Atlantic cod

**Gulf of Maine**

**Fishery:** US Gulf of Maine, United States, Bottom trawls

## Identification

**Scientific Name:** Gadus morhua  
**Species Name(s):** Atlantic cod  
**Stock Identification:**

## 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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Health</th>
<th>Future Health</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>0</td>
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</table>

**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.