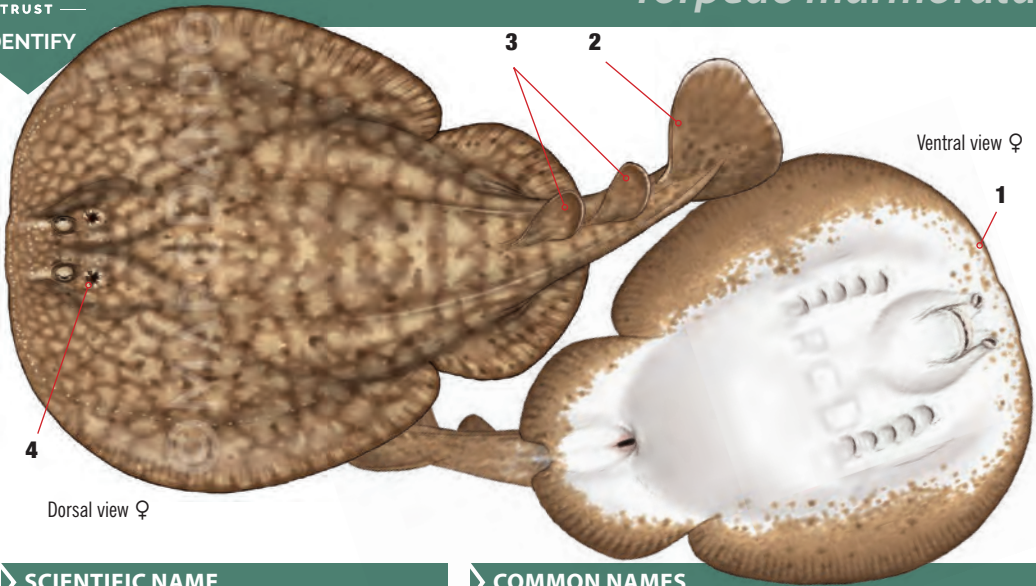


MARBLED TORPEDO RAY

Torpedo marmorata



Dorsal view ♀

Ventral view ♀

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Torpedo marmorata Risso, 1810

DISTRIBUTION

Eastern Atlantic from the English Channel to South Africa incl. the Mediterranean Sea. Occasional vagrants occur further north to western Scotland and Denmark.¹⁻³

COMMON NAMES

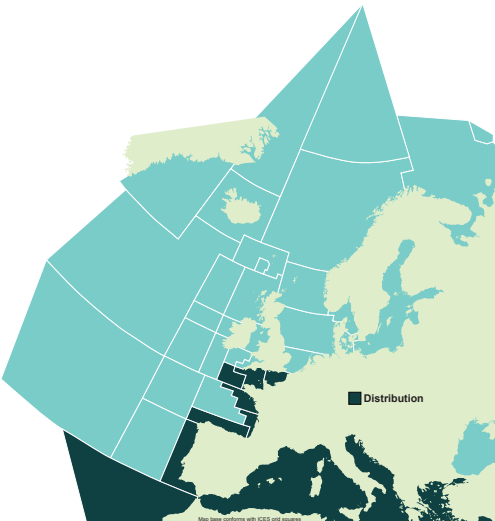
MARBLED TORPEDO RAY, Marbled Electric Ray, Spotted Torpedo Ray, Common Crampfish, Numbfish, Marmorierter Zitterrochen (DEU), Tembladera (ESP), Torpille Marbrée (FRA), Torpédine Marmorata (ITA), Gemarmerde Sidderrog (NLD), Tremelga Marmoreada (PRT).

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

- 1 Thick, rounded body with straight leading edge.^{1,2}
- 2 Short, thick tail with large caudal fin.^{1,2}
- 3 Two well-developed close-set dorsal fins.^{1,2}
- 4 6–8 papillae around each spiracle.^{1,2}
- Dorsal surface pale and dark brown, usually with a pronounced marbled pattern (this can be faint in some specimens).^{1,2}
- Ventral surface creamy white with darker margin.^{1,2}

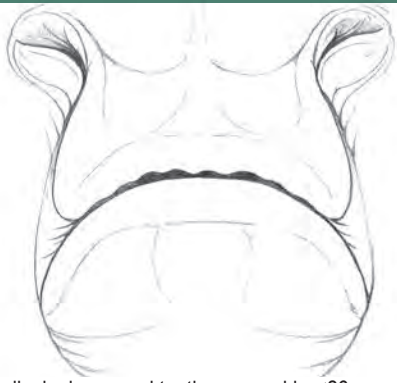
SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- Birth: 10–14cm.
- Matures: female 40cm; male 30cm.
- Max. TL: 100cm, usually to 60cm.^{1,2}
- Ovoviviparous, producing 5–32 pups after a 10 month gestation.^{1,2}
- Young are born with fully functioning electric organs.^{1,2}
- Ambush predator that uses its wings to engulf prey whilst emitting a series of electrical shocks.^{1,2}
- Feeds on small teleosts and benthic invertebrates.^{1,2}



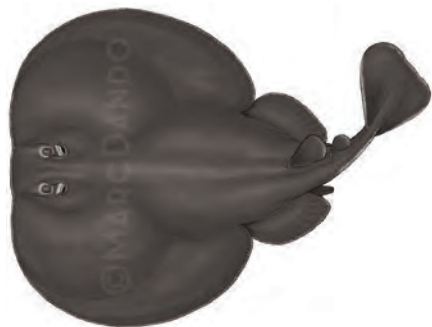
MARBLED TORPEDO RAY

TEETH

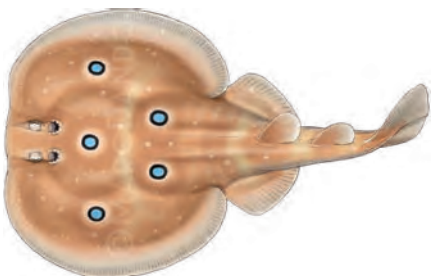


- Small, single-cusped teeth arranged in ≤ 26 rows.^{2,4}

SIMILAR SPECIES



Atlantic Torpedo Ray *Torpedo nobiliana*

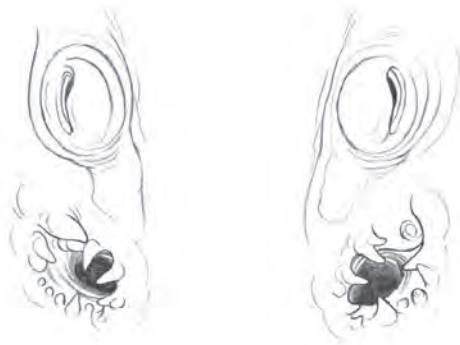


Common Torpedo Ray *Torpedo torpedo*

HABITAT

- Demersal on continental shelf and slope to 200m, most common 10–30m.^{1,2,5}
- Found over sandy and muddy substrates and in seagrass and rocky reef habitats.^{1,2,4,5}

SPIRACLES



CONSERVATION STATUS*

- IUCN Red List: Global: Data Deficient (2009)
Europe: Least Concern (2015)
Mediterranean: Least Concern (2016)
- Little is known about the population status of the Marbled Torpedo Ray in the Northeast Atlantic and minimal information is available on catch rates and population trends. The low commercial value, broad distribution and lack of evidence of declines suggest a stable population overall, however reports of demersal trawl bycatch should be monitored.³

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- Low commercial importance. This ray is sometimes a bycatch in demersal trawl fisheries but usually discarded.³

MANAGEMENT*

- No species-specific management in the Northeast Atlantic.

REFERENCES

- 1 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 2 Last *et al.* 2016.
- 3 Notarbartolo di Sciara *et al.* 2015.
- 4 Bester, C. n.d.
- 5 Tserpes *et al.* 2013.