

# Marine Fisheries Information Service



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## On the first record of rare skate off Gulf of Mannar

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On 20th July 2007, one single specimen of roundel skate was accidentally caught by fish trawl net operated off Gulf of Mannar at a depth of 70m and landed at Pamban-Therkuvadi. The specimen was identified as *Raja texana*, Chandler, 1921, belonging to the family Rajidae. The fish was a female measuring 360mm in length and weighing 760 g. It is for the first time this species was recorded from the Gulf of Mannar Sea.



*Raja texana*, Chandler, 1921

The morphometric characters (in mm.) of the skate are as follows

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Tip of the snout to tip of the tail                 | 530 |
| Tip of the snout to origin of the tail              | 310 |
| Tip of the snout to origin of the first dorsal fin  | 445 |
| Tip of the snout to origin of the second dorsal fin | 480 |
| Tip of the snout to nostril                         | 123 |
| Tip of the snout to origin of the eye               | 88  |
| Inter orbital length                                | 30  |
| Tip of the snout to origin of the pectoral fin      | 160 |
| Tip of the snout to origin of the pelvic fin        | 280 |
| Tip of the snout to urinogenital opening            | 276 |
| Tip of the snout to origin of the spiracle          | 79  |
| Tip of the snout to mouth                           | 111 |
| Width of the mouth                                  | 51  |
| Length of the urinogenital opening                  | 16  |
| Tip of the snout to first gill opening              | 137 |
| Tip of the snout to fifth gill opening              | 180 |
| Urinogenital opening to origin of the tail          | 28  |