


Deepwater & Acadian Redfish

Sebastes mentella & *Sebastes fasciatus*



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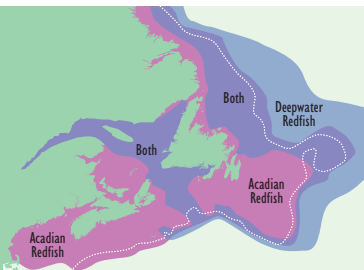
SPECIES	ACADIAN REDFISH Atlantic Population		DEEPWATER REDFISH Gulf of St. Lawrence / Laurentian Channel Population	
STATUS	Threatened	COSEWIC	Endangered	COSEWIC
	Not Listed	SARA	Not Listed	SARA

Species Description

Deepwater and Acadian Redfish are spiny-ray fish that have been combined into the 'Redfish complex' by COSEWIC. It is very difficult to distinguish the two species from one another. They are bright red in colour, with large eyes, a bony knob on the lower jaw, and typically less than 50 cm long. Deepwater Redfish have eight or more anal fin rays and typically occur at depths of 350-500 m, whereas Acadian Redfish have seven or less anal fin rays and occur at depths of 150-300 m.

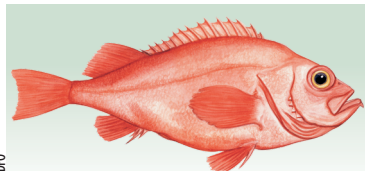
Key ID Features: * bright red * bony knob on lower jaw

In the waters off Nova Scotia, Deepwater Redfish only occur off the tip of Cape Breton in the Laurentian Channel, whereas Acadian Redfish are found throughout the Bay of Fundy, Scotian Shelf and Laurentian Channel. Both species have declined by 98% since 1984.



Interesting Points

- Redfish species can live up to 75 years!
- Young are fertilized inside the females (viviparous) and grow internally until they are released as larvae.



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Threats

- Main threat is overfishing through directed fisheries.
- Incidental catches from other fisheries, particularly shrimp.
- Undeclared catches in fisheries for redfish and groundfish.
- Juvenile redfish consumption by seals in certain areas.

Learn how you can help on page 136.



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Commercial catch of redfish

Contacts, Information & Stewardship Opportunities

Contact: DFO Species at Risk 1-866-891-0771 or xmarsara@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Info: www.sararegistry.gc.ca

Stewardship: SeaChoice: www.seachoice.org