**Atlantic herring**

### 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

#### Strengths
- An analytical assessment is conducted.
- A precautionary management plan is in place.
- Compliance with catch limits has been high.
- Minor by-catch and discards, although discards are not fully quantified.

#### 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.

#### SCORES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>B</td>
<td>7.4</td>
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### FIPs

No related FIPs

### MSC

- Pelagic Freeze-Trawler Association Atlanto-Scandian herring pelagic trawl
- 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.