



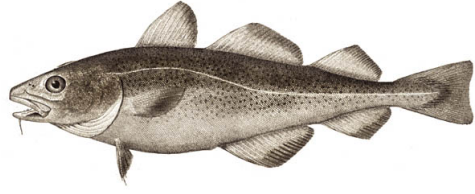


Atlantic cod Eastern Scotian shelf

 Fishery:  Eastern Scotian shelf  Canada 4VsW  Canada  Longlines

IDENTIFICATION



SCIENTIFIC NAME

Gadus morhua

SPECIES NAME(S)

Atlantic cod

COMMON NAMES

4VsW cod, northeastern Scotian shelf cod

STOCK IDENTIFICATION

Eastern Scotian shelf cod in areas 4VsW has historically been assessed as a unit, but is described as a stock complex, with several subpopulations or spawning locations (Smedbol et al, 2002). Additionally, some mixing is known to occur between the Eastern Scotian Shelf component and cod in 4Vn and the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife considers a Laurentian South “Designatable Unit” which includes this (4VsW) management unit, along with the [Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence](#) (4T-4Vn, from November-April) and resident 4Vn cod (from May-October)(DFO, 2011).



RELATED LINKS:

- [Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada \(DFO\)](#)
- [Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada \(DFO\)](#)

ASSESSMENT

Strengths

- The directed fishery is currently closed
- While information on current catch. Landings and removals are unavailable, it is likely that the recent decline is not attributed to fishing mortality.
- A network of marine protected areas and marine refuges are in place. Some of these are specific to rebuilding cod in the region

Weaknesses

- An assessment update has not been conducted since 2003
- The structure of the biological stock is not clear, and the complexity of spawning components should be recognized in a recovery plan, and a review made of the assessment/management units.
- The Eastern Scotian Shelf unit is considered by COSEWIC to be part of the Laurentian South Designatable Unit which is assessed as Endangered.
- Survey indices have recently declined form a local high, to a time-series low
- Data on set quotas, catch, landings, and effort are not publicly available despite repeated attempts.
- No recovery plan appears to be in place.

SCORES

Management Quality:

	Managers Compliance	Fishers Compliance
Management Strategy	NOT YET SCORED	NOT YET SCORED
	< 6	< 6

Stock Health:

Current Health	Future Health
< 6	< 6

FIPS

No related FIPs

MSC

No related MSC fisheries

RECOMMENDATIONS

CATCHERS & REGULATORS

- Develop and implement a recovery plan for this stock, including biological reference points.

RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN

- Companies should encourage the Regional Director-General for the Maritimes Region to implement a recovery plan.