

Essential Fish Habitat Descriptions Clearnose skate (*Raja eglanteria*)

The EFH designations for clearnose, little, and winter skates in bays and estuaries were based on the NOAA Estuarine Living Marine Resource (ELMR) program (Jury et al. 1994; Stone et al. 1994). Unfortunately, the information presented in the ELMR reports does not differentiate among the species of skates in the complex. So, EFH was identified for these three species if the complex was identified in the ELMR reports and the species was known to occur in proximity bays and estuaries where skates were identified in general.

Estuaries and embayments designated as EFH for C=clearnose, L=little, and W=winter skates.

Estuaries and Embayments	Eggs	Juveniles	Mating	Adults
Waquoit Bay				
Buzzards Bay	L,W	L,W	L,W	L,W
Narragansett Bay	L,W	L,W	L,W	L,W
Long Island Sound	L,W	L,W	L,W	L,W
Connecticut River		L,W		L,W
Gardiners Bay		L,W		L,W
Great South Bay		L,W		L,W
Hudson River/Raritan Bay	C,L,W	C,L,W	C,L,W	C,L,W
Barneget Bay				C,L,W
New Jersey Inland Bays				C,L,W
Delaware Bay				C,L,W
Delaware Inland Bays				C,L,W
Chesapeake Bay Mainstem	C,L,W	C,L,W		C,L,W

For clearnose 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 in the accompanying table 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 bottom along the continental shelf and rocky or gravelly bottom, ranging from the Gulf of Maine south along the continental shelf to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina (the southern boundary of the NEFMC management unit) as depicted on the map below. Generally, the following conditions exist where clearnose skate juveniles are found: *Depth:* Their full range is from the shore to 500 meters, but they are most abundant at depths less than 111 meters. *Temperature:* Occurs over a temperature range of 9-30 °C, but are most abundant from 9-21 °C in the northern part of its range and 19-30 °C around North Carolina.

Adults: Bottom habitats with a substrate of soft bottom along the continental shelf and rocky or gravelly bottom, ranging from the Gulf of Maine south along the continental shelf to Cape

Hatteras, North Carolina (the southern boundary of the NEFMC management unit) as depicted on the map below. Generally, the following conditions exist where clearnose skate adults are found: *Depth*: Their full range is from the shore to 400 meters, but they are most abundant at depths less than 111 meters. *Temperature*: Occurs over a temperature range of 9-30 °C, but are most abundant from 9-21 °C in the northern part of its range and 19-30 °C around North Carolina.

EFH designations for clearnose skate

