

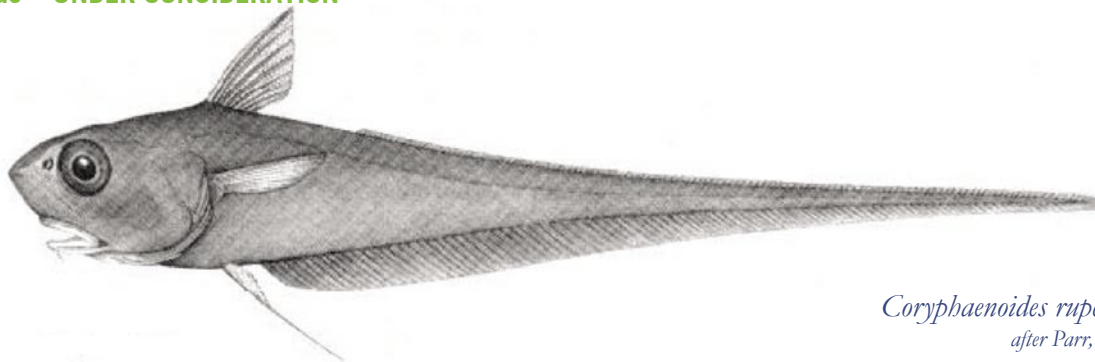
## Aquatic Species at Risk



# The Roundnose Grenadier... a *Species at Risk* in the North

COSEWIC Status – ENDANGERED November 2008

SARA Status – UNDER CONSIDERATION



*Coryphaenoides rupestris*  
after Parr, 1946

This species has been identified as Endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). It is currently being considered for listing under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA).

Protection is currently afforded through the federal *Fisheries Act*. If listed under SARA, it will be afforded additional protection and a recovery strategy will be developed.

### General Description

The Roundnose Grenadier (*Coryphaenoides rupestris*) is a deepwater, marine fish. It belongs to the family Macrouridae, a family commonly referred to as 'rattails'. The Roundnose Grenadier is also known as the Rock Grenadier, Blunt-snouted Grenadier, and the Black Grenadier. It has the following characteristics:

- Body is short and slightly compressed, tapering toward a pointed tail;
- Broad, compressed head with a soft, rounded snout;
- Small barbel on chin;
- Medium brown to grey in colour, with brownish-grey to black fins and mouth; and
- Can exceed 100 cm in total length.



## Distribution

The Roundnose Grenadier is found on the continental slopes and the mid-Atlantic ridge of the North Atlantic Ocean. In the west, its range extends northwards from Cape Hatteras to Baffin Island and Greenland. In the east, its range extends from Norway to North Africa. In Canadian waters, the Roundnose Grenadier is most abundant from Davis Strait, along the continental slope off Newfoundland and Labrador, and along the edge of the Grand Bank to Georges Bank. It is sometimes captured on the Scotian Shelf.

## Habitat and Life History

The Roundnose Grenadier is a deepwater fish that forms large schools. It is most abundant at depths between 400 and 1,200 m, but has been reported as deep as 2,600 m. It prefers habitat with little or no current, and temperatures between 3.5° and 4.5°C. Due to its preference for deep waters, the life stages of the Roundnose Grenadier are not well understood. Spawning takes place throughout the year. The eggs are round, 2.4 mm in size, free-floating, and are fertilized at the time of spawning. The Roundnose Grenadier has a low fecundity, a slow growth rate, and is late to mature. Females mature at about 10 years of age. Despite being a very slow swimmer, the Roundnose Grenadier is believed to undergo seasonal migrations, as well as daily vertical migrations. The maximum reported age is 60 years.

## Diet

The Roundnose Grenadier feeds primarily on crustaceans such as shrimp and amphipods, as well as a variety of deep-sea invertebrates and fish. Feeding intensity increases in the fall, possibly associated with its migration to the upper continental slope where prey is more abundant.

## Threats

Fishing is the most important threat to the Roundnose Grenadier. In the late 1950s/1960s, Roundnose Grenadier was harvested commercially through a targeted fishery. In the mid-1990s, the fishery was put under moratorium and fishing of this species is still not permitted in Canadian waters. Despite this, there is no sign of recovery. Outside of Canadian waters, the Roundnose Grenadier fishery is not regulated, with the exception of net mesh size. In addition, Roundnose Grenadier comprises a significant portion of the bycatch in deepwater fisheries such as Greenland Halibut (*Reinhardtius hippoglossoides*).

## Similar Species

The Roundnose Grenadier is distinguished from other grenadiers in the North Atlantic by its broad head and soft, rounded nose.

Text Sources: COSEWIC Status Report 2008.

## ROUNDNOSE GRENAIER DISTRIBUTION



Global Biodiversity Information Facility (<http://data.gbif.org>)

For more information, visit the SARA Registry website at [www.SARAreistry.gc.ca](http://www.SARAreistry.gc.ca) and the Fisheries and Oceans Canada website below.

*Cette publication est également disponible en français.*

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[www.aquaticspeciesatrisk.gc.ca](http://www.aquaticspeciesatrisk.gc.ca)

Section 32 (1) of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) states that “no person shall kill, harm, harass, capture or take an individual of a wildlife species that is listed as an extirpated species, an endangered species or a threatened species.”