





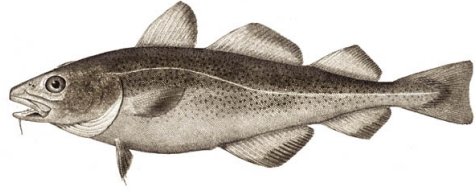
**Fishery Profile**
[https://www.fishsource.org/fishery\\_page/2428](https://www.fishsource.org/fishery_page/2428)

This profile last updated on 5 July 2017

# Atlantic cod Georges Bank

 Fishery:  E Georges Bank  Canada 5Zc  Canada  Bottom trawls

## IDENTIFICATION


**SCIENTIFIC NAME**
*Gadus morhua*
**SPECIES NAME(S)**

Atlantic cod

**STOCK IDENTIFICATION**

Cod on the entire Georges Bank is thought to be a single biological stock. On the Eastern Georges Bank, both Canada and the US have jurisdiction on either side of the Hague line, and collaborate in conducting an assessment of cod in this area, and in allocating catch shares. The US also conducts an overall assessment for the entire Georges Bank.


**RELATED LINKS:**

- [Canada-US Transboundary Management Guidance Committee \(TMGC\)](#), Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
- [Canada - US Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee \(TRAC\)](#)

## ASSESSMENT

**Strengths**

A new management system has been undertaken to reduce fishing mortality and increase the probability of rebuilding. Catches and fishing mortality have responded with a lowering of both over the last few years

**Weaknesses**

This stock is in a state of depletion. Current estimates place it at only 10% of its  $SSB_{MSY}$  levels and slightly larger than 5% of carrying capacity.

Understandably stock recruitment is also well below average and will continue to be so unless the current trend is reversed.

Fishery has some impacts to PET species and habitat structure, but managers from both countries have recently implemented measures to reduce these interactions. The results of these actions are unknown at this point.

## SCORES

**Management Quality:**

Management Strategy	Managers Compliance	Fishers Compliance
0.4	10	10

**Stock Health:**

Current Health	Future Health
0.8	2.4

## FIPS

No related FIPs

## MSC

No related MSC fisheries

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**CATCHERS & REGULATORS**

1. Maintain a low fishing mortality rate to allow for rebuilding.
2. Improve the understanding of gear impacts on the bottom habitat.

1. Support maintenance of existing closed areas to cod harvest as a tool to help rebuilding, including when decisions are expected at the US New England Fishery Management Council meetings.
2. If closed areas are opened, limit fishing to exempted gear types and require 100% observer coverage.
3. Conduct stock structure and population dynamic research to ensure stock boundaries between this stock and the Gulf of Maine stock are appropriate.

**RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN**

1. Contact the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee to encourage them to recommend maintaining a low fishing mortality rate and to undertake analyses to better understand the impact of fishing on bottom habitat.

1. Companies sourcing from the stock should communicate their support for maintaining closed areas to national and regional administrations.
2. Companies not currently sourcing from this fishery should avoid doing so until sufficient recovery is seen in the stock. Companies should however encourage regulators to maintain existing closed areas.