the continental Portuguese EEZ, the catch, retention onboard, and landing of any skate species belonging to Rajiformes during the months of May and June, which covers part of the spawning period. For each fishing trip during these two months vessels are permitted to retain onboard and to land a maximum of 5% bycatch, in weight, of the Rajiformes species.

Reference points

No reference points are defined for these stocks.

Basis of the assessment

Table 4 Other skates and rays in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. The basis of the assessment.

ICES stock data category	5 (ICES, 2016b)
Assessment type	No assessment (ICES, 2018)
Input data	Landings
Discards and bycatch	Discarding is known to take place but has not been fully quantified
Indicators	None
Other information	None
Working group	Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes (WGEF)

Information from stakeholders

There is no additional available information.

History of the advice, catch, and management

Table 5 Other skates and rays in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. History of ICES advice and ICES estimates of landings*. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Landings corrected to advice	ICES species-specific landings: minimum estimate based on reported landings
2011	No specific advice		1293
2012	No specific advice		1153
2013	No TAC, species-specific measures needed, catch to decrease by at least 20%	-	940
2014	No new advice, same as 2013	-	831
2015	Decrease landings by at least 20% **	≤ 614	620
2016	No new advice, same as 2015 **	≤ 614	653
2017	No advice	-	755
2018	No advice	-	
2019	No advice	-	
2020	No advice	-	

* There is no specific TAC for these stocks. Fishing opportunities are managed through an overall TAC by management unit, which includes all species of skates and rays.

** ICES provided advice for these skates in 2014 and a large proportion of total skate landings were not assigned to assessed stock units.

History of the catch and landings

While various skate species may be captured in the NEAFC regulatory area, the quantities caught and species composition are uncertain and cannot be quantified.

Table 6 Other skates and rays in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. Catch distribution by fleet in 2017 as estimated by ICES. Portugal does not have official landings with information by fleet, and all polyvalent landings are classified as “unspecified gears” (ICES, 2016a).

Catch (2017)	Landings					Discards
Unknown	bottom trawl	hook and lines	nets	seines	unspecified gear	Unquantified
	22%	8%	50%	2%	18%	
755 tonnes						

Table 7 Other skates and rays in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. ICES estimates of landings by country. Data revised in 2016 (ICES, 2016a). Weights are in tonnes.

Year	Portugal	Spain	France	Belgium	Netherlands	UK	Ireland	Total*
2009	308	707	391	2	0.05	0.02	0.03	1408
2010	293	627	244	1		0.01		1166
2011	276	840	175	2				1293
2012	240	762	151	0.3		0.01		1153
2013	144	616	179	1		0.4		940
2014	132	461	238	0.3				831
2015	113	299	202	1		0.7	4	620
2016	99	367	181	0.3			5	653
2017	116	396	243	0.03				755

* These data represent *Dipturus oxyrinchus*, *Leucoraja circularis*, *Leucoraja fullonica*, *Rajella fyllae*, *Raja microcellata*, *Rajella fyllae*, and *Rajiformes* (indet.) from Subarea 8 and Division 9.a and *Leucoraja naevus* and *Raja brachyura* in Subarea 8 only.

Table 8 Other skates and rays in Subareas 8 and Division 9.a. ICES estimates of landings by species and year (in tonnes). Data revised in 2016 (ICES, 2016a) and 2018 (ICES, 2018).

Species	Division	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<i>Dipturus oxyrinchus</i>	27.8.a	11	2	1.10	3	0.4	5	6	0.01	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
	27.8.b	0.01	6	0.2	0.03				0.01	0.06				0.00
	27.8.c								0.05	0.3	0.01	3	0.5	
	27.8.d	0.6	1.5	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.03	0.01	0.0	0.05	0.10	0.04	0.09	0.06
	27.9.a				72	75	20	68	24	64	33	74	26	41.06
<i>Leucoraja circularis</i>	27.8.a	72	48	52	59	18	22	14	17	15	20	21	16	0.14
	27.8.abd												2	
	27.8.b	2	0.85	0.5	0.2	0.3	3	0.7	1.3	1.6	1.39	1.45	2.32	
	27.8.c		0.01		4	0.7	2	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.01	0.00	0.07	
	27.8.d	9.73	4	6	10	2	3	2	2	3	4	2	2	
	27.8.e	0.00												
	27.9.a	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.2	2	11	1.5	0.4	0.07	0.01	0.00	2	1.3
<i>Leucoraja fullonica</i>	27.8.a	12	7	6	6	41	33	32	28	23	30	35	32	25
	27.8.abd											5	4	
	27.8.b	0.5	0.71	0.2	0.06	0.14	1.07	1.3	0.3	5	5.08	5	3	0.50
	27.8.c		0.02		0.00	0.04				0.02				0.02
	27.8.d	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.82	4	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2
	27.8.e				0.00									
	27.9.a								0.2			0.00		
<i>Leucoraja naevus</i>	27.8.e		0.00		0.02	0.03	0.03	0.2						
<i>Raja brachyura</i>	27.8.a				0.01	8	7	4	6	25	63	63	75	142
	27.8.abd											0.2		
	27.8.b				0.01	2.6	4	14	1.1	2	4	2	1.4	1.6
	27.8.c					0.07	4.85	0.7	0.21	0.13	0.12	1.21	1.39	0.3
	27.8.d					0.01	0.00	0.5	0.02	0.09	0.04	0.02	0.01	
	27.8.e								0.12			0.09		
<i>Raja microocellata</i>	27.8.a	0.24	0.41	0.2	0.3	1.7	1.12	1.3	2	6	12	12	15	37
	27.8.b	0.00	0.00		0.04	0.2	0.2	3	11	14.0	25.3	9	15.2	16.9
	27.8.c													0.2
	27.8.d			0.2	0.5	0.6	0.3		0.00	0.02	0.05	0.01	0.05	0.10
	27.9.a	88	105	35	19	45	43	29	36	40.61	45	31.5	63	68.4
<i>Raja miraletus</i>	27.9.a	16	19		4	2	6	5	5	1.08	2	0.3	2	0.2
<i>Rajella fyllae</i>	27.8.b									0.02				
Rajiformes (indet)	27.8.a	561.7	537	535	474	160	144	122	68	63	54	38	9	4
	27.8.abd	1.4	2	36	76	16	14	19	85					
	27.8.b	49	434	388	408	194	46	107	44	18	25	14	10	12
	27.8.c	173	194	420	426	409	299	409	385	278	198	149	187	190
	27.8.c.e									30.40	14	13	12	
	27.8.c.W									0.1				

Species	Division	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	27.8.d	22	21	27	16	3	3	5	0.8	1.4	0.8	0.06	0.2	2
	27.8.d.2											0.06		
	27.8.e	2		0.08	0.08	0.01					0.06	0.01		0
	27.9.a	301	283	142	345	421	491	447	432	345	289	138.9	171	210
	27.9.b											0.3		
Total		1827	1665	1651	1924	1408	1166	1293	115	940	831	620	653	755

Advice provided in 2018

Summary of the assessment

There is no assessment for these stocks in this area.

Sources and references

ICES. 2016a. Report of the Workshop to compile and refine catch and landings of elasmobranchs (WKS LARK), 19–22 January 2016, Lisbon, Portugal. ICES CM 2016/ACOM:40. 69 pp.

ICES. 2016b. Advice basis. *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2016. ICES Advice 2016, Book 1, Section 1.2.

ICES. 2018. Report of the Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes (WGEF), 19–28 June 2018, Lisbon, Portugal. ICES CM 2018/ACOM:16.

Advice provided in 2018