

ECOREGION **Widely distributed and migratory stocks**
STOCK **Roundnose grenadier (*Coryphaenoides rupestris*) in Division IIIa**

Advice for 2013 and 2014

ICES advises on the basis of the approach for data-limited stocks that a fishery on this stock should not be allowed unless there is evidence that this is sustainable.

This is the first year ICES is providing quantitative advice for data-limited stocks (see Quality considerations).

Stock status

F (Fishing Mortality)		
Qualitative evaluation	2009–2011	
	?	Unknown
SSB (Spawning-Stock Biomass)		
Qualitative evaluation	2009–2011	
	?	Unknown

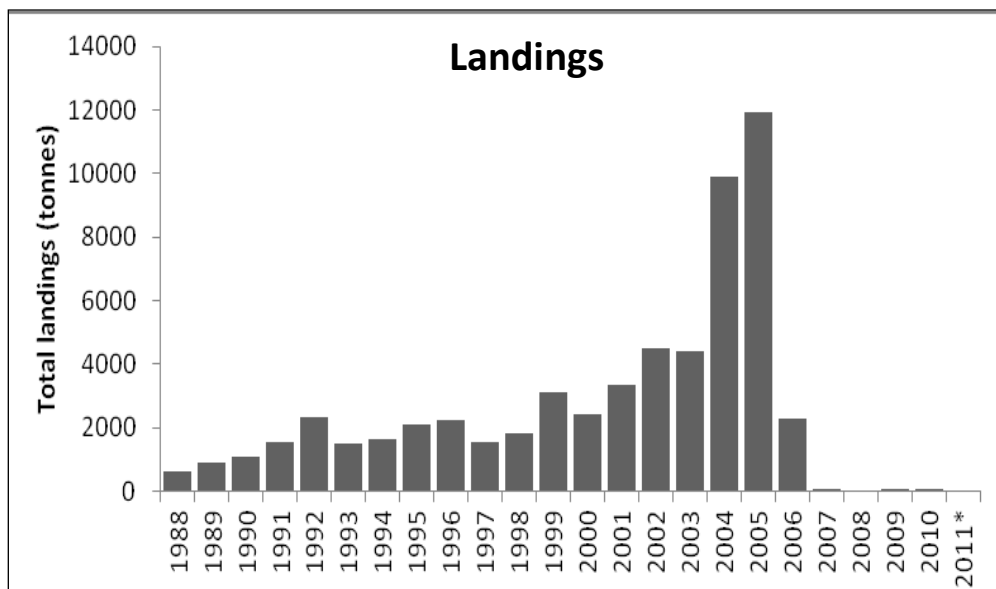


Figure 9.4.15.1.1 Roundnose grenadier in Division IIIa. ICES landings (tonnes).

Catches appear to have been stable at about 1000 tonnes in the 1990s. Large increases in catches in the early 2000s are considered to have been unsustainable on the basis of the biology of the species and the small geographical extent of the fishery (in one ICES rectangle alone). Catches after 2006 are zero due to zero TAC in the Norwegian sector.

Management plans

There are no specific management objectives for this assessment unit.

Biology

Age analyses suggest that roundnose grenadier may have a longevity of around 70 years and a slow growth, indicating low productivity.

The fisheries

A total of only 2–3 vessels actively participated in the fishery during the period of peak catches in 2002–2005. Since 2007 there has been no directed fishery, and at present this species is taken only as bycatch and only in small amounts.

Quality considerations

Some data are available from the Norwegian shrimp survey but do not provide a reliable indication of trends in abundance because the depth coverage of the survey is variable and does not cover the entire depth range of the stock in some years. This data is used to give additional information such as changes in size composition and recruitment.

The advice is based on a precautionary low level of catches because of missing or non-representative data. The methods applied to derive quantitative advice for data-limited stocks are expected to evolve as they are further developed and investigated.

Scientific basis

Assessment type	Catch trends-based assessment.
Input data	The only information on this stock is landings of all relevant fleets, and cpue and mean length in the catch of the Danish fleet until 2006.
Discards and bycatch	Discard data is not available.
Indicators	None.
Other information	Trends from Norwegian shrimp survey on size distributions and occurrence of fish smaller than 5 cm.
Working group report	WGDEEP

ECOREGION **Widely distributed and migratory stocks**
STOCK **Roundnose grenadier (*Coryphaenoides rupestris*) in Division IIIa**

Reference points

No reference points have been defined for this assessment unit.

Outlook for 2013 and 2014

No reliable assessment can be presented for this assessment unit and fishing possibilities cannot be projected.

ICES approach to data-limited stocks

For data-limited stocks without information on abundance or exploitation ICES considers that a precautionary reduction of catches should be implemented. The resulting limit should stay in place for three years unless stock information shows a change that merits updating the advice.

For this stock, since the current catches are around zero, ICES advises that a fishery on this stock should not be allowed unless there is evidence that this is sustainable.

Additional considerations

Landings appear to have been stable at about 1000 tonnes in the 1990s. Large increases in catches in the early 2000s were considered to be unsustainable on the basis of the biology of the species and the small geographical extent of the fishery (one ICES rectangle).

The rationale behind the previous advice value of 1000 t was to constrain the exploitation to the levels of the early years of the fishery (1988–1991).

Comparison with previous assessment and advice

The basis for the assessment has not changed. The basis for the advice this year is the ICES approach to data-limited stocks.

Source

ICES. 2012. Report of the Working Group on the Biology and Assessment of Deep-Sea Fisheries Resources (WGDEEP), 29 March–5 April 2012, ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen. ICES CM 2012/ACOM:17.

Table 9.4.15.1.1 Roundnose grenadier in Division IIIa. ICES advice, management, and landings.

Year	ICES Advice	Predicted catch corresp. to advice	TAC EU Subarea III	Norway TAC Subarea III	ICES landings Subarea IIIa
2003	Significant reduction in effort	-	1.870	no TAC	4.3
2004	Biennial	-		no TAC	9.9
2005	Fishery not allowed to expand, unless proven to be sustainable	-	1.590	no TAC	11.9
2006	Biennial	-	1.590	2.700	2.3
2007	50% reduction of effort compared to the level before the fishery expanded (1991–1999)	1	0.850	no TAC	0.001
2008	Biennial	1	0.850	no TAC	+
2009	Constrain catches to the catches level before the expansion of the fishery (1988–1991)	1	0.850	no TAC	0.002
2010	Biennial	1	0.850 ¹	no TAC	0.001
2011	Same advice as previously	1	0.850	no TAC	0
2012	No new advice, same as 2011		0.850	no TAC	
2013	Catch should not increase unless there is evidence that this will be sustainable	< 0.001			
2014	No new advice, same as 2013	< 0.001			

Weights in thousand tonnes.

¹ Bycatch only.**Table 9.4.15.1.2** Roundnose grenadier in Division IIIa. ICES landings (tonnes).

Year	Denmark	Norway	Sweden	TOTAL
1988	612		5	617
1989	884		1	885
1990	785	280	2	1067
1991	1214	304	10	1528
1992	1362	211	755	2328
1993	1455	55		1510
1994	1591		42	1633
1995	2080		1	2081
1996	2213			2213
1997	1356	124	42	1522
1998	1490	329		1819
1999	3113	13		3126
2000	2400	4		2404
2001	3067	35		3102
2002	4196	24		4220
2003	4302			4302
2004	9874	16		9890
2005	11922			11922
2006	2261	4		2265
2007	+	1		1
2008	+	+		+
2009	2	+	+	2
2010	1	0		1
2011*		0		0

* Preliminary data.