

14 Roughsnout grenadier (*Trachyrincus scabrus*) in the Northeast Atlantic

14.1 Stock description and management units

There are taxonomic issues with this stock. The roughsnout grenadier (*Trachyrincus scabrus*) was formerly *Trachyrincus trachyrincus*, with various spellings. The roughnose grenadier (*Trachyrincus murrayi*) is a closely related species that is abundant throughout the north of Northeast Atlantic (Jonsson, 1992). The scientific names and common name of these species changed over time. The similarity of the English names (roughsnout grenadier and roughnose grenadier) can increase the confusion.

Along the slope to the west of Scotland in ICES Division 6.a, only *Trachyrincus murrayi* was caught in surveys spanning depths from 500–2000 m and that took place in the 1970s and 1980s (Gordon and Duncan, 1984). In recent years, *Trachyrincus murrayi* was caught by the Marine Scotland deep-water research surveys in sufficient numbers to allow the estimation of population indicators (Neat and Burns, 2010).

In the published literature, there is no report of the occurrence of *Trachyrincus scabrus* at significant level in northern areas of the Northeast Atlantic. In particular, there are no records of the species in surveys held along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge (Fossen *et al.*, 2008). *Trachyrincus scabrus* is not caught in Icelandic surveys where *Trachyrincus murrayi* is caught in large numbers. Similarly, to the East of Greenland (Division 14.a and 14.b.2) only *Trachyrincus murrayi* is caught in scientific surveys.

T. scabrus has been reported in the Porcupine Seabight (ICES Division 7.j,k) at depths 500–1300 m. The species was also recorded further south in the Cantabrian Sea (ICES Division 8.c). In the latter area, *T. scabrus* was reported to occur at a high abundance on the Le Danois Bank (ICES Division 8.b) at depths from 500–800 m (Sanchez *et al.*, 2008).

Unlike in the Atlantic Ocean, *Trachyrincus scabrus* occurs in most of the Mediterranean Sea, along the Spanish slope to the Ionian Sea (D'Onghia *et al.*, 2004; Moranta *et al.*, 2006). In the Mediterranean Sea high abundances were reported at depths ranging from 800–1300 m. In the Mediterranean Sea, *T. scabrus* reaches larger sizes than the other macrourid species occurring at the same depth range.

Therefore, *T. scabrus* is a species occurring in the Mediterranean Sea and in the Atlantic and does not seem to occur at levels susceptible to support commercial fisheries in most areas north of 52°N.

The other *Trachyrincus* species (*T. murrayi*) occurs in Subareas 5, 6 and 12. There is no known fishery for it. *T. murrayi* does not reach sufficient sizes to be of commercial interest. It is only a bycatch of deep-water fisheries in Subareas 5, 6, 7, 12 and 14.

As *T. scabrus* and *T. murrayi* can be misidentified in fisheries catches this chapter addresses the two species.

Landings of *T. scabrus* were reported for ICES subareas 6, 12 and 14. In these areas the species is considered to be at the most a minor bycatch. The occurrence of the species is not confirmed in subareas 12 and 14. It may be that only *T. murrayi*, occurs in these subareas. Therefore, the species identity of commercial landings reported as *T. scabrus* needs to be confirmed. WGDEEP considered that the reporting of 0 landings in response to the data call for landings and discards in 2016

to 2019, confirms that landings reported before 2016 were misreporting, misidentification or coding errors.

14.2 Landings trends

Landings of 57 and 649 tonnes were reported in 2012 and 2014 respectively. In 2014, these came mainly from divisions 12.b and 14.b. (Table 14.1a)

In 2006–2008, Lithuania reported significant landings for subareas 6 and 12 (Table 14.1b, source ICES catch statistics 2006–2015). Landings reported by Spain in 2012–14 are not included in ICES catch statistics 2006–2017 (downloaded from the ICES website on 24.04.2020). No landings have been reported neither in preliminary catch statistics nor InterCatch from 2014 to 2022.

14.3 ICES Advice

The ICES advice for the years 2021–2025 is that *"when the precautionary approach is applied, there should be no directed fisheries for roughsnout grenadier and bycatch should be minimized for each of the years 2021 to 2025."*

The previous advice, for the years 2016–2020 further added *"and bycatch should be counted against the TAC for roundnose grenadier to minimize the potential for species misreporting."*

14.4 Management

There is no current species-specific management measure for the roughsnout grenadier. Despite the advice for years 2016–2020, the EU regulation for TACs of deep-water species in 2017–2018 and 2019–2020 made no mention of the roughsnout grenadier since. There is no regulation for this species in other countries (Norway, Iceland, Faroe Islands, UK) where these species should be landed when caught.

The EU regulation 2016/2336 establishing specific conditions for fishing for deep-sea stocks, does not mention *Trachyrincus* species.

14.5 Data availability

14.5.1 Landings and discards

No new information see 2022 report (ICES, 2022).

14.6 Length compositions

No new information see 2022 report.

14.6.1 Age compositions and longevity

No new information see 2022 report.

14.6.2 Weight-at-age

No weight-at-age data are available.

14.6.3 Maturity and natural mortality

No data were available.

14.6.4 Catch, effort and research vessel data

No new information see 2022 report.

14.7 Data analyses

No new information see 2022 report.

14.7.1 Biological reference points

Not applicable.

14.8 Comments on assessment

Not applicable.

14.9 Management considerations

No new information see 2022 report.

14.10 References

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14.11 Tables

Table 14.1a. Official landings of roughsnout grenadier by ICES Subarea reported by Spain in 2012-2014.

Year	6.b	12.a	12.b	14.b	Total
2012		54		3	57
2013					0
2014	42	4	155	448	649

Table 14.1b. Official landings of roughsnout grenadier by ICES Subarea reported by Lithuania.

Year	6	12	Total
2006	506	67	573
2007	442	101	543
2008	49	50	99