





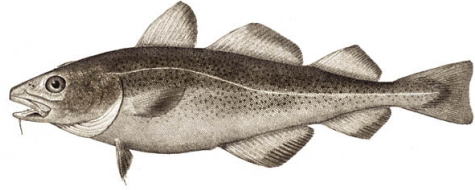
**Fishery Profile**
[https://www.fishsource.org/fishery\\_page/4166](https://www.fishsource.org/fishery_page/4166)

This profile last updated on 30 September 2016

# Atlantic cod W of Scotland

 Fishery:  W of Scotland  EU  United Kingdom  Single boat bottom otter trawls

## IDENTIFICATION


**SCIENTIFIC NAME**
*Gadus morhua*
**SPECIES NAME(S)**

Atlantic cod

**STOCK IDENTIFICATION**

Cod west of Scotland is assessed as a single stock but at least two subpopulations may be present: a southern subcomponent with some exchange with the Irish Sea and a northern component which intermixes with the [North Sea stock](#) (ICES, 2013b).


**RELATED LINKS:**

- [European Commission \(EC\)](#)
- [International Council for the Exploration of the Sea \(ICES\)](#)

## ASSESSMENT

**Strengths**

- The directed fishery is closed. Areas closed to most gears have been put in place to protect cod but a review may be beneficial in assisting the stock's recovery.
- Cod in the region is assessed annually by an analytical age-based model.
- A representative network of benthic habitats is in the process of being mapped and established.

**Weaknesses**

- The spawning stock is depleted and recruitment is impaired.
- Discards from bycatch fisheries are contributing to very high fishing mortality which is impairing recovery. Uncertainty in catch and discards series is high.
- The management plan requires a revision of its target fishing mortality.

## SCORES

**Management Quality:**

Management Strategy	Managers Compliance	Fishers Compliance
0.4	10	< 6

**Stock Health:**

Current Health	Future Health
0.9	2.4

## FIPS

No related FIPs

## MSC

No related MSC fisheries

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**CATCHERS & REGULATORS**

- Start a fishery improvement project to address sustainability issues in this fishery. For advice on starting a FIP, see [SFP's Seafood Industry Guide to FIPs](#).
- Communicate to fishery managers that there are sustainability issues in this fishery that may be affecting the sale of products, and request that they comprehensively evaluate and address such issues.

**RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN**

- Encourage your supply chain to start a fishery improvement project. For advice on starting a FIP see [SFP's Seafood Industry Guide to FIPs](#).
- Work with other suppliers and buyers on a pre-competitive basis to start a supplier roundtable to review improvement needs in this and other similar fisheries, catalyze fishery improvement projects, and monitor progress in improvement efforts.