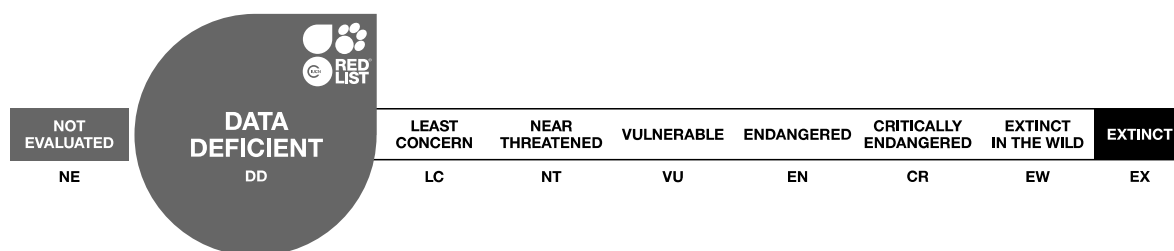


Dipturus argentinensis, Argentine Skate

Assessment by: Pollom, R., Chiaramonte, G.E., Cuevas, J.M., Pompert, J. & Herman, K.



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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Chondrichthyes	Rajiformes	Rajidae

Scientific Name: *Dipturus argentinensis* Díaz de Astarloa, Mabragaña, Hanner & Figueroa, 2008

Synonym(s):

- *Zearaja argentinensis* (Díaz de Astarloa, Mabragaña, Hanner & Figueroa, 2008)

Common Name(s):

- English: Argentine Skate
- Spanish; Castilian: Raya Hocicuda de Cola Larga

Taxonomic Source(s):

Eschmeyer, W.N., Fricke, R. and Van der Laan, R. (eds.). 2018. Catalog of Fishes: genera, species, references. Updated 30 April 2018. Available at: <http://researcharchive.calacademy.org/research/ichthyology/catalog/fishcatmain.asp>.

Taxonomic Notes:

Concha *et al.* (2019) synonymised the genus *Zearaja* with *Dipturus*, thereby relegating this species to the genus *Dipturus*.

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Data Deficient [ver 3.1](#)

Year Published: 2020

Date Assessed: July 1, 2019

Justification:

The Argentine Skate (*Dipturus argentinensis*) occurs in the Southwest Atlantic from central Chubut to southern Santa Cruz, Argentina and off the northwest Falkland Islands (Malvinas). It inhabits continental and insular shelves and slopes at depths of 85–400 m. Maximum size is unknown as only immature specimens have been caught (up to 125 cm total length) and there is some question as to where the adult population occurs. This skate is captured in commercial demersal trawl fisheries, which are intense across its entire known geographic and bathymetric range. It is captured in the target trawl fishery for skates off the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). Identification is an issue, and it may be captured more than is perceived. More information is needed to determine the level of overlap with fisheries and this species' catchability and sensitivity to fishing. Research is needed on distribution, life history, population size and trends, and threats. Since it is unknown whether fishing is causing a population reduction, there is currently inadequate information available to assess the Argentine Skate beyond Data Deficient.

Geographic Range

Range Description:

The Argentine Skate occurs in the Southwest Atlantic from central Chubut to southern Santa Cruz, Argentina and off the northwest Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (Arkhipkin *et al.* 2012, Last *et al.* 2016).

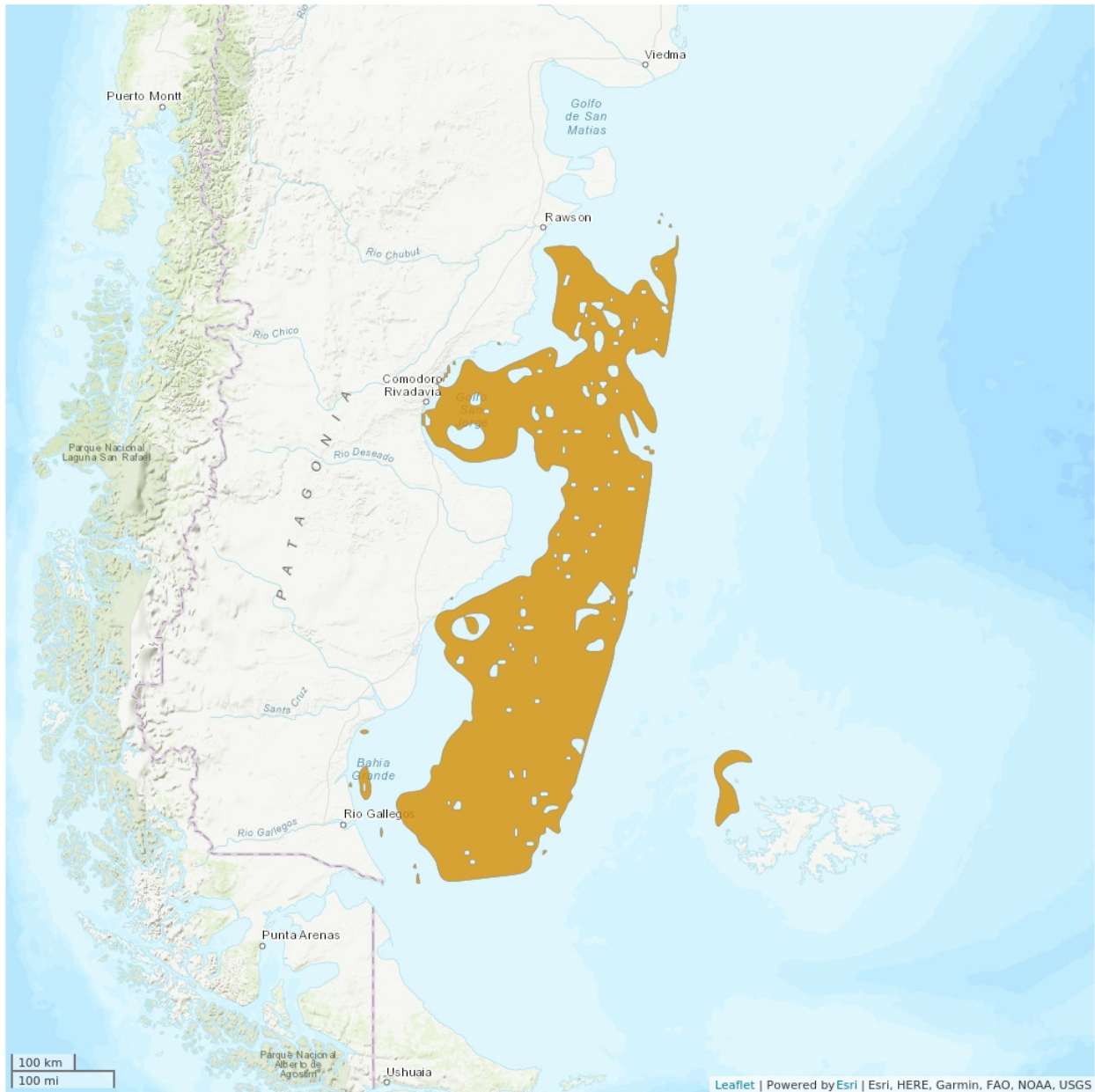
Country Occurrence:

Native, Extant (resident): Argentina; Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

FAO Marine Fishing Areas:

Native: Atlantic - southwest

Distribution Map

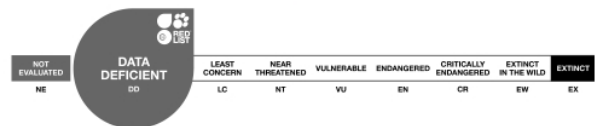


Legend

■ EXTANT (RESIDENT)

Compiled by:

IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group 2018



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.



Population

This species overlaps with fisheries but there are no data to determine the level of mortality occurring. Skate catches in general are stable off the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), but there is concern that individual species declines may be masked (Wakeford *et al.* 2005). The population trend is unknown.

Current Population Trend: Unknown

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

The Argentine Skate is demersal on the continental and insular shelves and slopes at depths of 85–400 m (Last *et al.* 2016, J. Pompert unpubl. data 2018). Its maximum size is unknown; the largest specimens of 125 cm total length were still immature (J. Pompert unpubl. data 2018). As in other skates, reproduction is oviparous. Little else is known of its biology.

Systems: Marine

Use and Trade (see Appendix for additional information)

Utilization of this species is unknown. Most skates captured within its range are retained as valuable byproduct for their meat.

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

This skate is captured in commercial demersal trawl fisheries, which are intense across its entire known geographic and bathymetric range. There is some question as to where the adult population occurs, as it is only juveniles that are encountered in trawl fisheries (J. Pompert unpubl. data 2018). It is captured in the target trawl fishery for skates off the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (Winter *et al.* 2015). Identification is an issue for this species, and it may be captured more than is perceived. More information is needed to determine the level of overlap with fisheries and this species' catchability and sensitivity to fishing.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

There are no species-specific protections or conservation measures in place for this skate. There are management measures in the skate fishery off the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), but they are not species-specific (Winter *et al.* 2015). Further research is needed on distribution, life history, population size and trends, and threats. Trawl fisheries should be monitored for bycatch at the species level.

Credits

Assessor(s): Pollom, R., Chiaramonte, G.E., Cuevas, J.M., Pompert, J. & Herman, K.

Reviewer(s): Dulvy, N.K. & Kyne, P.M.

Facilitator(s) and Compiler(s): Kyne, P.M., Pollom, R., Charvet, P. & Dulvy, N.K.

Authority/Authorities: IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group (sharks and rays)

Bibliography

Arkhipkin, A., Brickle, P., Laptikhovsky, V., Pompert, J. and Winter, A. 2012. Skate assemblage on the eastern Patagonian Shelf and Slope: structure, diversity and abundance. *Journal of Fish Biology* 80(5): 1704–1726.

Concha, F.J., Caira, J.N., Ebert, D.A. and Pompert, J.H.W. 2019. Redescription and taxonomic status of *Dipturus chilensis* (Guichenot, 1848), and description of *Dipturus lamillai* sp. nov. (Rajiformes: Rajidae), a new species of long-snout skate from the Falkland Islands. *Zootaxa* 4590(5): 501-524.

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Last, P., White, W., de Carvalho, M., Séret, B., Stehmann, M. and Naylor, G. 2016. *Rays of the World*. CSIRO Publishing, Clayton.

Wakeford, R.C., Agnew, D.J., Middleton, D.A.J., Pompert, J.H.W. and Laptikhovsky, V.V. 2005. Management of the Falkland Islands Multispecies ray fishery: Is species specific management required? Symposium, 11-13 September 2001: Elasmobranch fisheries: Managing for sustainable use and biodiversity conservation. *Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Science* 35: 309-324.

Winter, A., Pompert, J., Arkhipkin, A. and Brewin, P.E. 2015. Interannual variability in the skate assemblage on the South Patagonian shelf and slope. *Journal of Fish Biology* 87(6): 1449–1468.

Citation

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Appendix

Habitats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
9. Marine Neritic -> 9.3. Marine Neritic - Subtidal Loose Rock/pebble/gravel	Resident	Suitable	Yes
9. Marine Neritic -> 9.4. Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy	Resident	Suitable	Yes
9. Marine Neritic -> 9.5. Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy-Mud	Resident	Suitable	Yes
9. Marine Neritic -> 9.6. Marine Neritic - Subtidal Muddy	Resident	Suitable	Yes
11. Marine Deep Benthic -> 11.1. Marine Deep Benthic - Continental Slope/Bathyl Zone (200-4,000m)	-	-	-

Threats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
5. Biological resource use -> 5.4. Fishing & harvesting aquatic resources -> 5.4.4. Unintentional effects: (large scale) [harvest]	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, significant declines	Medium impact: 6
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		

Conservation Actions in Place

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Conservation Action in Place
In-place research and monitoring
Action Recovery Plan: No
Systematic monitoring scheme: No
In-place land/water protection
Conservation sites identified: No
Area based regional management plan: No
Occurs in at least one protected area: Unknown
Invasive species control or prevention: Not Applicable
In-place species management
Harvest management plan: No
Successfully reintroduced or introduced benignly: No

Conservation Action in Place
Subject to ex-situ conservation: No
In-place education
Subject to recent education and awareness programmes: No
Included in international legislation: No
Subject to any international management / trade controls: No

Conservation Actions Needed

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Conservation Action Needed
3. Species management -> 3.1. Species management -> 3.1.1. Harvest management

Research Needed

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Research Needed
1. Research -> 1.2. Population size, distribution & trends
1. Research -> 1.3. Life history & ecology
1. Research -> 1.4. Harvest, use & livelihoods
1. Research -> 1.5. Threats
3. Monitoring -> 3.1. Population trends
3. Monitoring -> 3.2. Harvest level trends

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Lower depth limit (m): 400
Upper depth limit (m): 85

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