

STING-RAY, DASYATIS PASTINACA LINNAEUS

The sting-ray is a demersal fish species. It is oviparous and 3 to 30 eggs develop simultaneously in the uterus. Being a predator, its principal food competitors are spiny dogfish, turbot, whiting and thornback-ray.

A specialised sting-ray fishery is not carried out. It appears as by-catch in the passive gears: trapnets, beach seines, etc.

Table 92 shows the historical catch per unit effort.

TABLE 92. Sting-ray catches per unit effort (1 000 hooks) during 1983-1989 (YugNIRO data)

Years	North-eastern part of Black Sea	Crimean waters	Caucasian region
1983	0.154	0.066	
1984	0.124	0.066	
1985	0.127	0.054	
1986	0.125	0.060	
1987	0.066	0.035	0.091
1988	0.102	0.070	
1989	0.092	0.077	

The sting-ray biomass on the shelf of the northern part of the Black Sea was estimated at 10 000 tonnes (1990). The annual catch on the Ukrainian shelf could reach 1 500-2 000 tonnes, although it has not exceeded 500 tonnes till now (YugNIRO data).