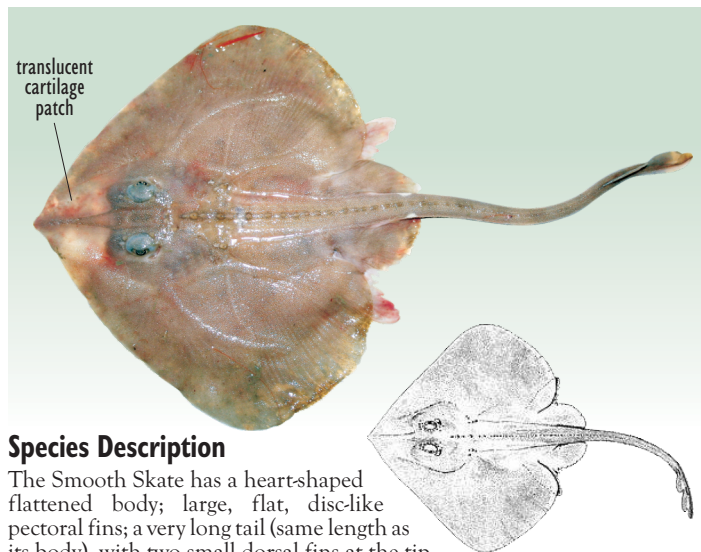


Smooth Skate

Malacoraja senta (Laurentian-Scotian population)



Species Description

The Smooth Skate has a heart-shaped flattened body; large, flat, disc-like pectoral fins; a very long tail (same length as its body), with two small dorsal fins at the tip.

This species is one of the smaller skates with adults ranging in size from 47-66 cm in length. Its upper surface is grey-brown, its lower surface is white, and its pointed snout has large translucent cartilage patches. It can be distinguished by its small size, long tail, and row of thorns found along the midline from just after the eyes to the middle of the tail.

Key ID Features: * spindle-shaped * small finlets

STATUS

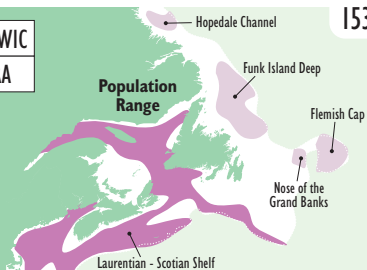


Special Concern COSEWIC

Not Listed

SARA

In the world, this species is only found in shelf off North America, with 80% of its global range in Canadian waters. On the Scotian Shelf, this species has declined by 80% in the last 40 years.



Interesting Points

- Skate species generally live 16-20 years.
- It is thought female Smooth Skates do not start reproducing until they are 11 years old!
- Skates are related to sharks.

Threats

- Being caught and discarded as bycatch in commercial fisheries targeting other species.
- Its slow growth and late maturity make it vulnerable to fishing mortality.
- High rates of natural mortality may

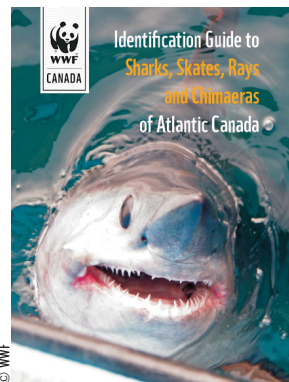
Learn how you can help on page 136.

Contacts, Information & Sighting Reports

Contact: DFO Species at Risk 1-866-891-0771 or xmarsara@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Info: For info search "Skates and Rays of Atlantic Canada" in your internet browser

Sighting Reports: Report tagged skates (pink) in the Bay of Fundy to trackmyfish.ca and tagged skates on the Scotian Shelf to Steven.Campana@dfo-mpo.gc.ca. Also: www.ambn.ca.



View WWF's ID guide by entering the title above in your internet browser.