Atlantic herring

Atlantic herring (Clupea harengus) is widely distributed in the Northwest and Northeast Atlantic. Within the Northeast Atlantic, they are distributed from the northern Bay of Biscay to Greenland, and east into the Barents Sea.

Stock distribution is uncertain for Atlantic herring in this area. Many local populations with differing growth rates share similar habitats and may mix during certain times of the year. There is some evidence that western Baltic spring-spawning herring (Division 3a and subdivisions 22–24) and central Baltic herring (subdivisions 25–29 and 32, excluding Gulf of Riga herring) are mixing in subdivisions 24–26. Additionally, it is known that Gulf of Riga Atlantic herring are caught in the Central Baltic Sea Area, and vice versa (ICES 2016). This profile covers the Central Baltic Sea herring stock.

ASSESSMENT

Strengths
- Fishing mortality is below F at MSY while B is well higher than target.
- Discards are considered negligible.
- Natural mortality in assessment accounts for changes in predator demand.
- Model tends to underestimate SSB and overestimate F relative to the terminal year, except the most recent update, and thus even more precautionary.
- Pelagic gear similar to what is used in this fishery tends to have few benthic habitat impacts.

Weaknesses
- Mixing and co-occurring of this stock with Gulf of Riga is an uncertainty in the assessment, but somewhat accounted for.
- Mixing with western Baltic spring-spawning herring is known to occur but is not factored into the assessment.

SCORES

Management Quality:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
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Stock Health:

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FIPS

No related FIPs

MSC

No related MSC fisheries