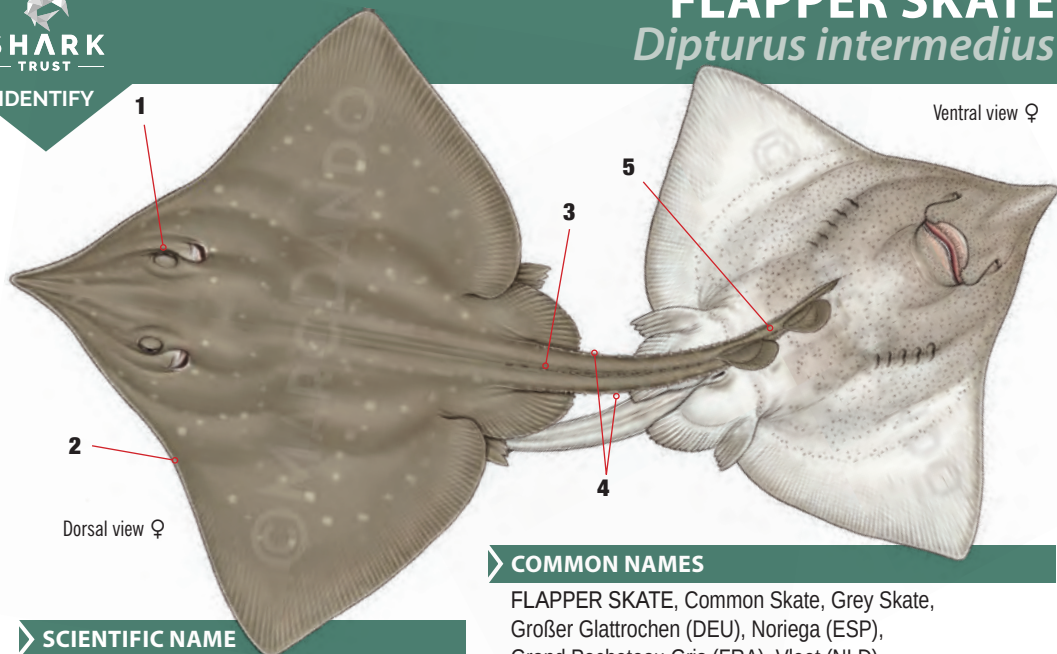


FLAPPER SKATE

Dipturus intermedius



Ventral view ♀

Dorsal view ♀

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Dipturus intermedius (Parnell, 1837)

DISTRIBUTION

Northeast Atlantic along the coast of Norway to the northern North Sea, northwest coast of Scotland, west coast of Ireland and Celtic Sea. Distribution remains unclear due to historic taxonomic confusion with *D. batis*.¹⁻⁴

COMMON NAMES

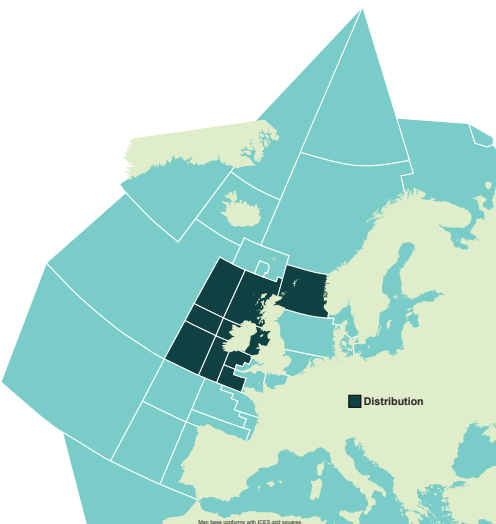
FLAPPER SKATE, Common Skate, Grey Skate, Großer Glattrochen (DEU), Noriega (ESP), Grand Pocheteau Gris (FRA), Vleet (NLD).

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

- 1 Iris of eye olive-green.^{1-3,5}
 - 2 Anterior margins of disc acutely concave.^{1,2}
 - 3 Median row of 12–18 thorns along tail.^{1,2}
 - 4 Adults with lateral thorns along lower edge of tail, tips pointing upwards towards head.^{1-3,5}
 - 5 Two small dorsal fins with long interspace, 1–2 interdorsal thorns.^{1,2,5}
- ▶ Dorsal surface dark olive-green with pale spots in younger specimens becoming greyish brown with growth.^{1,2}
 - ▶ Circular markings on wings made up of pale spots and blotches forming a pseudo-ocellus.^{1-3,5}
 - ▶ Ventral surface is dark in young becoming paler with growth.^{1,2}

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- ▶ Birth: 29cm.
- ▶ Matures: female 197cm; male 185cm.
- ▶ Max. TL: ≥230cm, possibly 285cm.¹
- ▶ Oviparous, with eggcases being laid in spring/summer.¹⁻³
- ▶ Embryonic development is long, lasting many months and possibly >1 year in higher latitudes.¹⁻³
- ▶ Little is known about the biology of this skate due to previous taxonomic confusion with the Blue Skate *D. batis*.¹⁻³
- ▶ Diet consists of benthic invertebrates and fishes.¹⁻³

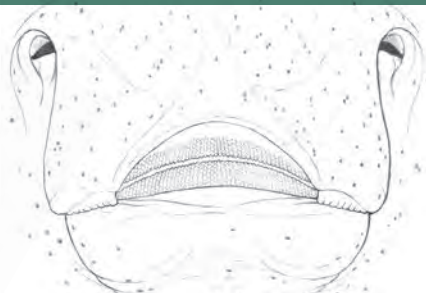


EGGCASE

- ▶ 100–144mm wide.^{1,6}
- ▶ 130–235mm long (excl. horns).^{1,6}
- ▶ Very large eggcase often with a golden, bark-like appearance.^{1,6}
- ▶ Distinct lateral keels.^{1,6}
- ▶ Deep fields; often ragged.^{1,6}



TEETH



- ▶ Relatively broad, diamond shaped bases with pointed cusps.^{1,7}

SIMILAR SPECIES

Norwegian Skate
Dipturus nidarosiensis



Longnosed Skate
Dipturus oxyrinchus



Blue Skate
Dipturus batis



White Skate
Rostroraja alba



HABITAT

- ▶ Demersal to ~600m, possibly ~1,500m. Most commonly ~200m.^{1,2}
- ▶ Found in coastal waters on soft sandy substrates as well as hard, gravelly bottoms.^{1,2}

CONSERVATION STATUS*

- ▶ IUCN Red List:
Global: Critically Endangered (2006)
Europe: Critically Endangered (2015)
Mediterranean: Critically Endangered (2016)
- ▶ Current IUCN Red List statuses refer to the Common Skate *Dipturus batis* species complex. Previous records of catches were found to include three *Dipturus* species found in the Northeast Atlantic. Further species-specific research is necessary following the taxonomic confusion between the Flapper Skate and the Blue Skate, *D. batis*.
- ▶ The Flapper Skate attains a large size, is late to mature and found at depths at which demersal fisheries frequently operate. As a result, significant declines in population size have been recorded, the full extent of which is not yet known.^{1,4,7,8}

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- ▶ Historically targeted and taken as bycatch across its range by multispecies trawl and line fisheries.^{1,8}

MANAGEMENT*

- ▶ Subject to prohibitions under the CFP and RFMO.

REFERENCES

- 1 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 2 Last *et al.* 2016.
- 3 ICES Advice. 2012.
- 4 ICES Advice. 2018.
- 5 Lynghammar, A. 2014.
- 6 Gordon *et al.* 2016.
- 7 Iglésias *et al.* 2010.
- 8 Dulvy *et al.* 2015.