

Monkfish



Biology facts

Depth Range	demersal, 0-670 m (American Angler) bathydemersal, 20-1000 m (Angler) bathydemersal, 300-1013 m (Black-bellied Angler)
Max Age	30 years (American Angler) 24 years (Angler) 21 years (Black-bellied Angler)
Maturity Age	5 years (American Angler) 4.5 years (Angler) 4 years (male) and 9-11 years (female) (Black-bellied Angler)
Max Size	120 cm (American Angler) 200 cm (Angler) 100 cm (Black-bellied Angler)
Max Weight	22.6 kg (American Angler) 57.7 kg (Angler)
Prey	fishes, zoobenthos and detritus (American Angler) fishes, occasionally sea-birds (Angler) mainly fishes (Black-bellied Angler)
Other	American Angler is found in the Western Atlantic from Quebec in Canada to northeastern Florida in USA. Angler is found in the Eastern Atlantic including the Mediterranean and Black Sea. Black-bellied Angler is found in the Eastern Atlantic, including the Mediterranean Sea(Fishbase).

Fishery Facts

Latin Name	<i>Lophius americanus</i> (American Angler) <i>Lophius piscatorius</i> (Angler) <i>Lophius budegassa</i> (Black-bellied Angler)
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Spendenkonto

Postbank, KTO: 2 061 206, BLZ: 200 100 20

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Fishing Method	multi-species trawl fishery, long-line, scallop dredges and gillnet In the Adriatic, the black-bellied angler is fished primarily with bottom trawl nets.
Annual catch	26 331 t (FAO 1999), 16 512 t (FAO 2006) (American Angler) 53 322 t (FAO 1999), 33 012 t (FAO 2006) (Angler)
Main fishing nations	USA 25 046 t and Canada 1 265t (FAO 1999) (American Angler) UK 16 989 t and France 10 592 t (FAO 1999) (Angler)
IUU	Unreported landings are considered to be substantial (in some fisheries). There is no information on the quantities of these. This suggests that the fishery has not been sufficiently controlled and that measures should be taken to improve this situation. [ICES (2007)]
Certification	not certified

Main Concerns

- **Monkfish are caught using bottom or otter trawls, scallop dredges or gillnets. Bottom trawling causes significant disturbance to seabed habitats and has high unintentional catch (bycatch) of unwanted and undersized species which are thrown back into the sea dead or dying (Monterey Bay Aquarium). Gillnets are associated with a high rate of capture of immature fish which are discarded and also kill dolphins and porpoises (Monterey Bay Aquarium).**
- **The stock of monkfish around Spain and Portugal has been depleted for many years and scientists have advised closing the fishery.**
- **In the Western Atlantic, stocks have been overfished for several years.**
- **Anglerfish is a long lived species. American angler females reach maturity at age 5 and angler and Black-bellied Angler females reach maturity at age 9-11 years. According to scientists, such characteristics make Angler and American Angler stocks vulnerable to fishing pressure and Black-bellied Angler stocks highly vulnerable.**
- **IUU fishing is a serious problem.**

Main Sources

<http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/publications/studies/bio/1309R03B95038.pdf>

<http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/3379>

<http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/3380>

<http://www.faoadriamed.org/html/Species/LophiusPiscatorius.html>

<http://www.fishbase.org/Summary/speciesSummary.php?ID=532&genusname=Lophius&speciesname=americanus>

<http://www.fishbase.org/Summary/speciesSummary.php?ID=716&genusname=Lophius&speciesname=piscatorius>

<http://www.fishbase.org/Summary/speciesSummary.php?ID=5094&genusname=Lophius&speciesname=budegassa>

<http://www.fishonline.org/search/simple/>

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<http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2008/2008/ang-8c9a.pdf>

<http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2003shy/may/anglerfish%20request.pdf>

<http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2008/2008/ang-78ab.pdf>

<http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2003shy/may/anglerfish%20request.pdf>

http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/cr/cr_seafoodwatch/content/media/MBA_SeafoodWatch_MonkfishReport.pdf

<http://www.nefmc.org/monk/frame/Framework%20Final%20Final%202002%2013%2008.pdf>

<http://www.nefmc.org/monk/index.html>

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