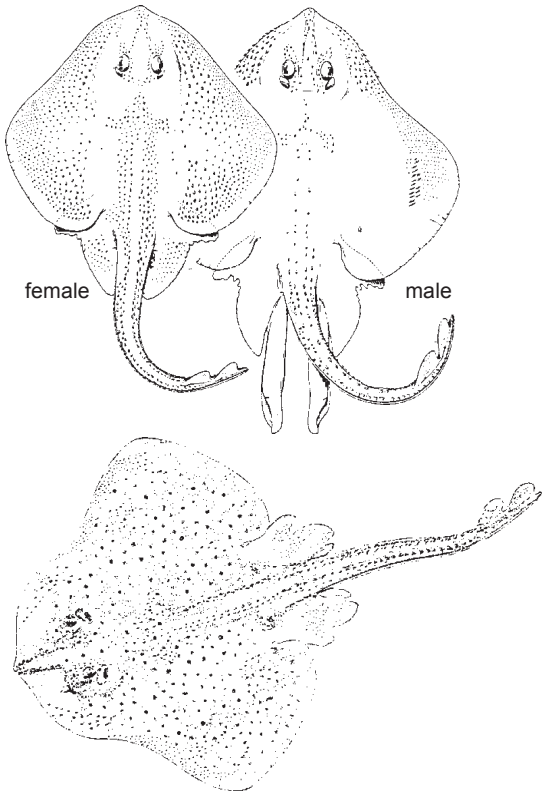
SELECTED SPECIES ID'S: skates



LITTLE SKATE *Leucoraja erinacea*
Key characteristics:

- maximum length 54 cm
- matures at a smaller size than winter skates
- animals 35 cm and over will be sexually mature, males will have large claspers that extend well beyond the posterior edge of the disk, females will have a granular patch on the bottom of the animal, in front of the tail

VS.

WINTER SKATE *Leucoraja ocellata*
(Big skate)
Key characteristics:

- maximum length 109 cm
- matures at a larger size than little skates
- animals < 54 cm will be sexually immature, males will have small claspers that rarely extend beyond the posterior edge of the disk, females do not have a granular patch on the bottom of the animal

Figure 38. Little skate (top) and winter skate (bottom). Source: *Fishes of the Gulf of Maine* by H.B. Biegelow & W.C. Schroder, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.