



New Federal Sorting Requirements for Longnose Skate (*Raja rhina*) and New Landing Requirements for All Skates



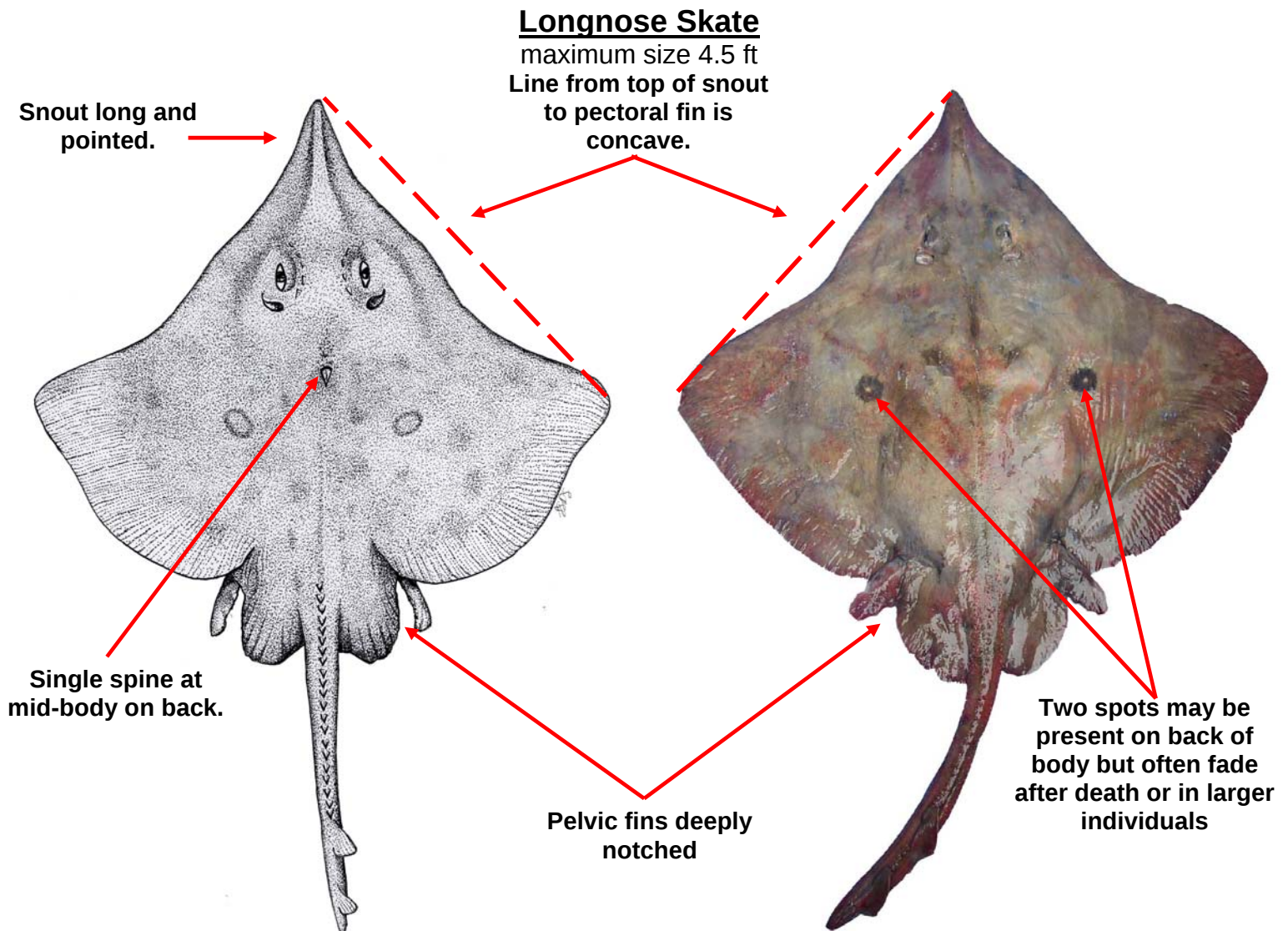
New sorting requirement (effective March 1, 2009 as specified in the Federal Register):

- Longnose skate must now be sorted separately from other skates upon landing.
- Please use the species code **147** for longnose skate, and continue to use the species codes **176** for big skate, **177** for California skate, and **175** for all other skates when filling out your landing receipt.

New landing requirement for all skates (effective immediately):

- All skate species must be landed whole. No skate wings allowed.

Possession of skate wings on any boat is prohibited as there are no equivalents or conversion factors established in statute or regulation under which other than whole skates may be brought ashore (Fish and Game Code Section 5508, 8042).



Longnose skate illustration by Jayna Schaaf Da Silva
Photograph courtesy of PSMFC

Other skates that may be encountered:

Big Skate

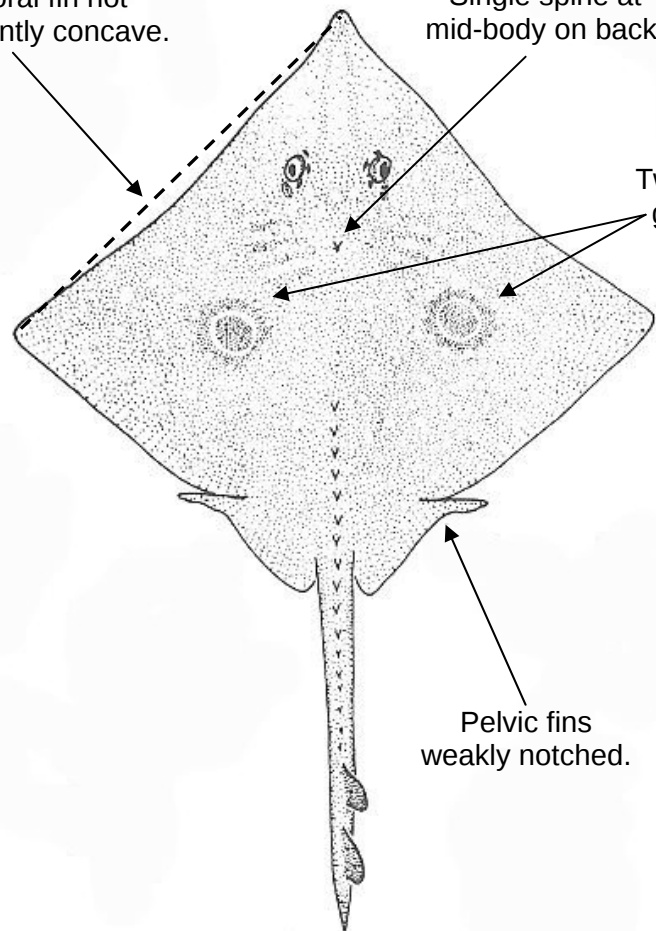
maximum size 8 ft

Line from tip of snout to pectoral fin not significantly concave.

Single spine at mid-body on back.

Two large eye-like spots generally apparent on back of body.

Pelvic fins weakly notched.



California Skate

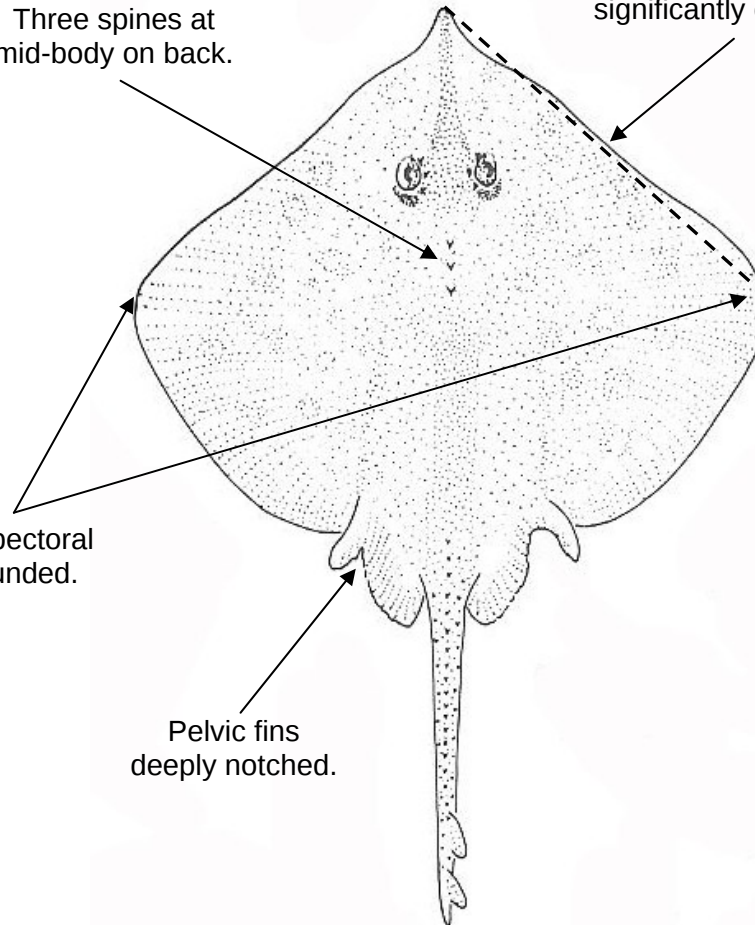
maximum size 2.5 ft

Three spines at mid-body on back.

Line from tip of snout to pectoral fin not significantly concave.

Tips of pectoral fins rounded.

Pelvic fins deeply notched.



Big and California skate illustrations from CDFG Fish Bulletin 157

For more information about the new sorting and landing requirements for longnose skate, or the 2007 stock assessment results visit the Department's website:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/groundfishcentral/cgr.asp>, contact Ms. Melanie Parker at (831) 649-2814 or write to:
California Department of Fish and Game, Groundfish Project, 20 Lower Ragsdale Dr., Ste 100, Monterey, CA 93940

Or:

Visit the National Marine Fisheries Service website:

<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/Groundfish-Fishery-Management/index.cfm> or write to:
Groundfish Branch, NMFS Northwest Region, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115