Atlantic herring North Sea autumn spawners

**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, B_{pa}.
- 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 highgrading 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**

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<tr>
<th>Management Quality:</th>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
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<th>Stock Health:</th>
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<td>Current Health</td>
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**FIPS**

For related FIPs.

**MSC**
- Pelagic Freezer Trawler Association North Sea Herring: MSC Recertified
- FPA & SPSG 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 recertification.