

Regional Flapper Skate Working Group

In November 2019, The SeaMonitor project recently hosted the first Regional Flapper Skate workshop at the Malone Lodge hotel in Belfast. The workshop was co-chaired by Dr Amy Garbett (SeaMonitor, Queen's University Belfast) and Dr Jane Dodd (Scottish Natural Heritage).

This workshop examined multi-levelled conservation objectives, focussing on the remaining habitat of the critically endangered flapper skate (*Dipturus intermedius*). In total 31 participants from four European countries attended, including 18 different organisations (listed below) with an interest in flapper skate conservation. These included academic researchers, government representatives, NGOs and conservation groups.

The workshop discussed management of critically endangered flapper skate in their remaining habitats, focussing on the major concerns and how to proceed with conservation on a regional scale. Furthermore, the workshop encouraged collaboration and working together, highlighting that a regional approach can be instrumental in terms of planning and directing the scientific process of gathering data across the regions to understand and protect this critically endangered species

Overall the workshop was a great success, with a number of key priorities identified in order to move forward. The workshop resulted in several key outputs, including a full workshop report, and a recommendation documents for flapper skate conservation on a regional scale.



1) Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland **2)** Saint Andrews University **3)** Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, Cork, Ireland **4)** Orkney Skate trust, Scotland **5)** Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Northern Ireland **6)** Shark Trust, England **7)** Marine Institute, Ireland **8)** Exploris Aquarium, Portaferry, Northern Ireland **9)** Ulster Wildlife, Belfast, Northern Ireland **10)** Loughs Agency, Derry, Northern Ireland **11)** WWF Netherlands **12)** Scottish Natural Heritage, Oban, Scotland **13)** Ulster University, Coleraine, Northern



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Ireland **14)** Marine Dimensions, Ireland **15)** Peter Verhoog Underwater & Nature Photography, Netherlands **16)** ARK Nature, Netherlands **17)** Marine Scotland, Scotland **18)** Aberdeen University, Scotland