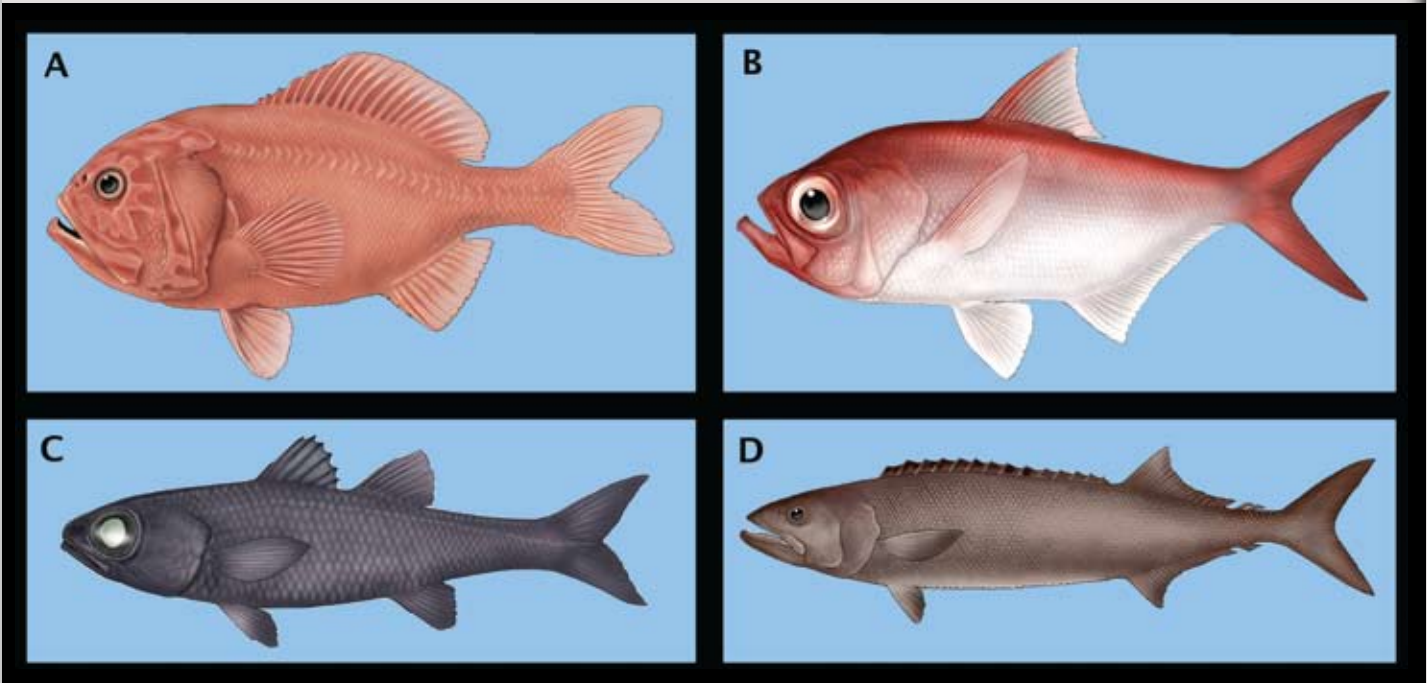


BOX 8 | Eight Major Target Species in World Seamount Fisheries

By Tony J. Pitcher



A. **Orange roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*)** is a globally distributed deepwater ambush carnivore. It is slow growing (to about 75 cm) and very long lived (up to 150 years old). This fish was one of the first seamount fish species to be exploited and was historically heavily overfished. It is now listed as threatened in Australian waters. The current annual global reported catch is about 75,000 tonnes, and the true catch is likely to be at least 30% more than this figure.

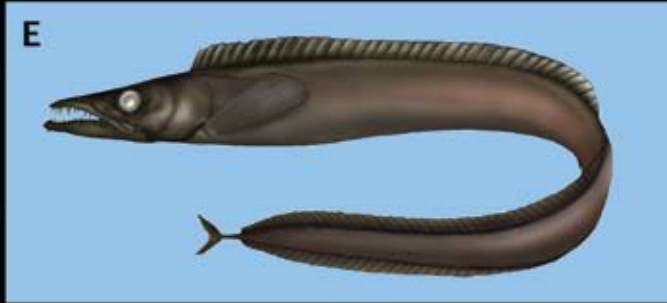
C. The **cardinalfish (*Epigonus telescopus*)** is one of a small group of deepwater cardinal fish that feeds on invertebrates and small fish worldwide, slowly growing to about 75 cm over 100 years. Present catches are reported as about 4,300 tonnes, likely a large underestimate of the true catch.

B. **Alfonsino (*Beryx splendens*)** is one of group of global species that feeds on crustacea and small fish, and grows up to 70 cm and 4 kg over about 40 years. The reported catch of about 7,500 tonnes is likely a large underestimate of the true catch.

D. **Oilfish (*Ruvettus pretiosus*)** is a mainly pelagic snake mackerel found down to 800-m depth that feeds on small squid and fishes, and grows to 200 cm. Often misidentified and misreported, the present world catch is reported as 42,000 tonnes per year, which is at least 50% less than the true catch.

Tony J. Pitcher (pitcher.t@gmail.com) is Professor of Fisheries, Fisheries Centre, Aquatic Ecosystems Research Laboratory, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.

Reported global catches for selected species groups are from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (<http://www.fao.org/fishery/statistics/en>); these catches include slopes and deepwater habitats as well as seamounts. Estimates of unreported catches are from the author's unpublished work. A–E, G: *Fishpics and ImageDOP*, University of the Azores, Portugal; F: John E. Randall, Creative Commons, Hawai'i, USA; H: NIWA, Wellington, New Zealand



E. **Black scabbard fish (*Aphanopus carbo*)** is a deepwater (600 m) Atlantic species of cutlassfish that quickly grows to 1.2 m, and is seriously overfished throughout much of its range. The reported annual catch is about 12,000 tonnes, whereas the true catch is likely to be at least 60% greater.

G. The abyssal **grenadier (*Coryphaenoides armatus*)**, a global deepwater (2000 m) rattail species, grows to about 100 cm in 50 years, feeding on benthic crustaceans. Reported annual global catches of grenadiers total about 65,000 tonnes, with a true catch at least 30% greater.

F. **Armorhead (*Pseudopentaceros richardsoni*)**, one of a small group of deepwater (600 m) Indo-Pacific piscivorous species, feeds on benthic invertebrates and fish, and grows quite rapidly to 55 cm. Worldwide catches were reported as 180,000 tonnes in the 1970s, but the present catch is said to be less than 200 tonnes. Despite severe depletion of stocks from previous overfishing, this figure is likely a vast underestimate of the true catch.

H. **Smooth oreo (*Pseudocyttus maculatus*)**, one of small group of Southern Hemisphere deepwater (1200 m) relatives of the John Dory, feeds on benthic crustaceans and grows slowly to 50 cm and 150 years old. Reported oreo catches are around 20,000 tonnes, a value that is at least 30% less than the true catch.