Golden redfish (*Sebastes norvegicus*) in subareas 5, 6, 12, and 14 (Iceland and Faroes grounds, West of Scotland, North of Azores, East of Greenland)

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach is applied, catches in 2027 should be no more than 43 319 tonnes.

Non-fisheries conservation considerations

Conservation aspects and associated management measures may exist at a national or regional level but were not reviewed by ICES.

Stock development over time

Fishing pressure on the stock is below F_{MSY} and F_{PA}, and spawning-stock size is above MSY $B_{trigger}$, B_{PA}, and B_{lim}.

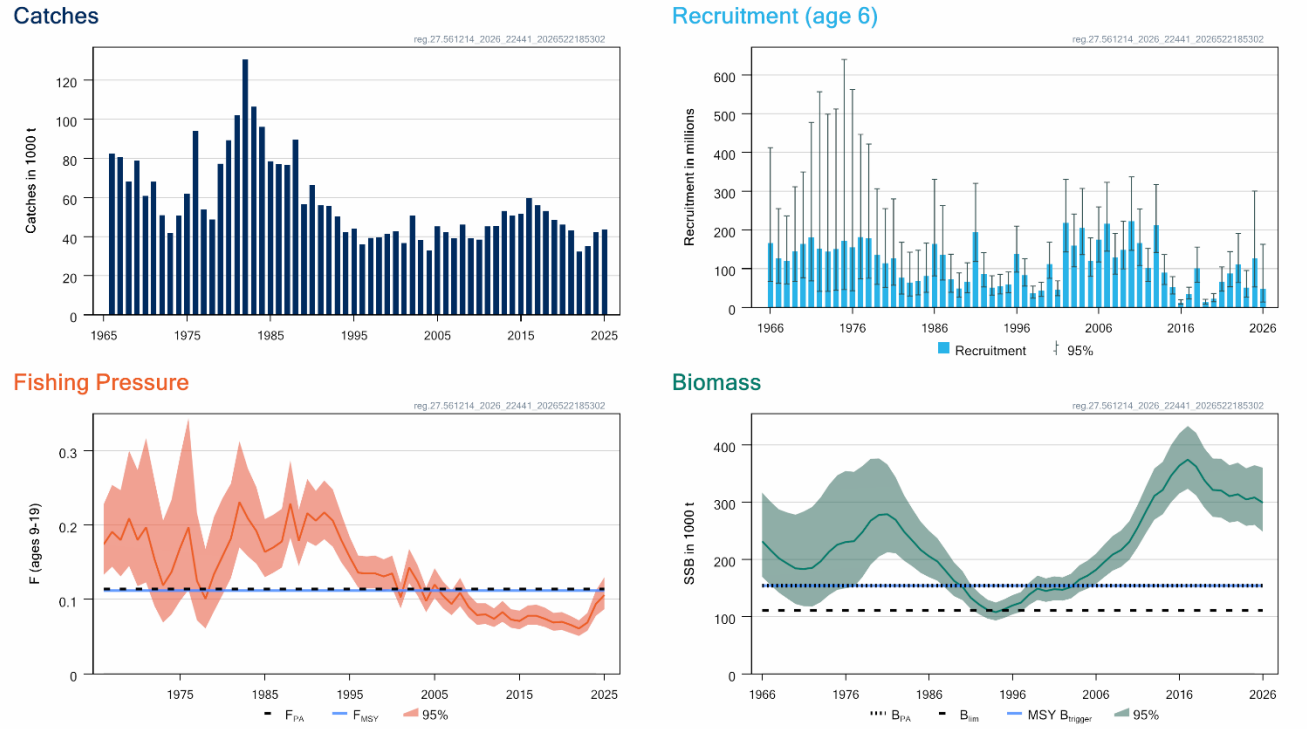

Figure 1 Golden redfish in subareas 5, 6, 12, and 14. Summary of the stock assessment.

Catch scenarios

Table 1 Golden redfish in subareas 5, 6, 12, and 14. Values in the forecast and for the interim year.

Variable	Value	Notes
$F_{ages\ 9–19}$ (2026)	0.12	Based on assumed catch in 2026
Spawning-stock biomass (SSB; 2027)	284 468	Short-term forecast; tonnes
$R_{age\ 6}$ (2026)	47 111	From the assessment; thousands
$R_{age\ 6}$ (2027)	84 142	Median, resampled from the years 2022–2026; thousands
Total catch (2026)	41 345	Catch corresponding to advice; tonnes

Table 2 Golden redfish in subareas 5, 6, 12, and 14. Annual catch scenarios. All weights are in tonnes.

Basis	Total catch (2027)	$F_{9–19}$ (2027)	Spawning-stock biomass (SSB; 2028)	% SSB change*	% advice change**
ICES advice basis					
Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach, $F = F_{MSY}$	43319	0.112	277254	−2.5	4.8
Other scenarios					
$F_{2027} = 0$	0	0	315579	10	−100
$F_{2027} = F_{2025}$	41100	0.106	278821	−1.99	−0.59

* SSB 2028 relative to SSB 2027.
** Advice value for 2027 relative to the advice value for 2026 (41 345 tonnes).

Basis of the advice

Table 3 Golden redfish in subareas 5, 6, 12, and 14. The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach
Management plan	ICES is aware of a management plan agreed between Greenland and Iceland for golden redfish but has not been requested to evaluate it

Quality of the assessment

The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) and fishing pressure estimates in the 2026 assessment are consistent with the previous three assessments.

Subarea 6 catches are not included in the stock assessment because they are only reported as *Sebastes* spp.. These account for around 1% of total catch.

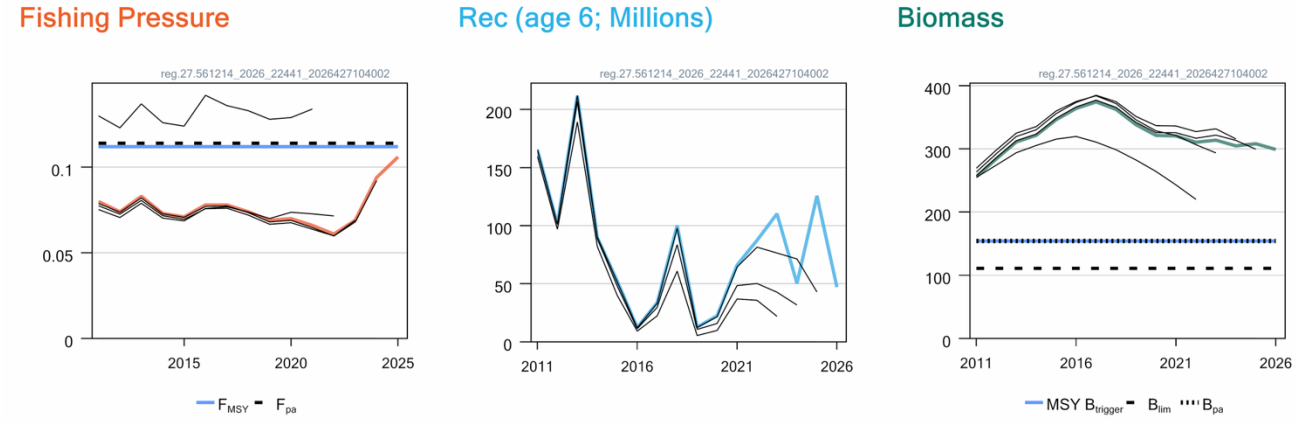

Figure 2 Golden redfish in subareas 5, 6, 12, and 14. Historical assessment results. The reference points were revised in 2023 following a benchmark and only assessment results for 2023 onwards should be compared to the reference points indicated. Prior to the benchmark, recruitment was estimated at age 5 and is not shown here.

Issues relevant for the advice

Recruitment (age 6) since 2014 has been at a low level compared to the stock history. This raises concerns about the productivity of the stock. Without substantial recruitment, stock levels are likely to continue to decline for several years. However, surveys in Icelandic waters show increasing abundance of small golden redfish (< 30 cm) in the recent five years, and the 2026 estimate (4–11 cm) is the highest since the early 1990s. Since the species is slow growing, it is expected that these recruits will not enter the fishery for several years.

No formal agreement on the management of fisheries on golden redfish exists among the three coastal states of Greenland, Iceland, and the Faroe Islands. An agreement exists between Iceland and Greenland since July 2023 on the management of the golden redfish fishery based on ICES MSY approach (Kærgaard and Kaldal, 2024).

Reference points

Table 4 Golden redfish in subareas 5, 6, 12, and 14. Reference points, values, and their technical basis. All weights are in tonnes.

Framework	Reference point	Value	Technical basis	Source
Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach	MSY $B_{trigger}$	154 094	B_{PA}; tonnes	ICES (2023)
	F_{MSY}	0.112	Fishing mortality that leads to MSY; estimated using stochastic simulations	ICES (2023)
Precautionary approach	B_{lim}	110 893	B_{loss}. Lowest spawning-stock biomass (SSB; 1994); tonnes	ICES (2023)
	B_{PA}	154 094	$B_{lim} \times e^{(\sigma \times 1.645)}$; $\sigma = 0.2$; tonnes	ICES (2023)
	F_{PA}	0.114	F_{P05}, maximum F at which the probability of spawning-stock biomass (SSB) falling below B_{lim} is < 5%	ICES (2023)

Basis of the assessment

Table 5 Golden redfish in subareas 5, 6, 12, and 14. Basis of assessment and advice.

ICES stock data category	1 (ICES, 2025).
Assessment type	Analytical age-based assessment model (SAM) used also in the forecast (Nielsen and Berg, 2014; ICES, 2026)
Input data	Catch-at-age and age-disaggregated survey indices. Landings data and length distributions of catches from Iceland, Greenland, and the Faroes; survey data from the Icelandic Spring Groundfish Survey (IS-SMB [G3239]), Icelandic Autumn Groundfish Survey (IS-SMH [G4493]), German Groundfish Survey in Greenland (GGS [G3244]), Faroes Spring Groundfish Survey (FO-GFS-Q1 [G1264]) and Faroes Summer Groundfish Survey (FO-GFS-Q3 [G3284]); age data from Icelandic catches and the Icelandic Autumn Groundfish Survey (IS-SMH [G4493]). Natural mortality fixed at 0.05 for ages up to 25, and 0.1 for ages 25+, in all years. Weights and maturities from the Icelandic Spring Groundfish Survey.
Discards	Negligible
Indicators	None
Other information	Benchmarked in 2023 (ICES, 2023)
Working group	Northwestern Working Group (NWWG)

History of the advice, catch, and management

Table 6 Golden redfish in subareas 5, 6, 12, and 14. ICES advice, total allowable catches (TACs), and ICES catch. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Catch corresponding to advice	Iceland TAC*, ##	Greenland TAC‡	ICES catch**
1987	No increase in F	83 000	95 000		77 127
1988	No increase in F	84 000	85 000		89 989
1989	TAC*	117 000*	77 000		57 050
1990	TAC*	116 000*	80 000		66 632
1991***	Precautionary TAC	77 000 (117 000*)	55 000#		56 364
1992***	Precautionary TAC	76 000 (116 000*)	90 000		55 710
1993	Precautionary TAC*	120 000*	104 000		50 350
1994	Precautionary TAC, if required*	100 000*	90 000		42 515
1995	TAC*	90 000*	77 000		44 765
1996	TAC for Division 5.a (28000 tonnes); precautionary TAC for Division 5.b and Subarea 14 (4000 tonnes)	32 000	65 000		36 597
1997	Effort 75% of 1995 value	32 000	65 000		39 761
1998	Effort reduced in steps of 25% from the 1995 level	37 200	65 000		39 825

Year	ICES advice	Catch corresponding to advice	Iceland TAC*, ##	Greenland TAC‡	ICES catch**
1999	Effort not increased compared to 1997	35 000	65 000		42 040
2000	Catch not increased compared to 1998	35 000	60 000		43 550
2001	Effort not increased compared to 1999	33 000^	57 000		37 326
2002	25% reduction in effort	29 000^^	65 000		51 092
2003	25% reduction in effort (2001)	31 000^^	60 000		39 220
2004	25% reduction in effort (2002)	37 400^^	57 000		33 451
2005	Maintain fishable biomass above U_{pa}^^^	37 000^^	57 000		45 329
2006	Maintain fishable biomass above U_{pa}^^^	37 000^^	57 000		42 211
2007	Maintain fishable biomass above U_{pa}^^^	37 000^^	57 000	5 000	39 134
2008	Maintain fishable biomass above U_{pa}^^^	37 000^^	57 000	1 000	46 251
2009	Maintain fishable biomass above U_{pa}^^^	< 30 000	50 000		39 177
2010	Maintain fishable biomass above U_{pa}^^^	< 30 000	50 000	6 000	38 648
2011	Same advice as last year	< 30 000	37 500	8 500	45 354
2012	Maintain catches	< 40 000	40 000	8 500	45 635
2013	Maintain catches	< 40 000	45 000	8 500	53 263
2014	20% increase in catches (relative to 2010–2012)	< 51 980	52 000	8 500	50 736
2015	Management plan	< 47 300	45 600	8 500	51 645
2016	Management plan	< 51 000	48 500	8 500	59 707
2017	Management plan	≤ 52 800	47 205	7 520	56 141
2018	Management plan	≤ 50 800	45 450	6 222	53 227
2019	Management plan	≤ 43 600	39 240	5 274	48 530
2020	Management plan	≤ 43 568	38 896	5 271	46 197
2021	Management plan	≤ 38 343	34 379	4 748	43 426
2022	Management plan	≤ 31 855	28 554	3 186	32 873
2023	Management plan	≤ 25 545	22 615	5 109	35 988
2024	F_{MSY}	≤ 41 286	36 462	4 509	42 279
2025	F_{MSY}	≤ 46 911	41 848	5 127‡‡	43 726
2026	F_{MSY}	≤ 41 345	36 223	4 515‡‡	
2027	F_{MSY}	≤ 43 319			

* Deep-sea *S. mentella* and *S. norvegicus* combined until 2010.
** Includes *Sebastes spp* landings in Subarea 6.
*** Values in parentheses are combined advice for *S. norvegicus* and *S. mentella.*
^ In Division 5.a only.
^^ Both divisions 5.a and 5.b and Subarea 14.
^^^ U_{PA} - Icelandic spring groundfish survey index.
# Fishing year ending 31 August.
From 1992 onwards: fishing year 01 September–31 August.
‡ Demersal redfish (*S. norvegicus* and *S. mentella*).
‡‡ Golden redfish (*S. norvegicus*)

History of the catch and landings

There are no catches taken in the NEAFC regulatory areas (RAs).

Table 7 Golden redfish in subareas 5, 6, 12, and 14. Catch distribution by fleet in 2025 as estimated by ICES. All weights are in tonnes.

Catch (2025)	Landings		Discards
43 726	Bottom trawl 97%	Other gear 3%	Negligible
	43 726		

Table 8 Golden redfish in subareas 5, 6, 12, and 14. History of commercial catch; ICES estimated values are presented by area in the fishery. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	Area				Total
	Division 5.a	Division 5.b	Subarea 6**	Subarea 14	
1966	59 245	54		23 290	82 589
1967	47 413	64		33 198	80 675
1968	45 089	99		23 079	68 267
1969	48 391	33		30 367	78 792
1970	42 662	33		18 162	60 857
1971	47 498	24		20 436	67 958
1972	36 857	53		13 970	50 880
1973	33 605	206		7 899	41 710
1974	36 219	473		13 978	50 670
1975	40 029	963		20 915	61 907
1976	40 519	109		53 545	94 172
1977	38 507	767		14 433	53 707
1978	31 300	2 039	313	15 477	49 129
1979	56 616	4 805	6	15 787	77 214
1980	62 052	4 920	2	22 203	89 177
1981	75 828	2 538	3	23 608	101 977
1982	97 899	1 810	28	30 692	130 429
1983	87 412	3 394	60	15 636	106 502
1984	84 766	6 228	86	5 040	96 120
1985	67 312	9 194	245	2 117	78 868
1986	67 772	6 300	288	2 988	77 348
1987	69 212	6 143	576	1 196	77 127
1988	80 472	5 020	533	3 964	89 989
1989	51 852	4 140	373	685	57 050
1990	63 156	2 407	382	687	66 632
1991	49 677	2 140	292	4 255	56 364
1992	51 464	3 460	40	746	55 710
1993	45 890	2 621	101	1 738	50 350
1994	38 669	2 274	129	1 443	42 515
1995	41 516	2 581	606	62	44 765
1996	33 558	2 316	664	59	36 597
1997	36 342	2 839	542	37	39 760
1998	36 771	2 565	379	109	39 824
1999	39 824	1 436	773	7	42 040
2000	41 187	1 498	776	89	43 550
2001	35 067	1 631	535	93	37 326
2002	48 570	1 941	392	189	51 092
2003	36 577	1 459	968	215	39 219
2004	31 686	1 139	519	107	33 451
2005	42 593	2 484	137	115	45 329
2006	41 521	656	0	34	42 211
2007	38 364	689	0	83	39 136
2008	45 538	569	64	80	46 251
2009	38 442	462	50	224	39 178

Year	Area				Total
	Division 5.a	Division 5.b	Subarea 6**	Subarea 14	
2010	36 155	620	220	1 653	38 648
2011	43 773	493	83	1 005	45 354
2012	43 089	491	80	1 973	45 633
2013	51 330	372	92	1 485	53 279
2014	47 775	202	60	2 706	50 743
2015	48 769	270	44	2 562	51 645
2016	54 036	179	50	5 442	59 707
2017	50 119	1 418	93	4 511	56 141
2018	48 014	1 129	80	4 004	53 227
2019	44 746	1 119	101	2 665	48 631
2020	40 688	1 304	100	4 105	46 197
2021	39 616	178	100	3 532	43 426
2022	30 037	128	498	2 210	32 873
2023	32 192	182	541	3 073	35 988
2024	38 355	250	93	3 573	42 279
2025*	38 232	214	-	5 280	43 726

* Preliminary.
** *Sebastes* spp.

Summary of the assessment

Table 9 Golden redfish in subareas 5, 6, 12, and 14. Assessment summary. Weights are in tonnes. Recruitment in thousands. "High" and "Low" correspond to 95% confidence intervals.

Year	Recruitment (age 6)			Spawning-stock biomass (SSB)			Total catch	Fishing mortality (ages 9–19)		
	Low	R	High	Low	SSB	High		Low	F	High
1966	66700	165779	412036	169513	231717	316748	82589	0.133	0.174	0.23
1967	61877	125589	254902	155334	216210	300943	80675	0.144	0.191	0.25
1968	60547	119474	235750	142034	202031	287370	68267	0.131	0.180	0.25
1969	67175	144595	311240	131827	192793	281952	78792	0.145	0.21	0.30
1970	76452	163438	349396	122064	184232	278061	60857	0.118	0.180	0.27
1971	68130	180318	477241	118245	183205	283854	67958	0.123	0.197	0.32
1972	41354	151723	556652	117615	185219	291681	50881	0.091	0.154	0.26
1973	41357	143609	498675	125244	196425	308060	41710	0.069	0.119	0.21
1974	44109	150269	511934	137580	213081	330017	50634	0.080	0.137	0.23
1975	45912	171406	639913	146719	225600	346891	61907	0.098	0.169	0.29
1976	42670	154866	562070	149631	230322	354527	94171	0.113	0.197	0.34
1977	73525	181178	446454	152146	231730	352943	53708	0.072	0.125	0.22
1978	74969	177805	421706	168739	247460	362905	48816	0.061	0.101	0.168
1979	59242	134662	306099	190665	267648	375712	77208	0.084	0.134	0.21
1980	51265	114326	254956	204901	277722	376423	89174	0.106	0.158	0.24
1981	57119	126435	279866	212488	278887	366035	101975	0.129	0.182	0.26
1982	34064	75644	167979	210788	269070	343466	130401	0.170	0.23	0.31
1983	29097	64346	142296	197837	248569	312312	106443	0.158	0.21	0.28
1984	32075	68748	147348	187878	232731	288293	96033	0.148	0.192	0.25
1985	38841	80240	165764	176431	216593	265897	78622	0.130	0.164	0.21
1986	81195	163897	330837	168934	205492	249961	77062	0.136	0.170	0.21
1987	70356	135965	262757	162779	196395	236954	76552	0.143	0.178	0.22
1988	38963	73126	137245	149423	179726	216176	89456	0.183	0.23	0.29
1989	26562	48593	88897	135743	162532	194609	56678	0.145	0.179	0.22
1990	37747	65921	115125	128840	152212	179824	66246	0.178	0.22	0.26
1991	118312	194645	320226	113475	132991	155862	56072	0.172	0.21	0.25
1992	52607	86266	141460	104072	121217	141187	55671	0.181	0.22	0.26
1993	31439	50588	81399	96626	111907	129604	50249	0.171	0.21	0.25
1994	34577	54311	85307	93233	107806	124655	42386	0.150	0.180	0.22
1995	37855	58865	91535	97787	112873	130287	44160	0.134	0.157	0.184

Year	Recruitment (age 6)			Spawning-stock biomass (SSB)			Total catch	Fishing mortality (ages 9–19)		
	Low	R	High	Low	SSB	High		Low	F	High
1996	90754	137930	209629	103816	119527	137616	35933	0.116	0.136	0.159
1997	54915	82944	125279	108280	124388	142892	39218	0.115	0.135	0.158
1998	23884	36221	54931	120509	138596	159398	39445	0.115	0.135	0.159
1999	28405	42877	64721	129193	148962	171756	41267	0.111	0.131	0.154
2000	74754	112130	168193	125790	144851	166800	42773	0.115	0.135	0.159
2001	30002	45287	68359	128492	147978	170419	36791	0.088	0.103	0.122
2002	142967	217459	330765	127974	146907	168641	50700	0.122	0.143	0.168
2003	104687	158795	240869	131706	151757	174862	38252	0.105	0.124	0.146
2004	136006	204319	306942	142870	164553	189526	32933	0.083	0.098	0.116
2005	80197	119865	179152	148958	171709	197934	45192	0.102	0.120	0.142
2006	117417	174525	259407	157258	181685	209907	42211	0.088	0.105	0.124
2007	144726	216096	322662	169036	195405	225888	39136	0.079	0.094	0.112
2008	85719	127914	190880	180337	208427	240892	46187	0.091	0.109	0.129
2009	99343	148618	222336	186814	216262	250353	39128	0.076	0.090	0.107
2010	146924	222502	336959	199409	230672	266836	38425	0.066	0.079	0.095
2011	107864	165470	253843	221144	255711	295681	45272	0.067	0.080	0.095
2012	67269	101222	152312	246094	284090	327952	45553	0.063	0.074	0.088
2013	141712	211848	316695	269369	310878	358782	53186	0.070	0.083	0.098
2014	59153	89848	136471	278786	321389	370502	50683	0.062	0.073	0.087
2015	34447	52257	79275	299837	346188	399703	51602	0.060	0.071	0.085
2016	7700	12332	19751	315186	363960	420282	59657	0.066	0.078	0.092
2017	21930	33811	52130	323449	374306	433158	56044	0.066	0.078	0.093
2018	64513	100155	155489	311819	362393	421169	53147	0.063	0.074	0.089
2019	7795	12705	20707	290145	338104	393989	48529	0.058	0.069	0.082
2020	14189	22432	35463	274330	321300	376313	46097	0.059	0.070	0.083
2021	41861	66118	104433	272940	320323	375933	43318	0.055	0.066	0.078
2022	53022	87398	144059	264343	310427	364546	32375	0.051	0.061	0.072
2023	63884	110265	190321	266819	313760	368960	35233	0.058	0.069	0.082
2024	26586	50255	94995	258566	304742	359164	42175	0.078	0.094	0.112
2025	52598	125683	300321	260307	308085	364632	43726	0.087	0.106	0.130
2026	13635	47111	162775	248286	299035	360158				

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Recommended citation: ICES. 2026. Golden redfish (*Sebastes norvegicus*) in subareas 5, 6, 12, and 14 (Iceland and Faroes grounds, West of Scotland, North of Azores, East of Greenland). *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2026. ICES Advice 2026, reg.27.561214, https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.30932318