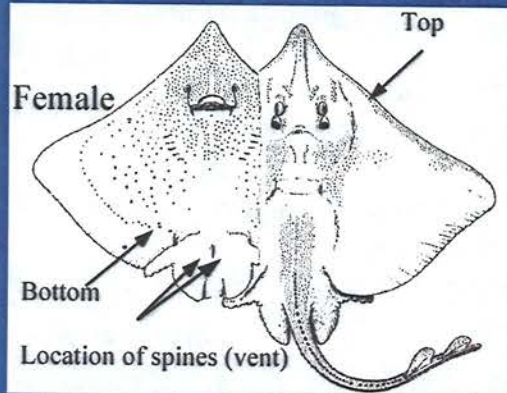
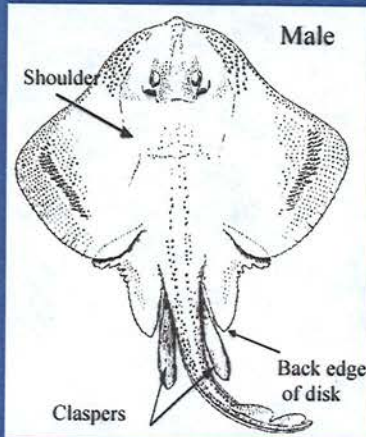




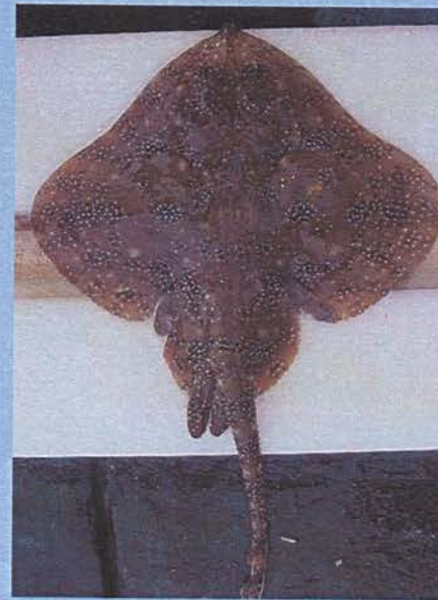
# Skate Species Identification Guide

#3

## 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:** 21in (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

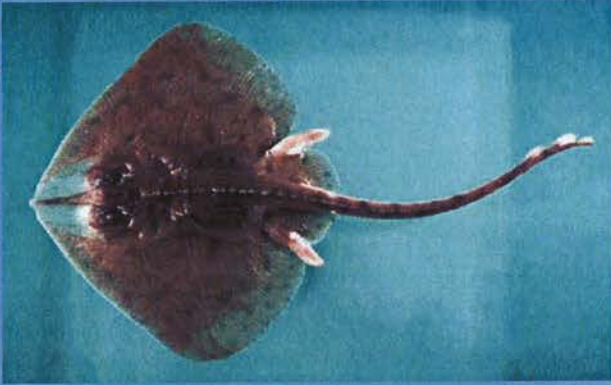
**Range:** Newfoundland, Canada to  
South Carolina, USA

**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

