

ISF Iceland golden redfish

Last Updated: 21 March 2016

MSC status

Certified as sustainable in October 2014.

Summary

Species: Golden redfish (*Sebastes marinus* also known as *Sebastes norvegicus*)

Location: North East Atlantic, FAO statistical area 27, ICES Va (stock also in Vb, VI, XII, and XIV)

Fishing methods: Bottom trawl; Nephros trawl; Danish seine; Gillnet Long line; Handline

Number of fisheries: 1

More about Golden redfish

The golden redfish, *Sebastes norvegicus* or rosefish is a species of rockfish (Sebastidae) in the North Atlantic. Golden redfish is found all around Iceland on various bottom types. It is most common off the west-,southwest-, south- and southeast coast and juveniles are mostly found off the north coast (Magnússon 2000). Although the species is found close to the bottom, it moves into the water column at night and can therefore be classified as bentho-pelagic. The main fishing grounds, as well as the main adult grounds are at the edge of the continental shelf at 200 to 400m depth, at temperatures of 3-8°C, south and west of Iceland.

Ageing of redfish has been difficult and information on growth has been limited. However, fisheries biologists generally agree that the golden redfish grows approximately 20mm per year and attains maturity at the age of 12-15 years at the size of 35-37cm (Magnusson, 2000; Jónsson & Pálsson 2013). The most common size of redfish landed is 35-42cm, weighing 0.6 to 1.1kg. Occasionally very large individuals up to 100cm, weighing 12-15kg are caught. These large individuals are known as centennial redfish. However, there is a possibility that these large individuals belong to another stock or even another species.

Spawning takes place at 200-500m depth, in waters southwest and possibly southeast of Iceland (Magnusson 2000). The redfish are oviparous with internal fertilization and spawning of free-living larvae. Mating occurs in October November; gametes are stored in the ovary until fertilization 2-3 months later. Spawning takes place in April – May, mostly off the continental shelf. Fecundity comprises 350 thousand larvae. After spawning, females move back to the slope regions for feeding. The larvae drift with currents and seek bottom in late autumn off the West, North and East of the country.

<https://www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/fisheries-in-the-program/certified/north-east-atlantic/isf-iceland-golden-redfish/>