

Essential Fish Habitat Descriptions Thorny skate (*Amblyraja radiata*)

For thorny 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 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 sand, gravel, broken shell, pebbles, and soft mud in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank as depicted on the map below. Generally, the following conditions exist where thorny skate juveniles are found: *Depth:* The full depth range is from 18-2000 meters, but they are most abundant between 111-366 meters. *Temperature:* Juveniles are found in waters with temperatures ranging from -1.3°C to 17°C , with most found between $5-9^{\circ}\text{C}$.

Adults: Bottom habitats with a substrate of sand, gravel, broken shell, pebbles, and soft mud in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank as depicted on the map below. Generally, the following conditions exist where thorny skate adults are found: *Depth:* The full depth range is from 18-2000 meters, but they are most abundant between 111-366 meters. *Temperature:* Adults are found in waters with temperatures ranging from -1.3°C to 17°C , with most found between $5-8^{\circ}\text{C}$.

EFH designations for thorny skate

