

Shagreen ray (*Leucoraja fullonica*) in subareas 6–7 (West of Scotland, southern Celtic Seas, English Channel)

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, landings should be no more than 134 tonnes in each of the years 2023 and 2024. ICES cannot quantify the corresponding catches.

Management of skates and rays under a combined TAC prevents effective control of single-stock exploitation rates and could lead to overexploitation of some species.

Stock development over time

ICES cannot assess the stock and exploitation status relative to the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and precautionary approach (PA) reference points because information to define reference points is not available.

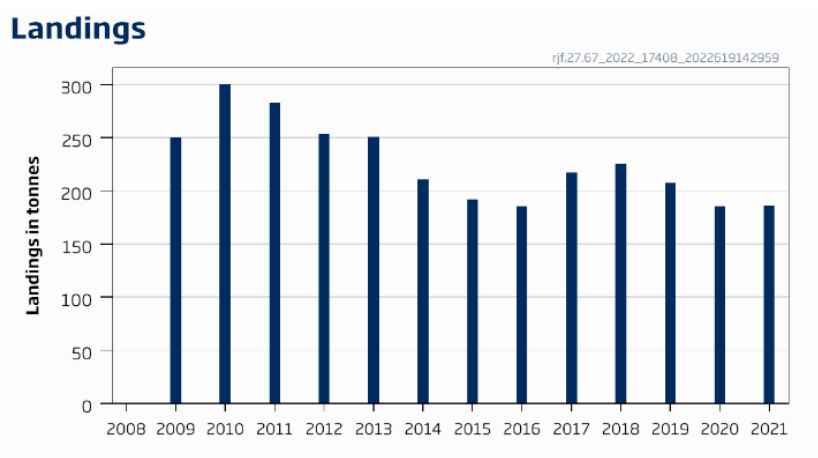


Figure 1 Shagreen ray in subareas 6–7. ICES estimated species-specific landings (in tonnes).

Catch scenarios

The ICES framework for category 5 stocks was applied (ICES 2012). For stocks without information on abundance or exploitation, ICES considers that a precautionary reduction of catches should be implemented where there is no ancillary information clearly indicating that the current level of exploitation is appropriate for the stock.

The precautionary buffer was last applied in 2018 and has therefore been considered in 2022. The stock status relative to reference points is unknown; therefore, the precautionary buffer was applied in the advice.

Discarding is known to take place, but ICES cannot estimate the quantity or the corresponding dead catch.

Table 1 Shagreen ray in subareas 6–7. The basis for the catch scenarios.

Advised landings for 2021–2022 issued in 2020		168 tonnes
Discard rate		Unknown
Precautionary buffer	Applied	0.8
Landings advice *		134 tonnes
% advice change **		-20 %

* Advice for 2023–2024.

** Advice value for 2023 and 2024 relative to the advice value for 2021 and 2022.

The advised landings for 2023 and 2024 are 20% lower than advised for 2021 and 2022 because the precautionary buffer has been applied.

Basis of the advice

Table 2 Shagreen ray in subareas 6–7. The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	Precautionary approach
Management plan	ICES is not aware of any agreed precautionary management plan for shagreen ray in this area

Quality of the assessment

There are potential misidentifications between shagreen ray (*Leucoraja fullonica*) and larger individuals of small-eyed ray (*Raja microcellata*). Stock-specific landings data are not available before 2009.

Issues relevant for the advice

Skates and rays are managed under a common TAC, however, most landings are reported by species (ICES, 2022b). ICES considers that management of the catches of several stocks under a combined TAC prevents effective control of single-stock exploitation rates and could lead to overexploitation of some stocks.

Reference points

No reference points are defined for this stock.

Basis of the assessment

Table 3 Shagreen ray in subareas 6–7. The basis of the assessment.

ICES stock data category	5 (ICES, 2022a).
Assessment type	No assessment (ICES, 2022b)
Input data	Landings data 2009–2021.
Discards and bycatch	Discarding is known to take place but cannot be quantified.
Indicators	None.
Other information	None.
Working group	Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes (WGEEF)

History of the advice, catch, and management

Table 4 Shagreen ray in subareas 6–7. History of ICES advice and ICES estimates of landings *. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Landings corresponding to advice	ICES landings
2011	No specific advice		283
2012	No specific advice		253
2013	No TAC, species-specific measures needed, catch to decrease by at least 20%	-	251
2014	No new advice, same as 2013	-	211
2015	Landings not to exceed the present level	186	192**
2016	No new advice, same as 2015	186	185
2017	Precautionary approach	≤ 210	217
2018	Precautionary approach (same value as advised catches for 2017)	≤ 210	225
2019	Precautionary approach	≤ 168	207**
2020	Precautionary approach	≤ 168	185
2021	Precautionary approach	≤ 168	186
2022	Precautionary approach	≤ 168	
2023	Precautionary approach	≤ 134	
2024	Precautionary approach	≤ 134	

* There is no specific TAC for this stock. Fishing opportunities are managed through an overall TAC by management unit, which includes all species of skates and rays.

** Landings data updated in 2022 (ICES 2022b).

Table 5 Shagreen ray in subareas 6–7. History of ICES estimates of species-specific landings (in tonnes) inside the NEAFC Regulatory Area (RA). Landings from some nations are not reported separately for waters inside and outside the NEAFC RA. Only ICES divisions falling entirely within the NEAFC RA are considered, with straddling divisions accounted for outside the NEAFC RA. Available data for the NEAFC RA are minimum estimates.

Year	Landings from inside the NEAFC RA	Landings from outside the NEAFC RA
2009		250
2010		301
2011		283
2012		253
2013		251
2014		211
2015		192
2016		185
2017	15	201
2018	24	201
2019		207
2020		185
2021		186

Table 6 Shagreen ray in subareas 6–7. Catch distribution by fleet in 2021 as estimated by ICES.

Catch	Landings				Discards
	Beam trawl	Bottom trawl	Nets	Other gears	
Unknown	2%	86%	9%	3%	Unquantified
186 tonnes					

Table 7 Shagreen ray in subareas 6–7. History of landings: ICES estimates of landings by country (in tonnes).

Year	Spain	UK	Ireland	France	Total landings
2009	62	44		144	250
2010	42	108	1	150	301
2011	29	97	6	152	283
2012	20	79	7	147	253
2013	33	85	6	127	251
2014	20	55	4	131	211
2015	13	25	2	151	192*
2016	15	39	2	130	185*
2017	22	21	49	125	217*
2018	20	14	63	129	225
2019	14	18	38	124	207
2020	14	17	23	132	185
2021	14	16	15	138	186

* Data revised in 2022 (ICES, 2022b)

Summary of the assessment

There is no assessment for shagreen ray in this area.

Sources and references

ICES. 2012. ICES Implementation of Advice for Data-limited Stocks in 2012 in its 2012 Advice. ICES CM 2012/ACOM:68. 42 pp.

ICES. 2022a. Advice on fishing opportunities. *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2022. ICES Advice 2022, Section 1.1.1. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19928060>.

ICES. 2022b. Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes (WGEF). ICES Scientific Reports, 4:74. <http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.21089833>. *In prep.*

[Download the stock assessment data and figures.](#)

Recommended citation: ICES. 2022. Shagreen ray (*Leucoraja fullonica*) in subareas 6–7 (West of Scotland, southern Celtic Seas, English Channel). *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2022. ICES Advice 2022, rjf.27.67. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19754443>