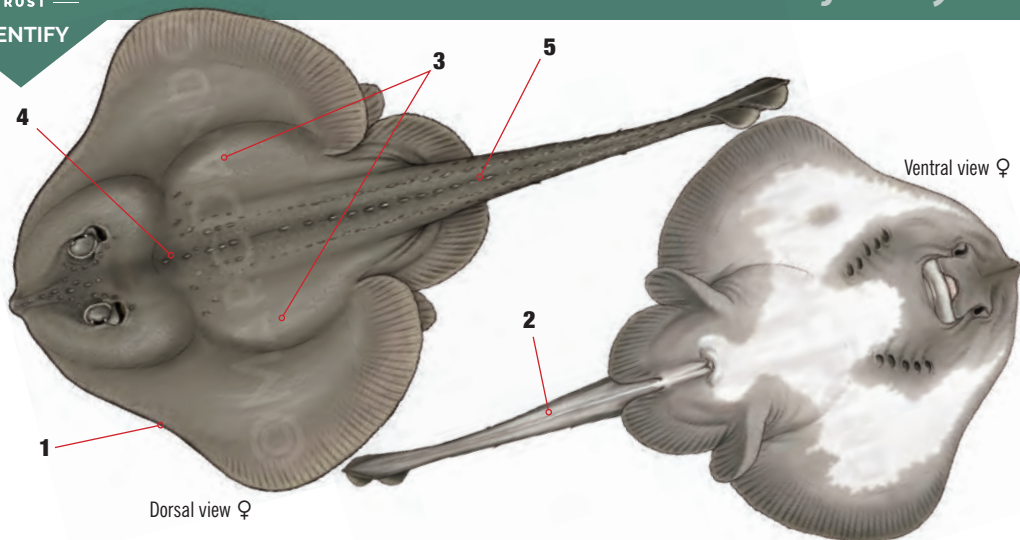




SCIENTIFIC NAME

Rajella fyllae (Lütken, 1887)

DISTRIBUTION

Widespread across the North Atlantic and Arctic latitudes. Northeast Atlantic from Iceland to Norway, the Faroe Islands and Shetlands Islands, south to the northern Bay of Biscay. Known in the Northwest Atlantic from Greenland to Nova Scotia.¹⁻³

COMMON NAMES

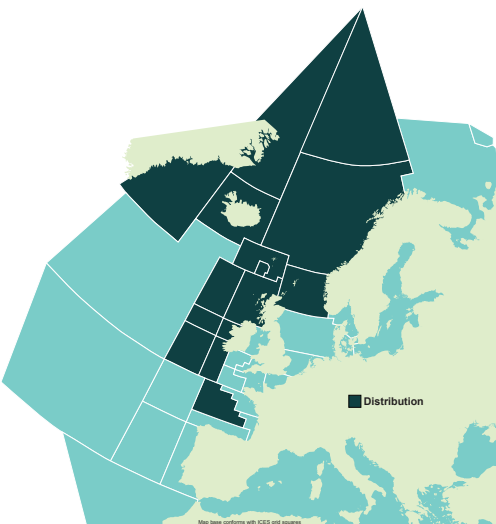
ROUND SKATE, Round Ray, Fyllarochen (DEU), Raya Redonda (ESP), Raie Ronde (FRA), Fylla's Rog (NLD).

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

- 1 Rounded disc with undulating anterior disc margins.¹⁻²
 - 2 Long tail, longer than body.¹⁻²
 - 3 Dorsal surface entirely spinulose.¹⁻²
 - 4 Triangular patch of large thorns on nape.¹⁻²
 - 5 Median row of small thorns along trunk and tail, additional parallel rows appearing with growth.¹⁻²
- Dorsal surface dark grey to brown often with dark and/or pale blotches.¹⁻²
 - Whitish grey ventral surface with broad dark disc margins.¹⁻²
 - Tail occasionally with dark banding or spots.¹⁻²

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- Birth: 7cm.
- Mature: 45–50cm.
- Max. TL: 56cm.¹⁻³
- Oviparous, little else known about the biology of this species. Embryonic development is thought to take months to years due to cold water habitat.¹
- Primarily feeds on benthic crustaceans.⁴



EGGCASE

- ▶ 24–26mm wide.¹
- ▶ 38–42mm long (excl. horns).¹
- ▶ Smoothly striated capsule, narrow keels and two pairs of slender horns.¹
- ▶ Similar in shape and size to Starry Skate eggcase *Amblyraja radiata*.



Eggcase © Ave Lyinghammar

SIMILAR SPECIES

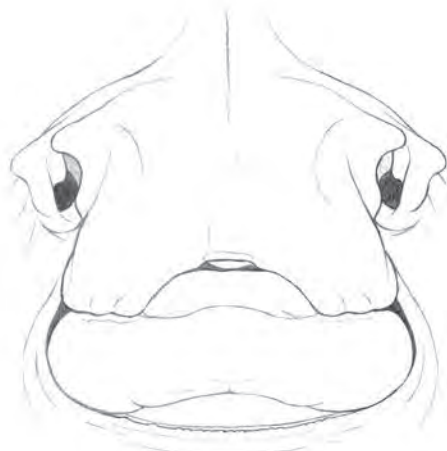
Bigelow's Ray *Rajella bigelowi*

Sailray *Rajella lintea*

HABITAT

- ▶ Demersal from 170–2,050m, primarily 400–800m.^{1–3}
- ▶ Prefers temperatures of 1–7°C.^{1,3}
- ▶ Found on continental and insular shelves and slopes over soft sandy and muddy substrates.³

TEETH



- ▶ Females and juveniles have blunt, conical teeth set in pavement pattern.¹
- ▶ Mature males have longer, sharply pointed teeth.¹
- ▶ Upper jaw: 30–38.^{1,3}

CONSERVATION STATUS*

- ▶ IUCN Red List: Global: Least Concern (2009)
Europe: Least Concern (2015)
- ▶ The depth distribution of this skate offers it some protection from deepwater fisheries. Limited population data is available for the Round Ray, catch levels should be monitored should fishing pressure or range increase.²

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- ▶ No targeted fisheries exist for this skate. It is often bycaught in deepwater trawls and longline fisheries but discarded due to small size and thorns.^{1,2}

MANAGEMENT*

- ▶ Subject to prohibitions under the CFP and regulations under RFMO.

REFERENCES

- 1 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 2 Kulka *et al.* 2015.
- 3 Last *et al.* 2016.
- 4 Dolgov, A.V. 2005.