**Haddock Northern Shelf**

**Fishery:** Northern Shelf  
**EU:** United Kingdom  
**Danish:**

**IDENTIFICATION**

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** Melanogrammus aeglefinus

**SPECIES NAME(S):** Haddock

**COMMON NAMES:** hadig, kulle, stokfish, haddock

**STOCK IDENTIFICATION**

Two North Sea haddock stock units - Subarea IV (North Sea) + Division IIIaW (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 covered under the same advice (ICES, 2014a,b). Presently, there is some disconnect not only between the newly designated stock unit and corresponding management plan 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 IIIa, while a combined TAC applies to Subarea IV and the EU waters of Division IV. An EU management plan is proposed for stocks in Division IIa and the EU waters of Division IIIa, and a corresponding stock area is already in place. Further, haddock in Division VIa and the southern portion of Division IIIa are generally considered to belong to a single and separate stock unit (ICES, 2014c). Presently, there is no stock unit that has been determined to be biologically distinct and should be covered under the same advice (ICES, 2014a,b). Presently, there is some disconnect not only between the newly designated stock unit and corresponding management plan 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 IIIa, while a combined TAC applies to Subarea IV and the EU waters of Division IV. An EU management plan is proposed for stocks in Division IIa and the EU waters of Division IIIa, and a corresponding stock area is already in place. Further, haddock in Division VIa and the southern portion of Division IIIa are generally considered to belong to a single and separate stock unit (ICES, 2014c) (see also FishSource profile for Faroese). There is need for a comprehensive plan exclusively for haddock in Subareas IV and Divisions IIIaW and VIa (ICES, 2014a; 2014b), and corresponding alignment of harvest guidelines and reporting.

**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 (St3gger) despite a series of poor recruitments.
4. The 2014 recruitment estimate is higher than prior years, albeit still below the long-term average.
5. The fishery history data, though not continuous, has been in place since 2008.
6. Discards remain at historical low levels, though they increased slightly from 2013 to 2014.
7. The overall reporting of catch data provided to ICES improved during 2013-2014.
8. Conditions established during the original MSC assessments for the two Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certified fisheries 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.
9. Alternative measures for pursuing additional protected areas around vulnerable habitats.
10. The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) assessment of the United Kingdom fishery sector highlighted the following strengths:
   - The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) assessment of the United Kingdom fishery sector outlined the following strengths:
     - 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
     - A high degree of certainty that the effects of the fishery are within limits of national and international requirements for protection of ETP species, and that there are no significant direct or indirect effects of the fishery on ETP species.

**Weaknesses**

- 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.
- Set TACs are slightly misaligned with both the stock (assessment) area and existing management plan areas.
- For assessment purposes, the survey indices (conducted in Subarea IV and Division IIIa only) are assumed to represent the whole stock; there is not yet a combined index for the entire area.
- Despite lower levels of discarding over recent years, ICES recommends that measures be taken to further reduce discards in order to protect future recruitment.
- Tracking is the main management tool. This type of fishing impacts benthic habitats and their communities.

**SCORES**

**Management Quality:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
<th>Managers 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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<td>10</td>
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**FIPS**

No related FIPS.

**MSC**

- SFOA Northern Demersal Stocks
MSC Recertified

RECOMMENDATIONS
RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN

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