**Blonde ray**

**Irish and Celtic Seas**

**Fishery Profile**

- **Celtic Sea**
- **EU**: United Kingdom
- **Multiple bottom otter trawls**

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**ASSESSMENT**

**Strengths**

Considering that catch limits are not appropriate for the management of rays, other measures such as area closures and effort restrictions are being evaluated. In 2012, ICES gave its first advice, based on the approach for data-limited stocks. Voluntary measures are defined by fishermen – a minimum landing size and a seasonal closure area (Ray box). Surveys are conducted to assess ray stocks, in Fisheries Science Partnerships (with the participation of scientists and fishermen).

**Weaknesses**

Species-specific catch data are not yet available – mixture with other ray species. No catch limit is set. The stock status is not known; no stock assessment has been conducted. Abundance survey estimates are not adequate probably due to gear's selectivity issues. Biological aspects of the species are not truly understood and are essential to provide appropriate quantitative advice and management. No specific management measures exist at the European or national level (ICES 2012).

Species-specific catch data for all the species covered in this advice sheet are of limited extent and there are data quality issues. Age data are not routinely collected. Data limitations and the biological characteristics of elasmobranchs restrict the use of length-based assessment methods at this point (ICES 2012).

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**SCORES**

**Management Quality:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 6</td>
<td>&lt; 6</td>
<td>≥ 6</td>
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**Stock Health:**

- **Current Health**:
  - Not Yet Scored
- **Future Health**:
  - Not Yet Scored

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**FIPs**

No related FIPs.

**MSC**

No related MSC fisheries.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN**

- Start a fishery improvement project (FIP) to evaluate and address sustainability issues in this fishery. For advice on starting a FIP, see SFP’s Seafood Industry Guide to FIPs and other resources at [https://www.sustainablefishing.org/Programs/Professional-Guidance/FIP-Resources](https://www.sustainablefishing.org/Programs/Professional-Guidance/FIP-Resources).