




Haddock Barents Sea

Fishery:  Norway/Russia  Russian Federation  Bottom trawls

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 the Northeast Arctic is considered as a single stock (*Gjæver and Forthun 1999*)(*Olsen et al. 2010*) and ICES assesses this unit yearly. Saithe and haddock are mainly bycaught in the cod fishery but there is also a target fishery (*ICES 2019*).



RELATED LINKS:

- [Joint Norwegian-Russian Fishery Commission \(JNRFC\)](#)
- [International Council for the Exploration of the Sea \(ICES\)](#)

ASSESSMENT

Strengths

- The stock assessment process incorporates many best practices features.
- The stock is in full reproductive capacity, remaining well above the biomass target reference point despite the decreasing trend.
- Illegal, unreported and unregulated catches from 2009-2014 are considered to be negligible.
- There are several management measures in place: spatial, temporal and closures for the protection of juveniles; technical measures in the fishing measures and also control measures. Some are harmonized within Russian and Norwegian EEZ waters.
- Previous concerns with the interaction of the Russian longline fleet with wolffish are currently addressed.
- The project MAREANO and other annual trawl ecosystem surveys have been providing a deeper knowledge of the Barents Sea ecoregion, which is considered as one of the best-known ecosystems in the world. Sensitive species and habitats' composition have been determined spatially. Some sensitive areas and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems are identified.
- Longlines, hooks and lines and gillnets are considered to not cause irreversible harm to the seabed habitat, in temporal and spatial terms.

Weaknesses

- The reliability of the assessment may be compromised by what is shown in the stock spawning retrospective pattern, by the unknown levels of discarding and use of data from only one survey conducted during Winter 2019.
- Fishing mortality has been increasing and is currently above the MSY target.
- 2019 catch limit is set above the scientific advice and is not according to the harvest control rule. Previous' years quota transfers have been above what is advised by ICES.
- Discarding is forbidden but quantitative data is not available and assumed to be negligible in recent years.
- There is bycatch of depleted species, such as golden redfish, of particular concern; this fishery, targeting both cod and haddock, is estimated to contribute to a significant share of total golden redfish catches, especially by trawls, and considered by ICES to be far above any sustainable catch level.
- Limitations are found on the quantitative determination, monitoring and analysis of the impact of the different operating gears on retained species (to know if they are within biologically-based limits) and on sensitive habitats.
- A comprehensive strategy to manage the interactions of the fishery with the ecosystem elements is lacking.

SCORES

Management Quality:

Management Strategy	Managers Compliance	Fishers Compliance
≥ 8	7.9	10

Stock Health:

Current Health	Future Health
10	7.7

FIPS

No related FIPs

MSC

- FIUN Barents & Norwegian Seas cod and haddock:
MSC Recertified
- Barents Sea cod, haddock and saithe:
MSC Recertified
- Russian Federation Barents sea cod and haddock:
MSC Recertified
- Arkhangelsk Trawl fleet Norwegian & Barents Seas cod, haddock & saithe:
MSC Certified

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.
- Contact decision-makers and request that benchmark stock assessments for both cod and haddock be conducted in 2020, including addressing retrospective patterns for haddock.
- Make urgent further efforts (e.g. via additional technical conservation measures as described [here](#)) to substantially reduce the bycatch of golden redfish and coastal cod.
- Implement an at-sea monitoring programme to improve data on bycatch, especially endangered, threatened and protected species interactions, and implement a comprehensive strategy to evaluate and manage cumulative impacts of the different gear types in this fishery on all types of bycatch
- Participate in the ongoing efforts to investigate impacts of bottom trawls on the soft-bottom habitat of the Barents Sea and promote the use of new information to develop a comprehensive strategy for protecting all types of vulnerable marine ecosystems throughout the current and expected geographic extent of the fishery.
- Press regulators to set catch limits in line with scientific advice and the agreed harvest control rule.