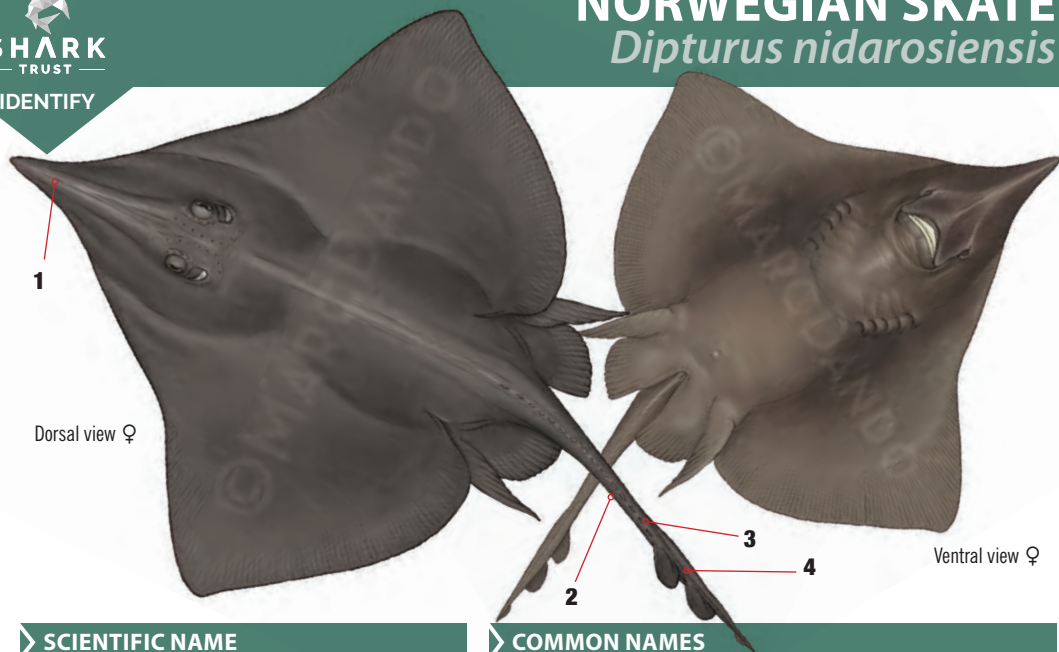


NORWEGIAN SKATE

Dipturus nidarosiensis



Dorsal view ♀

Ventral view ♀

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Dipturus nidarosiensis (Storm, 1881)

DISTRIBUTION

Northeast Atlantic from Iceland to Norway, the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, Rockall Trough and Porcupine Seabight to South Africa. Present in the Mediterranean Sea.¹⁻⁵

COMMON NAMES

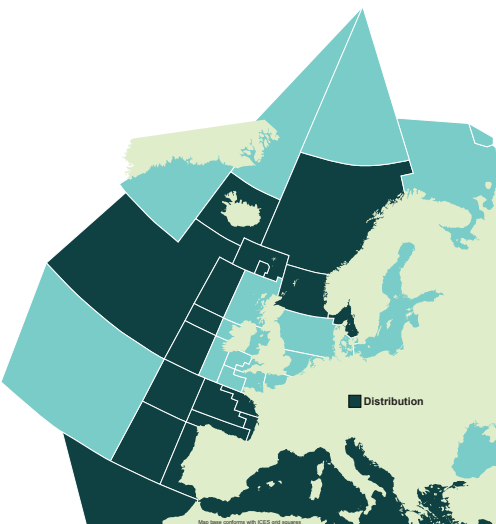
NORWEGIAN SKATE, Black Skate, Schwarzbäuchiger Glattrochen (DEU), Raya Noruega (ESP), Pocheteau de Norvège (FRA), Noorse Rog (NLD).

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

- 1 Long, pointed snout.^{1,3}
 - 2 Short, solid tail.^{1,3}
 - 3 40–50 thorns along midline of tail. Flanked by parallel rows in females.^{1,3}
 - 4 1–3 interdorsal thorns.¹
- Dorsal surface plain dark grey to brown with black spots marking pores.^{1,3}
 - Ventral surface uniformly dark brownish black, usually darker than the dorsal surface and often covered in mucus when caught.^{1,3}

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- Max. TL: 200cm, possibly to 250cm.^{1,3}
- Oviparous, little else is known about the biology of this skate.¹
- Feeds primarily on invertebrates and benthic teleosts. Adults prey on larger teleosts.²



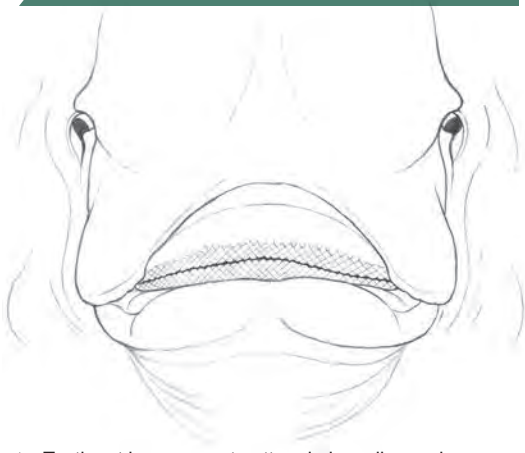
EGGCASE

- ▶ 62–120mm wide.⁵
- ▶ 153–260mm long (excl. horns).^{1,3,5}
- ▶ Long rectangular capsule with short horns and distinct keels and aprons.^{1,5}
- ▶ Eggcases found in the central western Mediterranean Sea smaller than in those found in the Atlantic.⁵



Eggcase © Porcu *et al.* 2017. Helgoland Marine Research, 71(1).

TEETH



SIMILAR SPECIES

Blue Skate
Dipturus batis



Flapper Skate
Dipturus intermedius



Longnosed Skate
Dipturus oxyrinchus



White Skate
Rostroraja alba



HABITAT

- ▶ Demersal from 124–1,235m over continental and insular shelves and slopes.^{1,3,7}

- ▶ Teeth set in pavement pattern in juveniles and females.¹
- ▶ Teeth set in parallel rows in adult males.¹
- ▶ Upper jaw: 34–42 rows in juveniles; 42–50 rows in adults.⁶

CONSERVATION STATUS*

- ▶ IUCN Red List: Global: Near Threatened (2015)
Europe: Near Threatened (2015)
Mediterranean: Not Evaluated.
- ▶ A relatively rare, deepwater skate in the Northeast Atlantic. One of the largest skates across its range, likely threatened due to its large size and slow life history characteristics.⁴

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- ▶ Low commercial importance. Taken as bycatch in deepwater trawl fisheries and usually discarded.⁴

MANAGEMENT*

- ▶ Subject to prohibitions under the CFP and RFMO.

REFERENCES

- 1 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 2 Follesa *et al.* 2012.
- 3 Last *et al.* 2016.
- 4 Stehmann *et al.* 2015.
- 5 Porcu *et al.* 2017.
- 6 Lynghammar, A. 2014.
- 7 Ellis *et al.* 2005.