

## Explanations on the ICES advice for 2024



### Redfish Norwegian Sea/Barents Sea

On the Norwegian shelf, in the Norwegian Sea and in the Barents Sea, two redfish species of commercial importance are found: the deep redfish (*Sebastes mentella*) and the golden redfish (*Sebastes norvegicus*).

The *Sebastes mentella* stock is most likely in good condition. The spawning stock biomass increased steadily between 1992 and 2005 and has since stabilised at a high level. As Russian scientists are currently excluded from ICES work, no stock assessment could be carried out within ICES in the last two years.

In contrast, *S. norvegicus* found on the Norwegian shelf and in the Barents Sea is currently in poor condition. The spawning stock biomass has steadily declined since the late 1990s and is at the lowest level in the time series below critical biomass reference points. Therefore, ICES recommends zero catches for 2023 and 2024. In addition, ICES recommends minimising bycatch of golden redfish in other fisheries, such as for cod and saithe. Nonetheless, 3,000 to 10,000 tonnes per year have been caught internationally in recent years.

### **Contact:**

Dr. Christoph Stransky, Dr. Matthias Bernreuther

Thünen Institute of Sea Fisheries, 27572 Bremerhaven

Phone: +49 (0)471 94460-141, -249,

Mail: [christoph.stransky@thuenen.de](mailto:christoph.stransky@thuenen.de), [matthias.bernreuther@thuenen.de](mailto:matthias.bernreuther@thuenen.de)

<https://www.thuenen.de/en/thuenen-topics/fisheries/understanding-fish-stock-developments-scientific-basis-for-sustainable-use/ices-advice-on-fishing-opportunities-whats-behind-it>