Greater eelpout (*Lycodes esmarkii*)

MarLIN – Marine Life Information Network
Marine Evidence–based Sensitivity Assessment (MarESA) Review

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Please note. This MarESA report is a dated version of the online review. Please refer to the website for the most up-to-date version [https://www.marlin.ac.uk/species/detail/157]. All terms and the MarESA methodology are outlined on the website (https://www.marlin.ac.uk)

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Lycodes esmarkii at 600 m in the Faeroe-Shetland Channel. 
Photographer: SERPENT Project, the DEEPSEAS Group at NOC
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Summary

Description

*Lycodes esmarkii* is an elongate species reaching up to 70 cm in length. The body tapers gradually backwards from the origin of the anal fin. The dorsal fin originates over the pectoral fins and runs continuously over the back to the tail and is joined to the anal fin. The anal fin itself then runs forwards on the underside three fifths of the body length. Very small pelvic fins are present. The pectoral fins are only slightly rounded. The lateral line is double, with ventral and midlateral branches. The eyes are large and the mouth is subterminal. Upper body colouration is dark brown with 5-9 whitish marks (often an inverted Y-shape), while the underside is lighter.

Recorded distribution in Britain and Ireland

Found off northern Scotland.

Global distribution

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Habitat

The greater eelpout is a bathydemersal species usually found at depths over 200 m off soft bottoms.

Depth range
Identifying features

- Elongate body up to 70 cm in length.
- Continuous and joined dorsal and anal fins.
- Body depth is 12-14% its length at the origin of the anal fin.
- Minute pelvic fins.
- White markings above.
- No pyloric caeca.

Additional information
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Further information sources

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Bibliography


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