

Although Orkney still has flapper skate, this local population is under some pressure from fishing. There is a clear need to know more about the state of the Orkney population.

The Orkney Skate Trust is leading a community-driven project to capture, tag, release and recapture skate, so we can learn more about them. This will provide information on fish migration, growth rates, behaviour and dynamics to help conserve the species. It will also raise awareness, further benefitting this endangered fish.



A small dart tag is carefully inserted into the skate, which has no lasting effect on the individual. The tags have a unique number, and the capture location, date, fish length, width, weight and photos, will be catalogued against it. Upon later recapture of the fish the same data will be taken again.

ORKNEY SKATE TRUST



Map of flapper skate sightings around Orkney waters



Map of known flapper skate egg laying areas around Orkney waters

What do we do with the information?

The tagging data gives us vital scientific information to help understand skate movements, growth rates and condition. This is key biological and ecological information for understanding the species and designing conservation measures.

All data from the research will be held within a Geographical Information System, allowing mapping of areas of skate activity around Orkney. It also means that we will be able to quickly inform anglers of the known history of any tagged fish.



Flapper skate (*Dipturus intermedia*) adult female

dorsal side

ventral side

Flapper skate (*Dipturus intermedia*) juvenile

dorsal side

ventral side

Flapper skate (*Dipturus intermedia*) adult male

dorsal side

ventral side