Atlantic cod

**IDENTIFICATION**

**SCIENTIFIC NAME**
Gadus morhua

**SPECIES NAME(S)**
Atlantic cod

**COMMON NAMES**
Icelandic cod

**STOCK IDENTIFICATION**

Some studies have increasing evidence for local population structures among cod in Iceland suggesting that the southwestern and northeastern populations of Atlantic cod around Iceland represent two distinct spawning components (Pampoulie et al., 2006) but it does not confirm reproductive isolation (Petursdottir et al., 2006). According to a recent study (Eiríksson and Árnason, 2013), this observed genetic difference could be very small and should be interpreted with caution. Therefore, the Marine Research Institute and ICES still consider cod within Icelandic EEZ waters to be a single stock (MRI, 2015a; ICES, 2015b).

Since 2014, all Iceland landings of cod are within the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certificate scope (Vottunarstofan Tún, 2014).

**ASSESSMENT**

**Strengths**
The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) of Icelandic cod is increasing and is higher than has been observed over the last four decades. TAC restrictions have resulted in 50% reduction of F and 50% in the HR, since 2000 and are presently at a historical low and below target level. The assessment is considered consistent and scientific advice is precautionary and it is in accordance with the ICES MSY framework. Spatial and temporal closure areas in place. The set TAC is in line with the ICES advice since 2011. Discards are considered negligible (%1) and bycatch, although not completed quantified, is considered low. All Iceland landings of cod are within the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and Iceland Responsible Fisheries certificates scope.

**Weaknesses**
Sharks and skates are taken as bycatch but catch rates are incomplete and the status of stocks is unknown.

**SCORES**

**Management Quality:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9.3</td>
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**Stock Health:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Health</th>
<th>Future Health</th>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>8.2</td>
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**FIPS**
No related FPs

**MSC**

- IFI Iceland cod: MSC Certified
- Atlantic cod and haddock longline, handline and Danish seine: Withdrawn

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN**

- Monitor the performance of the fishery and its management to ensure the fishery continues to be eligible for condition-free MSC re-certification.