

Essential Fish Habitat Descriptions Smooth skate (*Malacoraja senta*)

For smooth 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 a substrate of soft mud (silt and clay) bottoms and also on sand, broken shells, gravel and pebbles on offshore banks of the Gulf of Maine as depicted on the map below. Generally, the following conditions exist where smooth skate juveniles are found: *Depth:* Found at depths from 31-874 meters and most abundant between 110-457 meters. *Temperature:* Found over a range of 1-16 °C with most found between 5-7 °C.

Adults: Bottom habitats with a substrate of soft mud (silt and clay) bottoms and also on sand, broken shells, gravel and pebbles on offshore banks of the Gulf of Maine as depicted on the map below. Generally, the following conditions exist where smooth skate adults are found: *Depth:* Found at depths from 31-874 meters and most abundant between 110-457 meters. *Temperature:* Found over a range of 1-16 °C with most found between 5-7 °C.

EFH designations for smooth skate

