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, 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 highgrading is not allowed in the North Sea and Skagerrak, and discarding is prohibited in Narrey.
- 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
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</table>

Stock Health:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Health</th>
<th>Future Health</th>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>9.3</td>
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</tbody>
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FIPS

No related FIPs

MSC

- Pelagic Trawler Association North Sea Herring: MSC Recertified
- FIPA & SPSG North Sea Herring: MSC Certified

Recommendations

- Monitor the performance of the fishery and its management to ensure the fishery continues to be eligible for condition-free MSC re-certification.