Atlantic cod

Gulf of Maine

ASSESSMENT

Strengths
The assessment process includes many best practices including an age-structured model and an independent peer review. The assessment has improved in quality. Compliance has been high. Assessment is scheduled to be updated or peer reviewed in 2015.

Weaknesses
The stock is chronically both overfished and undergoing overfishing. Rebuilding plans have not been successful. Stock is in a low productivity regime and is unlikely to achieve rebuilding targets in the near future. Further declines are probable.

SCORES

Management Quality:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
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Stock Health:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Health</th>
<th>Future Health</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>0</td>
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FIPS
No related FIPs

MSC
No related MSC fisheries

RECOMMENDATIONS

CATCHERS & REGULATORS
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 Georges Bank stock are appropriate.

RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN
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.