Haddock
Northern Shelf

IDENTIFICATION

SCIENTIFIC NAME
Melanogrammus aeglefinus

SPECIES NAME(S)
Haddock

COMMON NAMES
hadings, holler, seed haddock

STOCK IDENTIFICATION

Two North Sea haddock stock units - Subareas IV (North Sea) + Division IIaW (Skagerrak) and Division VIa (West of Scotland) - were separately assessed until 2014. However, based on consideration of both genetic approaches and life history data, ICES has since determined that these stocks are not likely biologically distinct and should be considered under the same advice (ICES, 2014a,b). Presently, there is some disconnect not only between the newly designated stock unit and corresponding management areas, but also between management plan areas and areas for which set TACs are allocated. There is an existing EU-Norway management plan corresponding to stocks in sub-area IV and Division IVa, while a combined TAC applies to Subarea IV and the EU waters of Division IIa. An EU management plan is proposed for stocks in Division VIa and the EU waters of Division VIb, and a corresponding stock management area. Lack of a coherent management plan prompted introduction of a new MSC certification condition in 2014.

ASSESSMENT

Strengths

1. The advice now considers three areas that were previously assessed separately, thus corresponding to boundaries of a single stock. Scientific advice is based on the MSY approach.
2. Consistent advice for the management plan for North Sea and Skagerrak haddock, contributed to a trend of reduced fishing mortality and yield maintenance. Through a new management plan for the entire assessment area is now needed.
3. The spawning biomass remains above MSY and is greater than prior years, albeit still below the long-term average.

Weaknesses

1. The unit now lacks a management plan that is applicable to the entire stock area. Lack of a coherent management plan prompted introduction of a new MSC certification condition in 2014.
2. Set TACs are slightly misaligned with both the stock (assessment) area and existing management plan areas. Set TACs are only assumed to represent the whole stock; there is not yet a combined index for the entire area.
3. Despite lower levels of discard over recent years, ICES recommends that measures be taken to further reduce discards in order to protect future recruitment.
4. The spawning biomass remains above MSY and is greater than prior years, albeit still below the long-term average.

Conditions established during the original MSC assessment: for the two Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certified fishery sectors (one each in Denmark and the United Kingdom) were met, and throughout this process, improvements were made with regard to:
- Gear selectivity and performance
- Data quality for retained and non-retained target species and bycatch, including catch and stock assessment data for target species and catch data and stock identification for ETP species
- Documentation and understanding of fishery interactions with vulnerable habitat and ETP species
- Capacity to quantitatively evaluate fishery-related mortality on ETP species, and measure trends and extent of impacts.

MSC
- No related FIPs

SCORES

Management Quality:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
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<td>✓ 6</td>
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Stock Health:

<table>
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<th>Current Health</th>
<th>Future Health</th>
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FIPS
- NO related FIPS
RECOMMENDATIONS

MONITOR the progress in closing out conditions placed upon the MSC certification of the fishery and if agreed timelines are met, offer assistance in bringing conditions where possible.

Fishery Profile
https://www.fishsource.org/fishery_page/3606