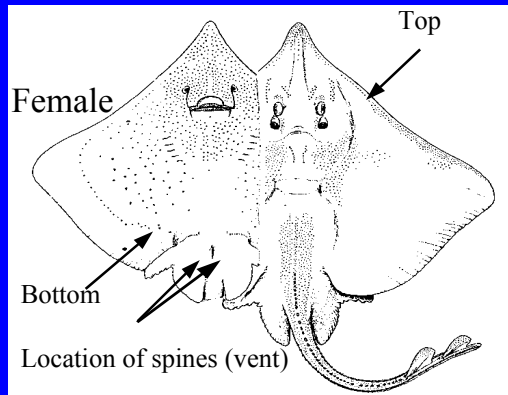
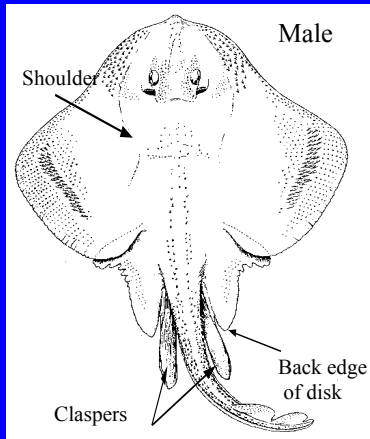


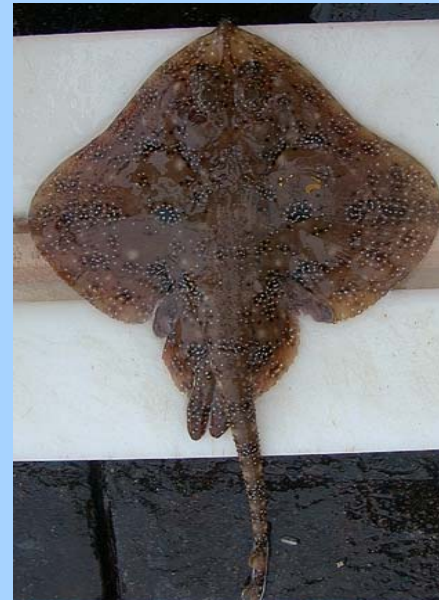


Skate Species Identification Guide

General Diagram of Skate Anatomy



Rosette Skate



Alternative name: Leopard Skate
Freckled Skate

Range: S. New England to Florida, USA

Depth: 30-300 fathoms (fth)
(55-550m)

Max. size: 16 in (41cm)

Features:

- ◆ Dark rosettes (six or more dark spots surrounding a central point) on back
- ◆ Rows of spines along back and tail
- ◆ Tail rather long

Little Skate



Alternative name: Summer Skate
Common Skate

Range: Gulf of St. Lawrence, Canada to NC, USA

Depth: 0-50 fth (90 m)

Max. size: 21 in (54 cm)

Features:

- ◆ Rounded disk
- ◆ Two rows of spines on either side of the middle of tail
- ◆ In males (35-50 cm) claspers extend well beyond back edge of disk.
- ◆ In female (35-50 cm) patches of spines located on both sides of anus

Winter Skate



Alternative name: Big Skate
Spotted Skate
Eyed Skate

Range: Newfoundland, Canada to North Carolina, USA

Depth: 0-50 fth (90 m)

Max. size: 43 in (109 cm)

Features

- ◆ Rounded disk
- ◆ Two rows of spines on either side of the midline on tail.
- ◆ In males (35-50 cm) claspers barely (if at all) reach edge of posterior disk.
- ◆ In females (35-50 cm) no rough patch on sides of vent

Smooth Skate-**PROHIBITED**



- Alternative name:** Prickly Skate
Smooth Tailed Skate
- Range:** Newfoundland, Canada to South Carolina, USA
- Depth:** 25-500 fth (45-900m)
- Max. size:** 24 in (61 cm)
- Features:**
- ◆ Nose pointed
 - ◆ Row of many small spines on top from tail to behind eyes
 - ◆ 2 additional rows of small spines along each side of tail

Clearnose Skate



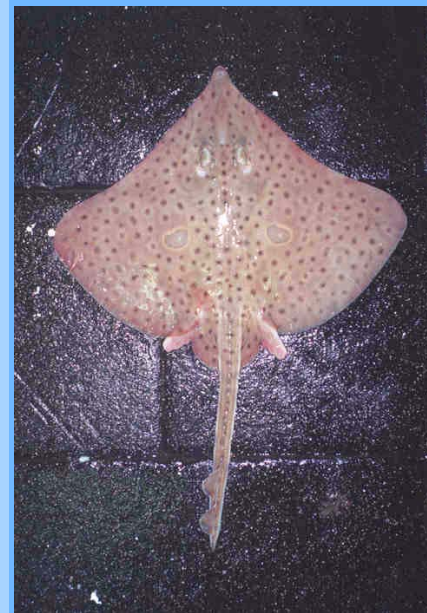
- Alternative name:** Brier Skate
- Range:** MA to FL, USA
- Depth:** 0-180 fth (330 m)
- Max. size:** 37 in (94 cm)
- Features:**
- ◆ Bars and spots on top surface
 - ◆ One line of thorns that run down the mid-line of back
 - ◆ Large clear space on each side of snout
 - ◆ Defined space between two dorsal fins on tail

Thorny Skate-**PROHIBITED**



- Alternative name:** Starry Skate
Mud Skate
- Range:** Greenland to South Carolina, USA
- Depth:** 10-545 fth (20-1000 m)
- Max. size:** 40 in (102 cm)
- Features:**
- ◆ Regular row of 13-17 large thorns along middle back
 - ◆ Rough top surface with thorns scattered over disk and tail
 - ◆ Tail shorter than body
 - ◆ Large thorns on shoulders

Barndoor Skate-**PROHIBITED**



- Range:** Newfoundland, Canada to North Carolina, USA
- Depth:** 0-235 fth (430 m)
- Max. size:** 5 ft (152 cm)
- Features:**
- ◆ Very pointed nose, front edges of disk concave
 - ◆ Distinct gray coloration on bottom
 - ◆ Three rows of spines on tail