

Demersal Redfish in Subarea 1

Advice June 2017 for 2018-2020

Recommendation for 2018 - 2020

Deep-sea redfish and Golden redfish: The Scientific Council advises that there should be no directed fishery.

Management objectives

No explicit management plan or management objectives has been defined by the Government of Greenland.

Management unit

These two species are managed as a single unit. Survey data reveal an almost continuous distribution of both species from East Greenland to West Greenland; both areas had geographically distinct fisheries historically. However, the degree of connectivity between the two areas is unknown.

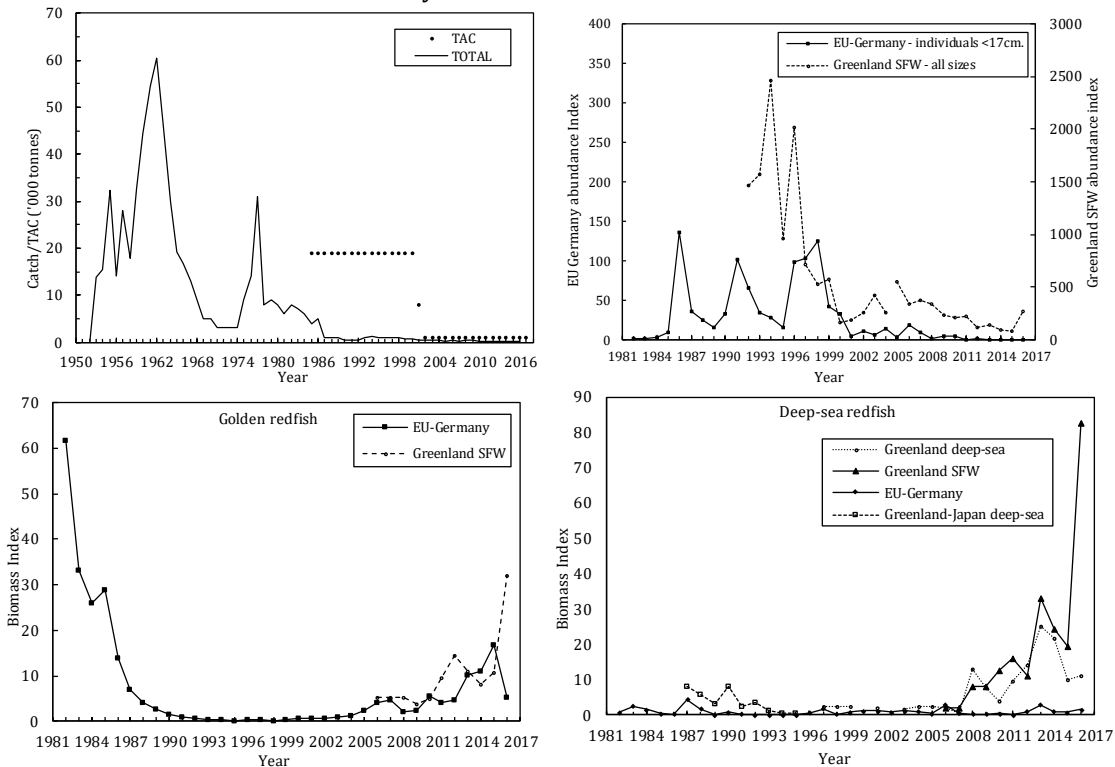
Stock status

Golden redfish

The EU-Germany and Greenland Shrimp and fish survey have revealed increasing biomass of golden redfish in the recent decade but divergent trends in 2016. However, the EU-Germany survey had low coverage in 2016. The EU-Germany survey is however still far below the 1980s biomass index, which was before the Greenland shrimp and fish survey was initiated. In the Greenland shrimp and fish survey, virtually no new incoming year classes have been observed since 2011 in West Greenland or in East Greenland waters in the recent 4-6 years.

Deep-sea redfish

The Greenland-Japan survey indicates that the biomass decreased from 1987 to 1995. The Greenland deep sea survey indicates that the biomass remained low until 2007. Both the Greenland deep-sea survey and the Greenland shrimp and fish survey agree that the biomass of deep-sea redfish has gradually been increasing since 2008. Recruitment has been at a very low level in the area for almost 2 decades. In the Greenland shrimp and fish survey, virtually no new incoming year classes have been observed since 2011 in West Greenland or in East Greenland waters in the recent 4-6 years.



Reference points

Could not be established.

Assessment

No analytical assessment was performed. Biomass and abundance indices from surveys were considered the best source of information.

Human impact

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

Environmental impact

Unknown

Fishery

The proportions of golden and deep-sea redfish in the historic catches are Unknown. The catches of redfish peaked in the 1960s at 60 000 tonnes, but gradually decreased during the 1970s and 1980s. A significant unreported bycatch of redfish was likely taken during the 1980s and 1990s in the fishery targeting shrimp. With the implementation of sorting grids in the shrimp fishery in 2002 bycatch has been reduced.

Recent catch estimates ('000 tonnes) are as follows:

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
TAC	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
STATLANT 21	0.3	0	0.02	0	0.2	0.12	0.16	0.25	0.19	0.16	
STACFIS	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.16	0.17	0.17	0.26	0.17	

Effects of the fishery on the ecosystem

There is currently no significant directed fishery in West Greenland. Recent landings of redfish are bycatches taken in other fisheries: mainly longline, gillnet or jigging in the inshore and coastal areas, and trawl in the offshore areas.

Special comments

The increasing biomasses of both redfish species observed in the surveys could be a consequence of either increased survival of redfish after the implementation of sorting grids in the shrimp fishery and/or migration of redfish from nearby areas.

Sources of Information

SCR Doc. 17/015 021 039 and; SCS Doc. 17/08.