

7.3.19 Undulate ray (*Raja undulata*) in Division 9.a (Atlantic Iberian waters)

ICES stock advice

ICES cannot provide catch advice on the status of this stock because of lack of reliable survey and catch data. ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, there should be no targeted fisheries on this stock in each of the years 2017 and 2018. Any possible provision for bycatch to be landed should be part of a management plan, including close monitoring of the stock and the fishery.

Stock development over time

Landings data prior to 2009 do not reflect the stock development as these data are not species specific. From 2009 management regulations have included this stock in the prohibited list.

Stock and exploitation status

Table 7.3.19.1 Undulate ray in 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}	?	?	?	MSY	?	?
Precautionary approach	F_{pa} , F_{lim}	?	?	?	$B_{trigger}$?	?
Management plan	F_{MGT}	-	-	-	B_{pa} , B_{lim}	?	?
Qualitative evaluation	-	?	?	?	SSB_{MGT}	-	-
					-	?	?

Catch options

The ICES framework for category 6 stocks was applied (ICES, 2012). For stocks without information on abundance or exploitation, ICES considers that a precautionary reduction of catches should be implemented unless there is ancillary information clearly indicating that the current level of exploitation is appropriate for the stock.

Table 7.3.19.2 Undulate ray in Division 9.a. For stocks in ICES data categories 3–6, one catch option is provided.

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

Basis of the advice

Table 7.3.19.3 Undulate ray in Division 9.a. The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	Precautionary approach.
Management plan	There is no management plan for this stock.

Quality of the assessment

There is no assessment for this stock.

Issues relevant for the advice

This species has a patchy and coastal distribution, with traditionally limited data on stock status. Data from existing trawl surveys are limited, owing largely to a poor overlap between surveyed areas and the coastal habitat of this species.

ICES (2014) has previously advised “that there should be no targeted fisheries on this stock. Any possible provision for bycatch to be landed should be part of a management plan, including close monitoring of the stock and fishery”. In 2016, European regulations were introduced to allow limited exploitation of this stock, through trip limits, which were no more than 40 kg live weight per fishing trip, and an overall quota limit (40 tonnes for all of Subarea 9). For the current stock, given that regulations allowing for a limited bycatch are in place, data from these catches should be collated to evaluate the status of the stock. ICES also considers that there should be a management plan for this stock.

On 1 May 2016, Portugal adopted a legislative framework (Portaria no. 96/2016) regarding the 2016 quota of *Raja undulata* in ICES Subarea 9.a. assigned to Portugal. This framework sets conditions for the issuing of fishing permits to vessels; the framework obliges vessels with a permit to transmit data to both the General Directorate of Natural Resources, Maritime Security and Services (DGRM), and to IPMA, setting management technical measures for vessels holding a permit to capture and land *Raja undulata*. No targeted fisheries on *Raja undulata* are allowed, with only bycatches being permitted to be landed under specific conditions. Specimens may only be landed whole or gutted. Minimum (78 cm total length) and maximum (97 cm total length) landing sizes were adopted, as well as a threshold for daily landings (30 kg of live weight per day). Additionally, the capture, retention onboard, and landings of *Raja undulata* are not allowed during the months of May, June, and July; however, information on unwanted catches should be recorded.

Reference points

No reference points are defined for this stock.

Basis of the assessment

Table 7.3.19.4 Undulate ray in Division 9.a. The basis of the assessment.

ICES stock data category	6 (ICES, 2016a).
Assessment type	No assessment (ICES, 2016b).
Input data	None.
Discards and bycatch	Discarding is known to take place but cannot be quantified.
Indicators	None.
Other information	None.
Working group	Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes (WGEF).

Information from stakeholders

Fishers have reported that undulate ray can be locally common in some areas, which has been confirmed by scientific observations on commercial fishing vessels.

History of the advice, catch, and management

Table 7.3.19.5 Undulate ray in 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		-
2012	No specific advice		-
2013	No specific advice	-	-
2014	No specific advice	-	-
2015	No targeted fisheries. Any possible provision for bycatch to be landed should be part of a management plan	-	-
2016	No new advice, same as for 2015	-	
2017	Precautionary approach	-	
2018	Precautionary approach (same advice as for 2017)	-	

* Fishing opportunities are managed through an overall TAC by management unit, which includes all species of skates and rays. Since 2015–2016, there has been a specified TAC for this species in the management unit.

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

*** Occasional landings are known to occur but are not recorded in official statistics.

History of catch and landings

The distribution of this stock does not extend into the NEAFC regulatory area.

Table 7.3.19.6 Undulate ray in Division 9.a. Catch distribution by fleet in 2015 as estimated by ICES.

Catch (2015)	Landings	Discards
Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Summary of the assessment

There is no assessment for this stock in this area.

Sources and references

ICES. 2012. ICES Implementation of Advice for Data-limited Stocks in 2012 in its 2012 Advice. ICES CM 2012/ACOM:68. 42 pp.

ICES. 2014. Undulate ray (*Raja undulata*) in Division IXa (west of Galicia, Portugal, and Gulf of Cadiz). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2014. ICES Advice 2014, Book 7, Section 7.3.18.8.

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

ICES. 2016b. Report of the Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes (WGEF), 15–24 June 2016, Lisbon, Portugal. ICES CM 2016/ACOM:20. 684 pp.

ICES. 2016c. 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.