

Demersal redfish and deep-sea redfish (*Sebastes* spp.) in Subarea 1

Advice June 2023 for 2024 and beyond

Recommendation for 2024 and beyond

Scientific Council advises that there should be no directed fishery until a significant improvement in stock status is detected.

Management objectives

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

Management unit

These two species are managed together 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.

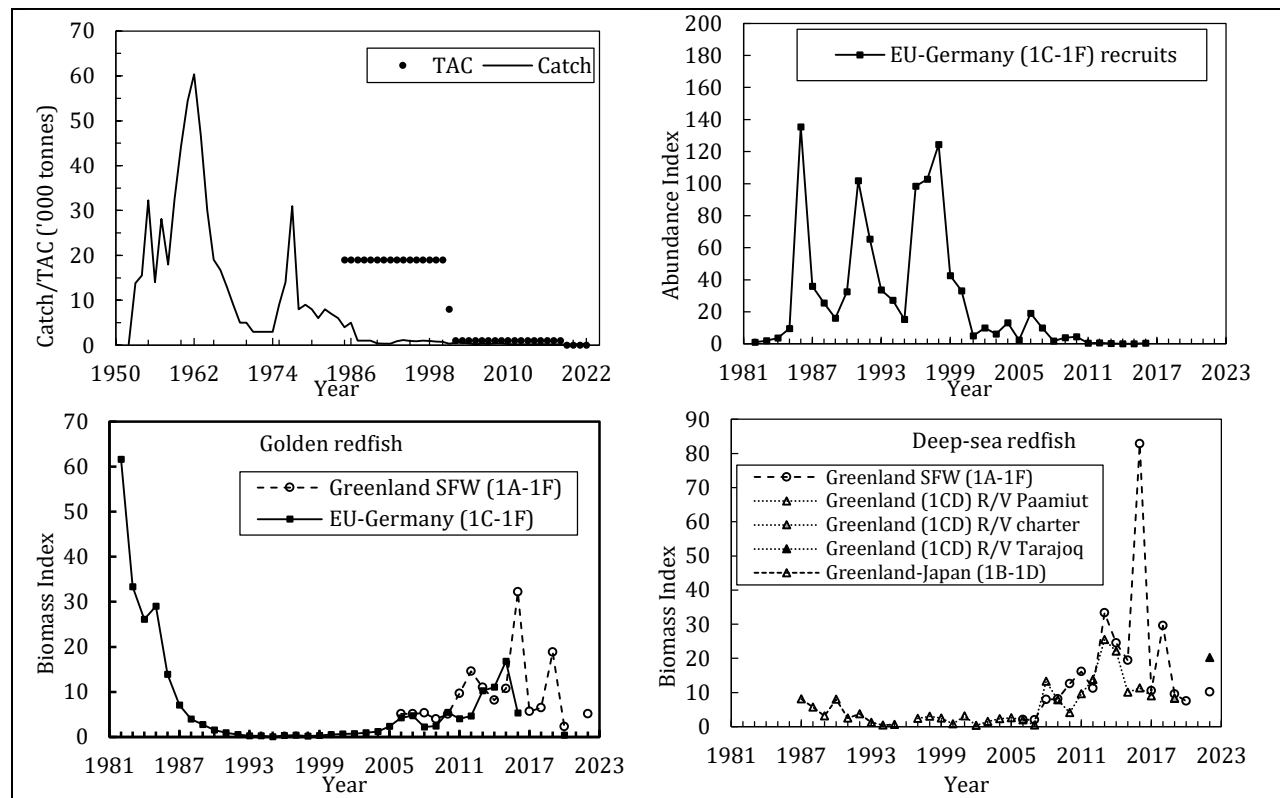
Stock status

Golden redfish

Survey indices indicate that the biomass remains far below historical levels. Recruitment is unknown. Fishing mortality is unknown, however recent catch levels of commercially sized redfish are low.

Deep-sea redfish

Biomass is slowly decreasing. Recruitment is unknown. Fishing mortality is unknown, however recent catch levels of commercially sized redfish are low.



Reference points

Could not be established.



Assessment

No analytical assessment was performed. The assessment was based upon a qualitative evaluation of survey indices, length composition in surveys, and historic fishery. The assessment is considered data-limited and with relatively high uncertainty, as surveys do not fully cover the distribution of the stock.

This stock will be monitored by interim monitoring report until such time as monitoring suggests a change in stock status.

Human impact

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

Environmental impact

Unknown

Biological and environmental interactions

There is no integrated summary information available on the structure, status and trends of the marine ecosystem for the area inhabited by this stock.

Ecosystem sustainability of catches

Redfish is included in the piscivore guild. There are currently no Ecosystem Production Units defined nor TCI information for the distribution area of this stock.

Fishery

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.

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, catches and bycatch of redfish are considered to be very low.

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

| | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| TAC | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| STATLANT 21 | 0.25 | 0.19 | 0.16 | 0.23 | 0.19 | 0.10 | 0.21 | 0.36 | 0.26 | |
| STACFIS | 0.17 | 0.26 | 0.17 | 0.24 | 0.19 | 0.14 | 0.20 | 0.26 | 0.29 | |

Sources of Information

SCR Doc. 20/052 23/012 013, 020; SCS Doc. 23/14.