IDENTIFICATION

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Melanogrammus aeglefinus

SPECIES NAME(S)

Haddock

STOCK IDENTIFICATION

Genetic studies indicated a significant differentiation of Iceland Haddock stock (Gíæver and Forthun, 1999; ICES, 2014c).

Since 2014, all Iceland landings of Haddock are within the Marine Stewardsdhip Council (MSC) certificate scope (Daníelsson and Medley, 2014).

RELATED LINKS:

- Icelandic Ministry of Industries and Innovation (MII)
- International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

ASSESSMENT

Strengths

A precautionary management plan was adopted in 2013. The estimated spawning stock (SSB) has slightly increased from last year, after a decreasing trend since 2008 and the 2014 year class is estimated to be strong. Harvest rate is below the target level. Discarding is illegal and has been minor since 2001 and bycatch of non-commercial species is minimal. Permanent and temporary area closures to protect vulnerable benthic ecosystems are in place. Since the 2013/2014 fishing season, set TAC has been following the harvest control rule and scientific advice. All Iceland landings of haddock are within the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and Iceland Responsible fisheries certificates scope.

Weaknesses

The stock is predicted to decrease over the next two years, due to poor recruitment in recent years. There is some uncertainty on the state of stock in assessment based on data input from surveys and in prediction of growth and therefore in the short and medium term forecasts. Sharks and skates are taken as bycatch but catch rates are incomplete and the status of stocks is unknown.

A harvest strategy has not yet been implemented, although it is expected to be in late 2012. There is some uncertainty in prediction of growth and therefore in the short and medium term forecasts. Growth is to some degree density dependent but is predicted to improve with reduced stock in coming years (ICES, 2011b). Reports from fishermen in 2009 indicate that the low cod quota makes fishing haddock without a large cod bycatch very difficult. This could indicate that haddock quotas in Icelandic waters are too high (ICES, 2011b). The stock is at risk of being harvested unsustainably as it has been generally above Fpa. Discarding is not included in the assessment and this could influence recruitment estimates.

SCORES

Management Quality:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9.6</td>
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Stock Health:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Health</th>
<th>Future Health</th>
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<tr>
<td>≥ 6</td>
<td>8.6</td>
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FIPS

No related FIPs

MSC

- Samherji Icelandic cod & haddock trawl & longline: Withdrawn
- ISF Iceland haddock: MSC Certified
- Atlantic cod and haddock longline, handline and Danish seine: Withdrawn

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.