Atlantic cod

Identifications:
- Scientific Name: Gadus morhua
- Species Name(s): Atlantic cod
- Common Names: Icelandic cod

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 Stewarpsdóttir 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 60% reduction in 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 once 2015. Discards are considered negligible (1%) and bycatch, although not completely 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: > 8
- Managers Compliance: 10
- Fishers Compliance: 9.3

Stock Health:
- Current Health: 10
- Future Health: 8.2

FIPS:
No related FIPs

MSC:
- ISF Icelandic cod: MSC Certified
- Atlantic cod and haddock longline, handline and Danish seine: Withdrawn

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

Related Links:
- Icelandic Ministry of Industries and Innovation (MI)
- International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

Fishery Profile:
- https://www.fishsource.org/fishery_page/1479

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.