**IDENTIFICATION**

**SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Melanogrammus aeglefinus

**SPECIES NAME(S)**

Haddock

**COMMON NAMES**

Barents Sea haddock, NE Arctic haddock, Northeast Arctic haddock, Norwegian-Russian haddock

**STOCK IDENTIFICATION**

Haddock in Northeast Arctic is considered a single stock (Gåsebø and Forthun, 1999; Olsen et al., 2010) and ICES assesses this unit yearly. Cod and saithe are also targeted in this fishery.

**RELATED LINKS:**
- Joint Norwegian-Russian Fishery Commission (JNRFC)
- International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

**ASSESSMENT**

**Strengths**

- According to the precautionary harvest control rule in place, the advised catch limit for 2019 reduces levels in comparison to 2018, in order to decrease fishing mortality towards the target, given the lower abundance of older age groups and decreasing trend of the spawning stock.
- The stock is in full reproductive capacity, remaining well above the biomass target reference point.
- Illegal, unreported and unregulated catches from 2009-2014 are considered to be negligible.
- Previous concerns with the interaction of the Russian longline fleet with wolfish are currently addressed.
- The project MAREANO and other annual trawl ecosystem surveys have been providing a deeper knowledge of the Barents Sea, which is considered to be one of the best known ecosystems in the world. Sensitive species and habitats' composition have been determined spatially. Some sensitive areas are identified.
- Longlines, hooks and lines and gillnets are considered to not cause irreversible harm to the seabed habitat, in temporal and spatial terms.
- The fishery does not impact protected species and the proportion of non-target species is minimal.
- The single MSC condition regards habitats and is considered to be on target and no impacts on sensitive habitats have been found.

**Weaknesses**

- Current uncertainties in the assessment relate to the low levels of sampling from commercial catches and unknown discarding levels (but assumed to be negligible).
- Fishing mortality has been increasing and is currently above the MSY target.
- Discarding is forbidden but quantitative data is not available and assumed to be below 5% in recent years.
- There is bycatch of depleted species, such as golden redfish, of particular concern; this fishery is estimated to contribute to a significant share of total golden redfish catches, especially by trawls, and considered by ICES to far above any sustainable catch level.
- Interaction with harbour porpoise happens in the gillnet fishery but is not totally quantified.
- Trawls are known to impact the hard bottom habitat and the impacts are not well studied.
- There is the need for continued mapping of marine habitats, and designation of suitable no-trawl zones and other protection measures as regarded in the MSC condition.

**scores**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Management Quality:</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
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<th>Stock Health:</th>
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<td>Current Health</td>
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**FIPS**

No related FIPs

**MSC**

Compagnie des Pêches Saint Malo and Euronor cod and haddock: MSC Recertified

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Make urgent further efforts (e.g. use additional technical conservation measures) to reduce the bycatch of golden redfish and coastal cod.
- Implement an at-sea monitoring programme to improve data on protected, endangered, and threatened species interactions.

**Fishery Profile**

[https://www.fishsource.org/fishery_page/1717](https://www.fishsource.org/fishery_page/1717)

This profile last updated on 2 February 2017
Participate in the ongoing efforts to investigate impacts of bottom trawls on the soft-bottom habitat of the Barents Sea.