Atlantic cod
S Gulf of St. Lawrence

**ASSESSMENT**

**Strengths**
Stock assessment uses well-researched methodologies that have been in use for a number of years. Indices and commercial CPUE compare well with scientific analysis. Managers have closed directed fishing to this stock since 2009, to assist in rebuilding.

**Weaknesses**
Assessment has a slight retrospective pattern that underestimates stock size and over estimates fishing mortality. Stock remains highly depleted and without signs of recovery in the near future. Decreased stock productivity likely the result of increased natural mortality. Managers have only been following scientific advice since 2008. Recently, a targeted removal program of grey seals in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence was proposed as an additional measure to allow cod stock rebuilt. However, the effects of such removal program in the ecosystem are insufficiently known.

**SCORES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Quality:</th>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&lt; 6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stock Health:</th>
<th>Current Health</th>
<th>Future Health</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>&lt; 6</td>
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**FIPS**
No related FIPS

**MSC**
No related MSC fisheries

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**CATCHERS & REGULATORS**
1. Maintain the directed fishery closure until sufficient recovery is seen.
2. Continue investigations into causes for increased natural mortality. Suggest more research on the ecosystem effects of a possible removal program of grey seals, before such program is implemented.
3. Adopt an ecosystem based fisheries management approach.

**RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN**
1. Companies sourcing from the stock should contact the national administration and request that an ecosystem based fisheries management approach is adopted.
2. Companies not currently sourcing should avoid doing so until sufficient recovery is seen in the stock. Companies should also encourage national administration to adopt an ecosystem based fisheries management approach to support long-term recovery of the stock.