

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

ICES stock advice

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. ICES advises that improved collection of species-specific landings data for more skate taxa be introduced to inform on the status of these stocks.

Stock development over time

There are insufficient survey or abundance data available to assess these species individually. All are minor stocks for the commercial fisheries in this ecoregion. The decline in landings is due primarily to the improved species-specific reporting of the main commercial skate stocks.

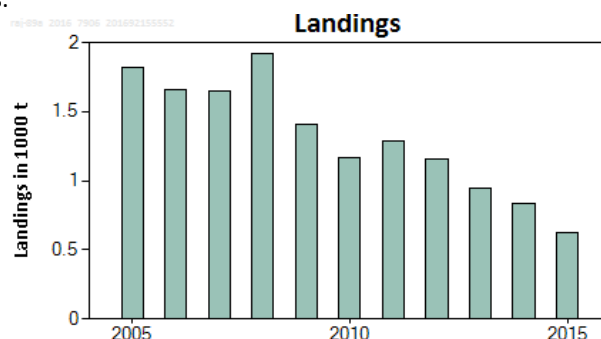


Figure 7.3.13.1 Other skates and rays in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. ICES estimated species-specific landings (in tonnes). Species-specific data are incomplete for earlier years.

Stock and exploitation status

Table 7.3.13.1 Other skates and rays in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. State of the stock and fishery relative to reference points.

		Fishing pressure				Stock size			
		2013	2014	2015		2013	2014	2015	
Maximum sustainable yield	F_{MSY}	?	?	?	Undefined	MSY	?	?	?
Precautionary approach	F_{pa} , F_{lim}	?	?	?	Undefined	$B_{trigger}$?	?	?
Management plan	F_{MGT}	-	-	-	Not applicable	B_{pa} , B_{lim}	?	?	?
Qualitative evaluation	-	?	?	?	Unknown	SSB_{MGT}	-	-	-
						-	?	?	?

Catch options

ICES cannot provide catch advice for these stocks owing to lack of reliable survey and catch data.

Revised recent landings (ICES 2016a) 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 catch. In addition, discard survival, which is likely to occur, has not been estimated.

Table 7.3.13.2 Other skates and rays in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. For stocks in ICES data categories 3–6, one catch option is provided.

Recent advised landings for 2016	614 t	
Discard rate	Unknown	
Precautionary buffer	Not applied	-
Landings advice		-

Basis of the advice

Table 7.3.13.3 Other skates and rays in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	No advice.
Management plan	There is no management plan for these stocks.

Quality of the assessment

There are no assessments for these stocks in these areas.

Issues relevant for the advice

This advice relates to skates (Rajiformes) not specified elsewhere in the ICES advice for this ecoregion (including sandy ray *Leuroraja circularis*, shagreen ray *Leucoraja fullonica*, small-eyed ray *Raja microocellata*, brown ray *Raja miraletus*, and long-nosed skate *Dipturus oxyrinchus*) and to those landings reported at family level.

Current EU regulations only require *Leucoraja naevus*, *Raja clavata*, and *Raja brachyura* to be reported separately to species level in landings, although some nations have sampling programmes that would allow more species-specific landings data to be provided. The TAC, however, covers all skates in subareas 8 and 9. Improved collection of species-specific landings data for more skate taxa may help inform on the status of these stocks.

On 22 August 2014 the Portuguese government adopted a 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 29 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 on board, and landing of any skate species belonging to Rajiformes during the months of May and June. For each fishing trip during these two months it is allowed to retain on board 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 7.3.13.4 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, 2016c).
Input data	Estimated landings.
Discards and bycatch	Discarding is known to take place but has not been quantified.
Indicators	None.
Other information	None.
Working group	Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes (WGEF).

Information from stakeholders

No information has been provided.

History of advice, catch, and management

Table 7.3.13.5 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	Predicted landings corresp. to advice	ICES species-specific landings: minimum estimate based on reported landings**
2011	No specific advice		1289
2012	No specific advice		1154
2013	No TAC, species-specific measures needed, catch to decrease by at least 20%	-	940
2014	No new advice, same as 2013	-	834
2015	Decrease landings by at least 20%.	614	626
2016	No new advice, same as 2015	614	
2017	No advice	-	
2018	No advice (same advice as for 2017)	-	

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

**Data revised in 2016 (ICES, 2016a).

History of catch and landings

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

Table 7.3.13.6 Other skates and rays in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. Catch distribution by fleet in 2015 as estimated by ICES. Portugal does not have official landings with information by fleet, and all polyvalent landings are classified as “other gears” (ICES 2016a).

Catch (2015)	Landings				Discards
Unknown	bottom trawl	hook and lines	nets	other gear	Discarding is known to take place but cannot be quantified
	27%	9%	45%	20%	
	626 tonnes				

Table 7.3.13.7 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	Belgium	Spain	France	UK	Netherlands	Ireland	Portugal	Total*
2009	2	708	391	< 1	< 1	< 1	308	1408
2010	1	632	239	< 1			293	1165
2011	2	841	169				276	1289
2012	< 1	763	151	< 1			240	1154
2013	1	617	178	< 1			144	940
2014	< 1	463	237				133	834
2015	1	303	200			< 1	121	626

* These data represent *Dipturus oxyrinchus*, *Leucoraja circularis*, *Leucoraja fullonica*, *Rajella fyllae*, *Raja miraletus*, *Raja microocellata*, and Rajiformes from Subarea 8 and Division 9.a, and *Raja brachyura* in Subarea 8 only.

Summary of the assessment

There are no assessments for these stocks in this area.

Sources and references

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

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

ICES. 2016c. Report of the Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes (WGEF), 15–24 June 2016, Lisbon, Portugal. ICES CM 2016/ACOM:20.

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