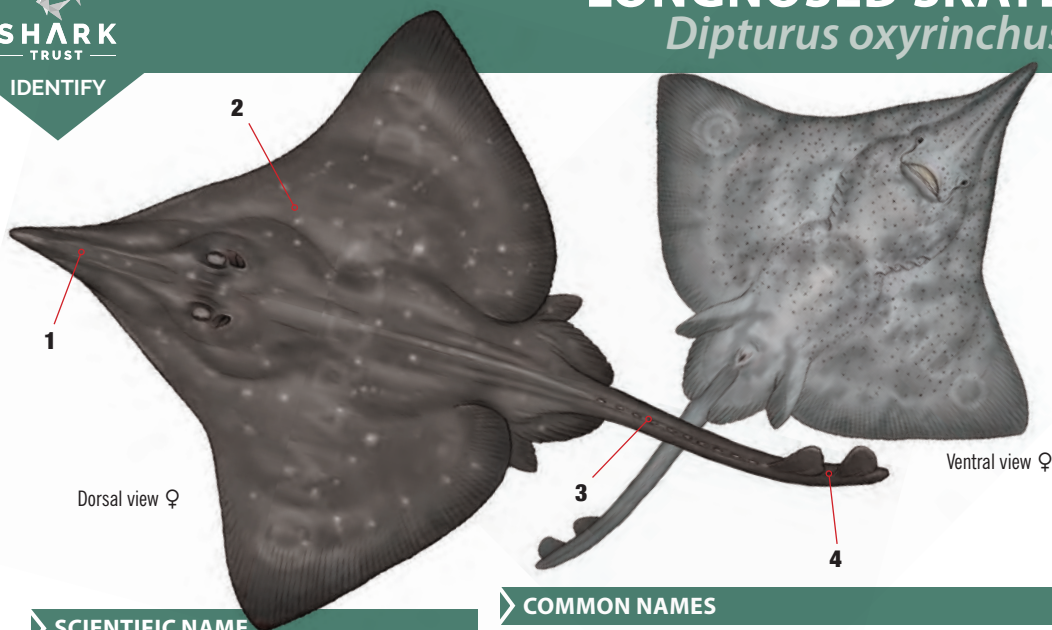


LONGNOSED SKATE

Dipturus oxyrinchus



Dorsal view ♀

Ventral view ♀

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Dipturus oxyrinchus (Linnaeus, 1758)

DISTRIBUTION

Northeast Atlantic from Norway, the northern North Sea and Faroe Islands to Morocco, including the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira. Found in the Mediterranean Sea.¹⁻⁴

COMMON NAMES

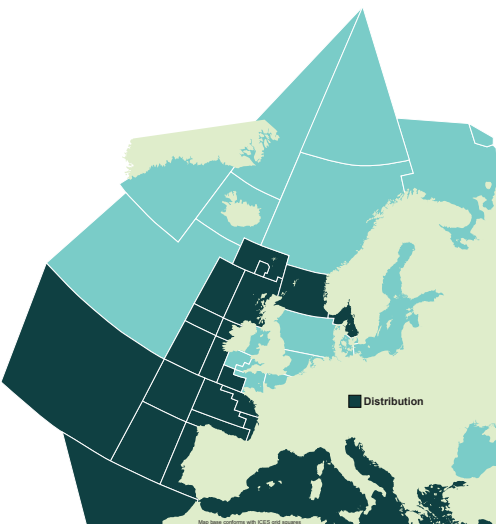
LONGNOSED SKATE, Sniper's Skate, Sharpnose Skate, Long-nosed Burton Skate, Spitzrochen (DEU), Raya Picuda (ESP), Pocheteau Noir (FRA), Arzilla Monaca (ITA), Scherpsnuitrog (NLD), Raia Bicuda (PRT).

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

- 1 Conspicuously long, pointed snout.^{1,4}
 - 2 No thorns on disc but entirely spinulose dorsal surface in adults.^{1,4}
 - 3 Row of 4–11 thorns on tail, often worn off in adults.^{1,4}
 - 4 0–1 thorns between dorsal fins.¹
- Dorsal surface pale brown in juveniles becoming dusky brown to grey in adults.^{1,4}
 - Ventral surface pale brown in juveniles becoming dark brown to bluish grey in adults.^{1,4}
 - Pattern of light and dark spots dorsally.⁴
 - Mucous pores marked with black dots and streaks.^{1,4}

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- Birth: 17cm.
- Matures: female 90cm; male 70–80cm.
- Max. TL: 150cm.^{1,4}
- Age at maturity: 6–8 years (both sexes).²
- Oviparous with eggcases laid in spring/early summer.¹
- A generalist feeder preying on fishes and bottom invertebrates e.g. cephalopods, crustaceans and molluscs.^{1,4,5}



EGGCASE

- ▶ 110–120mm wide.¹
- ▶ 140–235mm long (excl. horns).¹
- ▶ Large, rectangular eggcases.¹



Eggcase © Andrea Bellodi

SIMILAR SPECIES

Blue Skate

Dipturus batis



Flapper Skate

Dipturus intermedius



Norwegian Skate

Dipturus nidarosiensis



White Skate

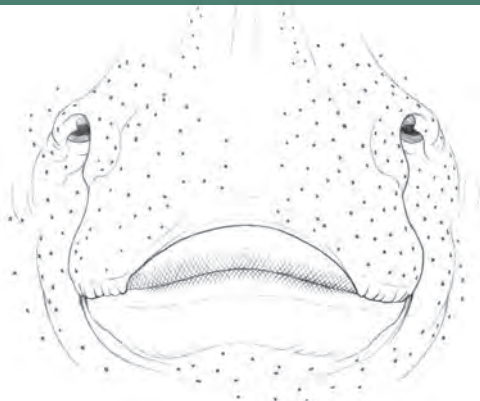
Rostroraja alba



HABITAT

- ▶ Demersal from 90–900m. Most commonly ~200m.¹
- ▶ Found on the continental shelf and slope on soft, sandy and gravelly substrates.^{1,4}

TEETH



- ▶ Plate-like with small cusps, arranged in a pavement pattern.¹
- ▶ Upper jaw: 32–42.⁴

CONSERVATION STATUS*

- ▶ IUCN Red List: Global: Near Threatened (2015)
Europe: Near Threatened (2015)
Mediterranean: Near Threatened (2016)
- ▶ A large bodied skate with presumed slow life history characteristics making it vulnerable to exploitation by deepwater fisheries. Overlap with deepwater fisheries and low catch levels suggest this skate has declined, but the extent of any decline is unknown. Genetically distinct populations in the Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean limits population dispersal.^{2,3,6}

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- ▶ Taken as bycatch in bottom trawl and longline fisheries.¹
- ▶ Large specimens are sometimes retained and used for human consumption; smaller specimens are often discarded.^{1–3}

MANAGEMENT*

- ▶ Subject to regulations under the CFP.

REFERENCES

- 1 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 2 Ellis *et al.* 2015.
- 3 Ellis *et al.* 2016.
- 4 Last *et al.* 2016.
- 5 Mulas *et al.* 2015.
- 6 Griffiths *et al.* 2011.