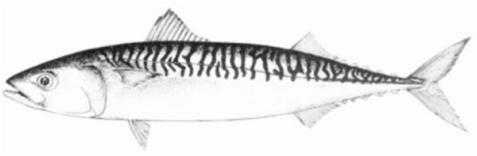


Atlantic mackerelNE Atlantic

 Fishery:  EU  Portugal  Midwater trawls

IDENTIFICATION



SCIENTIFIC NAME

Scomber scombrus

SPECIES NAME(S)

Atlantic mackerel

COMMON NAMES

Atlantic mackerel, joey, mackerel

STOCK IDENTIFICATION

Northeast Atlantic mackerel defines the mackerel in the region from ICES Division 9a in the south to Division 2a in the north. Spawning areas are equally widely distributed but catches are attributed to three spawning components by area – North Sea (4, 3a), Western (6, 7, 8a,b,d,e) and Southern (8c, 9a). Fish from Southern and Western areas have been shown to migrate to the North Sea, Norwegian Sea and Baltic Sea after spawning where they become indistinct from other components. For practical purposes all mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic are considered to form a single stock (ICES, 2012a,b).



RELATED LINKS:

- [European Commission \(EC\)](#)
- [International Council for the Exploration of the Sea \(ICES\)](#)

ASSESSMENT

Strengths

- The management agreement, though lacking in its implementation, is precautionary.

Weaknesses

- No international agreement exists between all states participating in the fishery and advised catches are routinely exceeded.
- Fishing mortality in the entire area remains above F_{MSY} .
- The North Sea spawning biomass remains low.

SCORES

Management Quality:

Management Strategy	Managers Compliance	Fishers Compliance
≥ 6	0	10

Stock Health:

Current Health	Future Health
7.3	4.8

FIPS

No related FIPs

MSC

No related MSC fisheries

RECOMMENDATIONS

RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN

Against the background of the Marine Stewardship Council suspending multiple NE Atlantic Mackerel certifications (as of 2 March 2019), and noting that an ICES inter-benchmarking process to review quality issues in the stock assessment is underway (due March 2019) the supply chain, as a matter of urgency, should:

- Form, or join, a coordinated group of like-minded companies within the supply chain and agree to a clear set of criteria for when the members would cease to source North East Atlantic mackerel. Such criteria might include the state of the stock, catch, effort and specific timescales.
- Communicate the consensus position of the group to all parties in the current negotiations around the allocation of North East Atlantic mackerel.
- Make every effort to increase the membership of the group to include buyers, processors, etc from a wide range of countries.
- Vigorously communicate their concerns around the North East Atlantic mackerel fishery to as wide a range of relevant audiences as possible.
- Cease sourcing North East Atlantic mackerel if the criteria are not met for the forthcoming fishing season (autumn 2019 onwards).