



Galway Atlantaquaria Blog Series: The Ray Project 2024

The Ray Project is an Irish NGO devoted to protecting and researching skates and rays. We aim to inform the public about these fascinatingly diverse native species and highlight their ecological importance in Ireland's coastal ecosystems through our research and outreach. We have been educating our local communities through outreach events such as beach events, educational talks at schools, etc.

Interesting research we are doing:



Female skates lay egg cases in shallow waters from February to August, which develop for approximately 4 – 6 months before hatching. These egg cases are washed ashore onto the beaches of Ireland. Did you know? Each species has a unique egg case, which helps us identify all the egg cases we find. Thanks to the help of citizen scientists, our team, and partners, we have identified over 2200 egg cases!



Our current research project is focused on identifying the lay sights of native coastal skates. We have started with four specific species: the thornback skate, blonde skate, spotted skate and flapper skate. This research aims to understand the distribution and habitats of juvenile skates in Irish waters so we can identify more locations of importance which may need protection to aid in their conservation. We are using a baited remote underwater video (BRUV), which we made to conduct this work.

Keep updated on our work and upcoming outreach events or contact us if you would like any of our ID guides via our website, www.therayproject.org.