

5.3.26 Undulate ray (*Raja undulata*) in divisions 7.b and 7.j (west and southwest of Ireland)

ICES stock advice

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, there should be zero catches on this stock in each of the years 2017 and 2018.

Stock development over time

There were no species-specific landings before 2009 and afterwards the species was prohibited.

An index of abundance in divisions 7.b and 7.j, based on the number of fish tagged per year in sport fisheries, shows a decline since the mid-1970s.

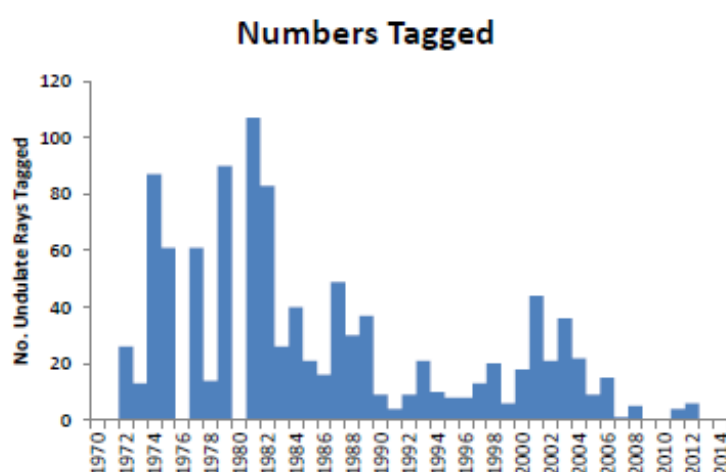


Figure 5.3.26.1 Undulate ray in divisions 7.b and 7.j. Number of fish tagged in southwestern Ireland under the Irish Marine Sportfish Tagging Programme 1972–2014. Data are not standardized, but effort is assumed to be relatively constant until early 2000s.

Stock and exploitation status

Table 5.3.26.1 Undulate ray in divisions 7.b and 7.j. 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}	-	-	-
						-	✗	✗	✗
									Depleted

Catch options

For this stock, current catches are zero. ICES advises that applying the precautionary approach catches should not increase (ICES, 2012). This corresponds to zero catch in both 2017 and 2018.

Table 5.3.26.2 Undulate ray in divisions 7.b and 7.j. For stocks in ICES data categories 3–6, one catch option is provided.

Recent advised landings (2015-2016)	0 tonnes	
Discard rate	Unknown	
Precautionary buffer	Not applied	-
Landings advice	0 tonnes	

Basis of the advice

Table 5.3.26.3 Undulate ray in divisions 7.b and 7.j. 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 in this area.

Issues relevant for the advice

This isolated coastal stock has a very local distribution, mainly in Tralee Bay on the Southwest Irish coast. There is no targeted fishery, but there is thought to be a substantial bycatch in localized tangle net fisheries targeting spiny lobster in the vicinity of Tralee Bay. It is also caught in near-shore mixed-trawl fisheries. There is a prohibition on tangle-netting in Tralee Bay and its vicinity, but it is difficult to enforce. Measures to mitigate bycatch should be developed and implemented in consultation with the stakeholders. In divisions 7.b and 7.j, ICES considers that it is appropriate that the species continues to be promptly released if caught.

The numbers of fish tagged per year in the sport fishery is the only proxy of abundance. While accurate tagging effort data are unavailable, effort is assumed to be relatively constant from the 1970s to the early 2000s. Though effort may have declined in the most recent years, there is no evidence to suggest that the stock has increased in abundance since then.

Reference points

No reference points are defined for this stock.

Basis of the assessment

Table 5.3.26.4 Undulate ray in divisions 7.b and 7.j. 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	Recreational catch numbers from tagging programme.
Working group	Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes (WGEF)

Information from stakeholders

No information has been provided.

History of advice, catch, and management

Table 5.3.26.5 Undulate ray in divisions 7.b and 7.j. 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**
2009	No target fishery	0	0
2010	No new advice, same as 2009	0	0
2011	No target fishery	0	0
2012	No new advice, same as 2011	0	0
2013	No target fishery	0	0
2014	No new advice, same as 2013	0	0
2015	No target fishery	0	0
2016	No new advice, same as 2015	0	
2017	Precautionary approach	0	
2018	Precautionary approach (same value as advised catches for 2017)	0	

* 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, 2016c).

History of catch and landings

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

Table 5.3.26.6 Undulate ray in divisions 7.b and 7.j. Catch distribution by fleet in 2015 as estimated by ICES.

Catch (2015)	Landings	Discards
Unknown	0 tonnes	Unknown

Summary of the assessment

There is no assessment for this stock.

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. 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.

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.