

Essential Fish Habitat Descriptions Barndoor skate (*Dipturus laevis*)

For barndoor skate, no action essential fish habitat is described as those areas of coastal and offshore waters (out to the offshore U.S. boundary of the exclusive economic zone) that are designated on the map below and meet the following conditions:

Eggs: There is no information available on the habitat associations or distribution of the egg stage for this species.

Larvae: No larval life stage exists for this species. Upon hatching, they are fully developed juveniles (ELMR Report Number 12, March 1994).

Juveniles: Bottom habitats with mud, gravel, and sand substrates in the eastern Gulf of Maine, eastern Georges Bank, southern New England and the Mid-Atlantic Bight down to the Hudson Canyon as depicted on the map below. Generally, the following conditions exist where barndoor skate juveniles are found: *Depth:* Occurs from shoreline to 750 meters, but are most abundant at depths less than 150 meters. *Temperature:* Broad temperature range from 1.2-20 °C, but found in highest abundance between 4-11 °C. *Salinity:* Preferred range is 31-35 ppt.

Adults: Bottom habitats with mud, gravel, and sand substrates in the eastern Gulf of Maine, eastern Georges Bank, southern New England and the Mid-Atlantic Bight down to the Hudson Canyon as depicted on the map below. Generally, the following conditions exist where barndoor skate adults are found: *Depth:* Occurs from shoreline to 750 meters, but are most abundant at depths less than 150 meters. *Temperature:* Broad temperature range from 1.2-20 °C, but found in highest abundance over a range of 3-16 °C. *Salinity:* Preferred range is 31-35 ppt.

EFH designations for barndoor skate

