Atlantic herring
NE Atlantic spring spawners

FISHERY
Norway/NEAFC, Norway, Purse seiners

IDENTIFICATION

SCIENTIFIC NAME
Clupea harengus

SPECIES NAME(S)
Atlantic herring

COMMON NAMES
Atlanto-Scandian herring, Norwegian spring-spawning herring

STOCK IDENTIFICATION
The NE Atlantic Spring spawner herring (also known as Norwegian Spring spawning herring) is the largest herring stock in the world, and is widely distributed and highly migratory through the parts of the NE Atlantic where it occurs.

It is treated and assessed as a single stock, based on the evidence of no genetic differences between the various spawning areas. Occasionally, some mixing with other herring stocks may occur in adjacent areas to its distribution (ICES, 2014a).

ASSESSMENT

STRONGS
- An analytical assessment is conducted.
- A precautionary management plan is in place.
- Compliance with catch limits has been high.
- Minor bycatch and discards, although discards are not fully quantified.
- ETP species and the seabed ecosystem are not impacted by the Norwegian fishery.
- Discarding is illegal.
- The fishery is considered to be "clean", i.e., with low levels of bycatch.

WEAKNESSES
- Stock biomass is declining due to low recruitment and underestimated fishing mortality, which was exceeding the management plan target.
- The spawning stock size has also been revised, to a lower level than previously estimated.
- The lack of agreement on the TAC for 2013 has led to quotas being unilaterally set, and resulted in a global TAC higher than the anticipated in the management plan. If the situation persists it may lead to overfishing and accelerate the present decline of the stock.
- Bycatch of Atlantic mackerel has been increasing.

SCORES

Management Quality:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>&lt; 6 to 8.1</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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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>7.4</td>
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FIPS
No related FIPs

MSC
Norway spring spawning herring
MSC Recertified

RECOMMENDATIONS

RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN
- Identify and rectify issues that are preventing the MSC certification conditions from being closed out in the agreed timeframe. Offer assistance in closing conditions where possible.

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