Atlantic herring
NE Atlantic spring spawners

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, 2016).

ASSESSMENT

Strengths
- 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.

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

Management Quality:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>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>8</td>
<td>7.4</td>
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</tbody>
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FIPS

No related FIPs

MSC

- Pelagic Freezer-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

RELATED LINKS

- European Commission (EC), North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

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

Fishery: EU/NEAFC, Lithuania, Midwater trawls

This profile last updated on 7 October 2016