

Roughhead grenadier in Subareas 2+3

Advice June 2013 for 2014-2016

Recommendation for 2014-2016

Scientific Council assesses this stock under its own initiative.

Management objectives

No explicit management plan or management objectives defined by Fisheries Commission. General convention objectives (GC Doc. 08/3) are applied.

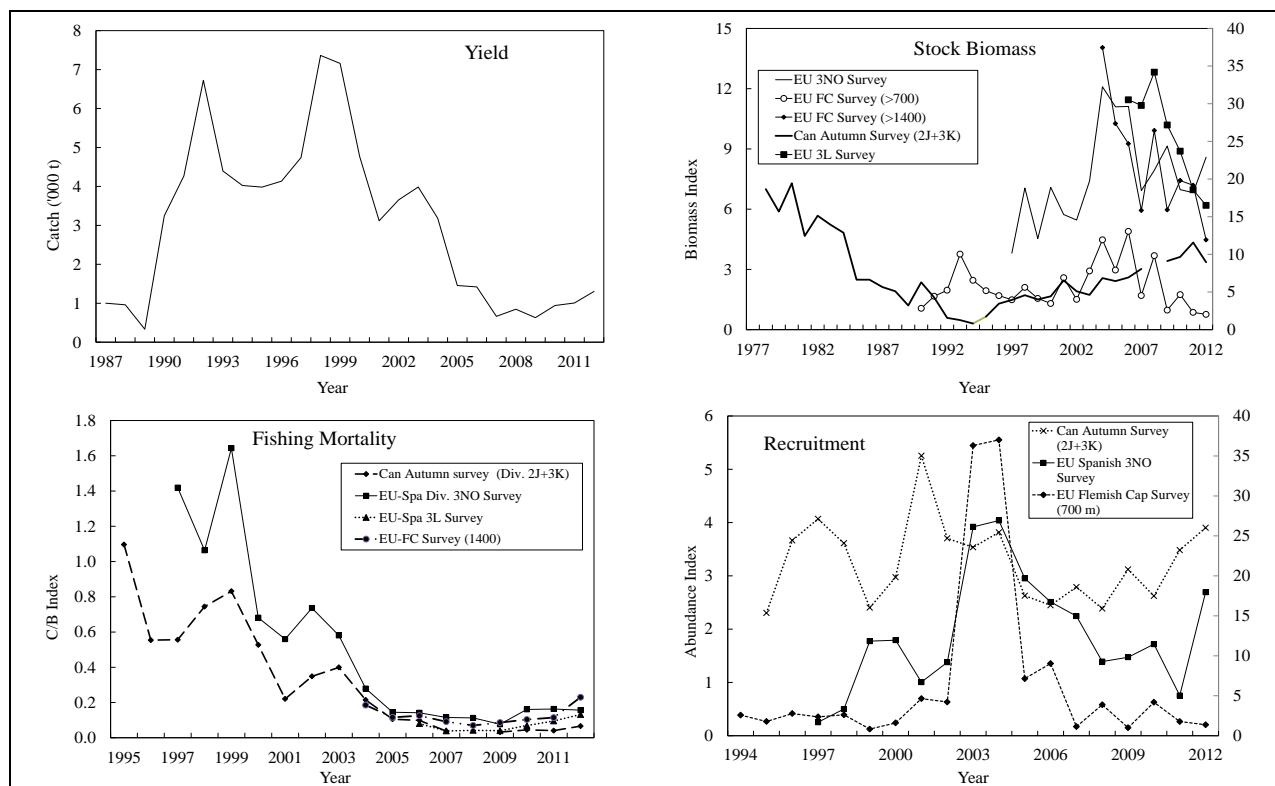
Convention objectives	Status	Comment/consideration	
Restore to or maintain at Bmsy		Cannot be evaluated	OK
Eliminate overfishing		Fishing mortality rate is low	Intermediate
Apply Precautionary Approach		Reference points not defined	Not accomplished
Minimise harmful impacts on living marine resources and ecosystems		VME closures in effect	Unknown
Preserve marine biodiversity		Cannot be evaluated	

Management unit

The stock structure of this species in the North Atlantic remains unclear. Roughhead grenadier is distributed throughout NAFO Subareas 0 to 3 in depths between 300 and 2 000 m. However, for assessment purposes, NAFO Scientific Council considers the population of Subareas 2 and 3 as a single stock.

Stock status

Survey indices indicate a stable or declining stock in recent years. Fishing mortality indices have remained at low levels since 2005. Good recruitment is indicated in 2012 but indices of recruitments have high uncertainty.



Reference points

Not defined.

Projections

Quantitative assessment of risk at various catch options is not possible for this stock at this time.

Assessment

Biomass indices from the surveys with depth coverage till 1400 meters are considered as the best survey information and are used to monitor trends in resource status (STACFIS 2013). The next full assessment of this stock will be in 2016.

Human impact

Mainly fishery related mortality. Other mortality sources (e.g. pollution, shipping, oil-industry) are undocumented.

Environmental impact

Bottom temperatures in Div. 2J, 3K and 3KL have remained well above normal for the past several years and a warm oceanographic regime may permit increased growth and productivity.

Fishery

Roughhead grenadier is taken as by-catch in the Greenland halibut fishery, mainly in NRA Div. 3LMN.

Recent catch estimates are as follows:

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
STATLANT 21	1.7	1.3	0.6	0.5	0.41	0.71	0.8	1.0	1.3
STACFIS	3.2	1.5	1.4	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.9	1.0	1.3

Effects of the fishery on the ecosystem

No specific information is available. General impacts of fishing gear on the ecosystem should be considered.

Special comments

None.

Sources of Information

SCR Doc. 13/12, 13, 17, 27 and 29; SCS Doc. 13/05, 07 and 09.