

**ECOREGION Celtic Sea and west of Scotland**  
**STOCK Other skates in Subareas VI and VII (excluding Division VIId)**

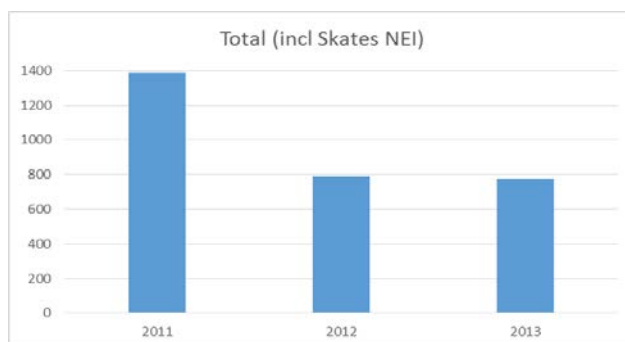
This advice relates to skates not specified elsewhere in the ICES advice. This includes skates not reported to species level and some other, mainly deep-water species throughout the region. It also applies to *R. clavata*, *R. brachyuran*, and *R. microcellata* outside the defined stock boundaries. The advice only relates to species belonging to the Rajidae (skates), and does not refer to manta rays, sting rays, electric rays, or devil rays.

**Advice for 2015 and 2016**

Based on the ICES approach to data-limited stocks, ICES advises that landings should be reduced by 20%. Based on estimated species-specific landings, this would imply landings of 789 t in each of 2015 and 2016. Discarding is known to take place but has not been quantified, and there is some discard survival.

**Stock status**

Fishing pressure		
	2011–2013	
MSY ( $F_{MSY}$ )	?	Unknown
Precautionary approach ( $F_{pa}$ , $F_{lim}$ )	?	Unknown
Qualitative evaluation	?	Unknown
Stock size		
	2011–2013	
MSY ( $B_{trigger}$ )	?	Unknown
Precautionary approach ( $B_{pa}$ , $B_{lim}$ )	?	Unknown
Qualitative evaluation	?	Unknown



**Figure 5.3.29.17.1** Other skate species in Subareas VI and VII (excluding Division VIId). ICES estimated species-specific landings (in tonnes) were aggregated. Species-specific data are not available for earlier years.

The survey or abundance data available is insufficient to assess these species individually or collectively.

**Management plans**

There is no management plan for this stock, or for any skate stock in the ICES area.

**Catch distribution** Total catch (2013) is unknown, estimated landings: 776 t. Discarding is known to take place but cannot be quantified.

### Quality considerations

The advice is based on a precautionary reduction of catches because of missing or non-representative data. The methods applied to derive quantitative advice for data-limited stocks are expected to evolve as they are further developed and validated.

The quality of landings data has improved in recent years, but about 500 t of skates were landed in unspecified categories in 2013. Further work is required to refine landings data and workshops are required to compile all available data.

Stock identity of the named species needs to be refined. Connectivity with neighbouring stocks should be reviewed.

### Scientific basis

<b>Stock data category</b>	5.2.0 ( <a href="#">ICES, 2014a</a> ).
<b>Assessment type</b>	No assessment.
<b>Input data</b>	Landings data 2011–2013.
<b>Discards and bycatch</b>	Discarding is known to take place but cannot be quantified.
<b>Indicators</b>	None.
<b>Other information</b>	None.
<b>Working group</b>	Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes ( <a href="#">WGEF</a> ).

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**Reference points**

No reference points are defined for this stock.

**Outlook for 2015 and 2016**

No analytic assessment can be presented for this stock. Therefore, fishing possibilities cannot be projected.

*ICES approach to data-limited stocks*

For data-limited stocks without information on abundance or exploitation ICES considers that a precautionary reduction of catches should be implemented, unless there is ancillary information clearly indicating that the current exploitation is appropriate for the stock.

For this stock, ICES advises that catches should decrease by 20% in relation to the last three years' average, corresponding to landings of no more than 789 t in each of 2015 and 2016.

Discarding is known to take place but cannot be quantified, and there is some discard survival; therefore, total catches cannot be calculated.

**Additional considerations**

The EU regulations require that *Leucoraja naevus*, *Raja clavata*, *Raja brachyura*, *Raja montagui*, *Raja microocellata*, *Raja circularis*, and *Raja fullonica* be reported separately to species level in landings.

Norwegian data probably include bycatch in the slope fisheries for ling, tusk, and deep-water species. These bycatches are likely to be mainly deep-water skate species.

Spain provided only generic skate landings data in 2013. In 2012, Spanish data was provided at species level.

*Comparison of the basis of previous assessment and advice*

The basis for the assessment has not changed from last year: data-limited stocks (DLS) method 5.2, with the PA buffer. In 2014, for the first time, ICES provides a quantitative landings advice. This is because more complete landings data are now available. Because quantitative advice is provided for the first time, the PA buffer is applied in 2014.

**Source**

ICES. 2014a. Advice basis. *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2014. ICES Advice 2014, Book 1, Section 1.2.  
ICES. 2014b. Report of the Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes (WGEF), 17–26 June 2014, Lisbon, Portugal.  
ICES CM 2014/ACOM:19. 671 pp.

**Table 5.3.29.17.1** Other skate species in Subareas VI and VII (excluding Division VIId). ICES advice, management, and landings.

Year	ICES advice	Predicted catch corresp. to advice	ICES species-specific landings: minimum estimate based on reported landings
2011	No specific advice		1 390
2012	No specific advice		791
2013	Decrease by up to 20%	-	776
2014	No new advice, same as 2013	-	
2015	Reduce landings by 20%	789	
2016	No new advice, same as 2015	789	

Weights in tonnes.

**Table 5.3.29.17.2** Other skates in Subareas VI and VII (excluding Division VIId). ICES estimated landings (in tonnes) by country. Species-specific data were not available for earlier years.

<i>Raja brachyura VIIbc</i>	2011	2012	2013
France		0	2
Ireland	36	33	39
Scotland		9	
UK (E,W&NI)		0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>40</b>
<i>Raja brachyura VIIj</i>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
France	0	1	
Ireland	9	11	14
Spain		1	
UK (E,W&NI)	0		0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<i>Raja brachyura VIIh,k</i>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Belgium		0	
France	7	20	28
Ireland	0	0	0
UK (E,W&NI)	4	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>
<i>Raja clavata VIIh,k</i>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Belgium		0	
France	17	9	7
Ireland	1	0	1
Scotland	1	1	1
Spain			0
UK (E,W&NI)	3	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>
<i>Raja clavata VIIbcj</i>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
France	31	41	55
Ireland	79	112	99
Spain		2	1

UK (E,W&NI)	20	15	12
UK (Scotland)	34	36	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>186</b>
<i>R. microocellata</i> VI, VIIabchjk	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
France	0	0	1
Ireland	0	0	
Spain		2	
UK (E,W&NI)	4	2	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>
<i>Rajella fyllae</i>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
France		0	
Ireland		0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Skates NEI</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Belgium	230	72	8
France	78	61	40
Ireland	237	182	37
Netherlands		1	0
Norway		104	98
Scotland	46	53	30
Spain	503	3	249
UK (E,W&NI)	50	15	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>1144</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>484</b>
Total (incl. Skates NEI)	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Belgium	230	72	8
France	134	133	132
Ireland	362	339	190
Netherlands	0	1	0
Norway	0	104	98
Spain	503	8	251
UK (E,W&NI)	80	35	47
UK (Scotland)	81	99	50
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1 390</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>776</b>
Average (2011–2013)		986	
20% decrease		789	