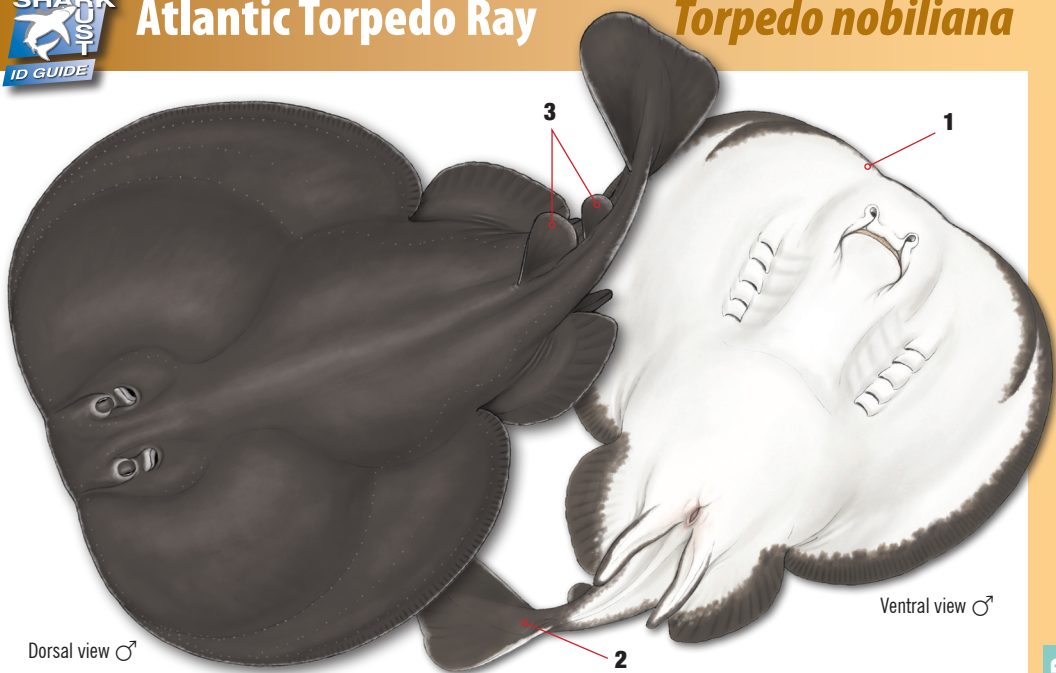


Atlantic Torpedo Ray

Torpedo nobiliana



Dorsal view ♂

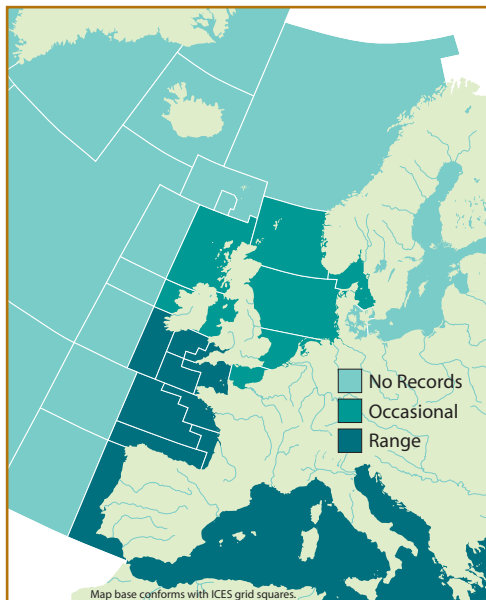
Ventral view ♂

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Torpedo nobiliana (Bonaparte, 1835).

DISTRIBUTION

East Atlantic: South Africa to Scotland, including Mediterranean. Absent from Black Sea.
West Atlantic: Brazil to Nova Scotia¹.



COMMON NAME

ATLANTIC TORPEDO RAY, Atlantic Electric Ray, Black Torpedo, Crampfish, Numbfish, Dark Electric Ray, Great Torpedo, Torpille Noire (Fr), Torpedine Nera (It), Tremolina Negra (Es) Sidderrog (Ne).

IDENTIFICATION

- 1 Round body with straight leading edge of disc.
- 2 Short, thick tail with large caudal fin.
- 3 2 close-set dorsal fins.
- 4 No papillae around spiracles¹.

COLOUR

- Dorsal surface dark grey to brown.
- No patterning.
- Ventral surface creamy white with dark margins¹.

BIOLOGY AND SIZE

- Born: 20cm. Max TL: 180cm¹.
- Long gestation period ~12 months. ~60 young in each litter¹.
- Nocturnal, remain hidden during the day and actively hunt at night¹.



SIMILAR SPECIES

○ *Torpedo nobiliana*,
Atlantic Torpedo Ray

○ *Torpedo marmorata*,
Marbled Torpedo Ray

○ *Torpedo torpedo*,
Common Torpedo Ray

○ *Torpedo sinuspersici*, **Gulf Torpedo Ray**, not illustrated

HABITAT

- Juveniles 10–150m, adults to 800m.
- Found over soft substrates such as sand and mudⁱⁱ.

CONSERVATION STATUS

- Very little is known of population trends. Possibly vulnerable to trawl fisheries damaging nursery grounds. Appears to be rare in the Mediterraneanⁱⁱⁱ.
- **Red List status:** Data Deficient (2008).

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

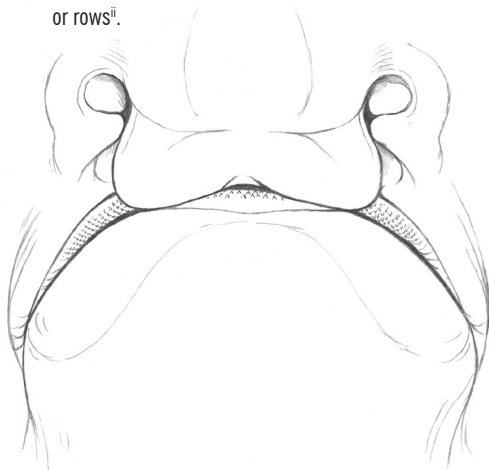
- Currently of no fisheries interest, although previously hunted for its liver oilⁱⁱ.
- Taken as bycatch in trawl fisheries throughout its range.
- When caught, usually discarded at seaⁱⁱⁱ.

HANDLING AND THORN ARRANGEMENT

- Handle with care.
- Can produce an electrical current of 170–220Vⁱ.

TEETH

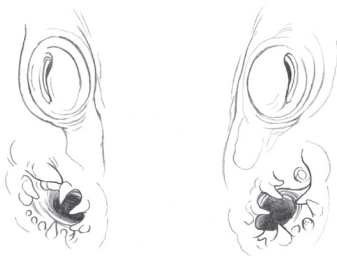
- Small, curved, single-cusped teeth arranged in bands or rowsⁱ.



SPIRACLES



- *Torpedo nobiliana*, **Atlantic Torpedo Ray**



- *Torpedo marmorata*, **Marbled Torpedo Ray**

REFERENCES

- i. Barnes, M.K.S.; 2008. Marine Biological Association.
- ii Bester, C; Unknown. Florida Museum of Natural History.
- iii. Gibson, C et al; 2006. IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group.