Atlantic herring
North Sea autumn spawners

**IDENTIFICATION**

**SCIENTIFIC NAME**
Clupea harengus

**SPECIES NAME(S)**
Atlantic herring

**STOCK IDENTIFICATION**
North Sea autumn spawning herring is considered and assessed as a single stock, consisting of four spawning components, which are genetically homogeneous. Some mixing with other neighboring stocks occurs, particularly in Division IIIa (with Western Baltic Spring Spawning herring) (ICES, 2015b).

**RELATED LINKS:**
- European Commission (EC)
- Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries (DoF)
- International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

**ASSESSMENT**

**Strengths**
- There is an updated management plan since 2008 which is consistent with the precautionary and MSY approaches.
- Fishing mortality has been low in recent years.
- Spawning stock biomass has been increasing and is currently estimated to be well above the precautionary reference point, Bpa.
- The directed herring fishery is considered a “very clean” fishery, with almost no impact on the seabed and minimal bycatch, including of Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species.
- Slippage associated to high-grading is not allowed in the North Sea and Skagerrak, and discarding is prohibited in Norway.
- Fishers’ compliance has been improving.

**Weaknesses**
- The series of weak recruitment observed since 2002 is the lowest observed; the stock is considered to remain in a low productivity phase.
- TACs are generally set higher than ICES recommendations.

**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>8.4</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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<td>10</td>
<td>9.3</td>
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**FIPS**

For related FIPs.

**MSC**

- FIPM for North Sea and Eastern Channel pelagic trawl herring: MSC Certified
- Pelagic Freezer Trawler Association North Sea Herring: MSC Recertified
- IPAA & SPFSA North Sea Herring: MSC Certified

**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.