

Northeast Atlantic bottom-dwelling sharks and rays

Summary of status and ICES advice for the region's most depleted species
June 2008

Celtic Seas

There are no currently no limits on fishing for bottom-dwelling sharks or rays in Celtic Seas. Information in this table is taken from the first ICES advice for these species in this region:

Common Name	Status	Advice	Notes
Angel shark	Severely depleted; locally extinct in parts of former range	Zero catch, prohibition on landing, "highest possible protection"	Once common; thought to have a high survival rate if returned to sea after capture
White skate	Severely depleted; eradicated from most of Celtic Seas	Zero catch, no landings, "highest possible protection"	Thought to have a high survival rate if returned to sea after capture
Common skate	Depleted. Once widely distributed, now rarely found	No targeted fishing, minimize bycatch	Remains off NW Scotland, west of Ireland and in deeper waters
Undulate ray	Signs of regional depletion; uncertain	No targeted fishing	Patchy distribution, cause for concern

North Sea, Skagerrak & English Channel

EU catch of North Sea skates and rays was first limited through one Total Allowable Catch (TAC) in 1999. After several reductions, this TAC is finally low enough to restrict fishing. There are no management measures in place for the bottom-dwelling sharks in this region.

ICES first produced advice for skates and rays in this region in 2005. 2008 advice includes:

Common Name	Status	Advice	Notes
Angel shark	Eradicated from North Sea & eastern English Channel	No fisheries or landings; "highest possible protection"	Thought to have a high survival rate if returned to sea after capture
Common skate	Depleted; found only in Northern N. Sea	No targeted fishing; minimize bycatch	Maximum landing length of 100 cm would help
Undulate ray	Uncertain; reasons for concern	No target fishing; minimize bycatch	Patchy distribution; prone to local depletion

Bay of Biscay & Iberian Waters

There are no currently no limits on fishing for bottom-dwelling sharks or rays in these waters.

ICES advises that **2009 landings be held at or reduced from average landings in 2002–2006 for lesser-spotted dogfish as well as skates and rays (collectively)**. This represents the first ICES advice for these species in this region.