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A Proposal to Rename the STACFIS Section Dealing with Grenadiers

by

S. Junquera

Instituto Español de Oceanografía, Apdo. 1552, Vigo, Spain

Up to now, the STACFIS sections dealing with grenadiers have the headings 'Roundnose grenadier in Subareas 2 and 3' and 'Roundnose grenadier in Subareas 0 and 1'. This is a too restrictive term that obscures the actual reality of the grenadiers fishery, at least in the case of the Subarea 3, where this species is only a negligible part of the catches. In the following table, based on catch and discard data recorded by the Spanish scientific observers on board the commercial fleet, can be observed that a substantial proportion of the grenadier catches in Subarea 3 is roughhead grenadier (RHG, *Macrourus berglax*), and that roundnose grenadier (RNG, *Coryphaenoides rupestris*) is mostly a discard species.

YEAR	TOTAL CATCH OF GRENADIERS (Landings + Discards)		LANDINGS OF GRENADIERS (Catch - Discards)	
	% RHG	% RNG	% RHG	% RNG
1991	90	10	100	0
1992	72	28	83	17
1993	83	17	100	0
1994	84	16	100	0
1995	-	-	-	-
1996	96	4	100	0
1997	95	5	99	1

Roughhead grenadier is an important by-catch of the EU Greenland halibut fishery in Subarea 3. Accordingly, most of the grenadier research documents available from the NAFO Subarea 3 deal with roughhead grenadier. In contrast, the official statistics do not reflect realistically the importance of this species, and as a consequence of this, a systematic misreporting of grenadier catches occurs. Thus most of the catches are declared as roundnose grenadier, just because it is the name that appears in the official documents.

A first step to solve this problem could be to change the actual 'roundnose grenadier' heading by a more general one (i.e. 'grenadiers'), so that all the grenadier species would be included, or to indicate 'roundnose and roughhead grenadier'.