

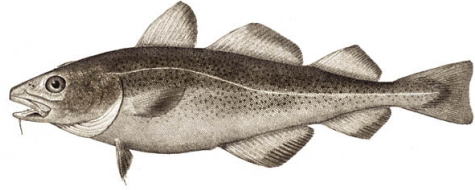
Fishery Profile
https://www.fishsource.org/fishery_page/5366

This profile last updated on 5 July 2017

Atlantic cod Georges Bank

 Fishery:  E Georges Bank  US E. Georges Bank  United States  Bottom trawls

IDENTIFICATION


SCIENTIFIC NAME
Gadus morhua
SPECIES NAME(S)

Atlantic cod

STOCK IDENTIFICATION

Cod on the entire Georges Bank is thought to be a single biological stock. On the Eastern Georges Bank, both Canada and the US have jurisdiction on either side of the Hague line, and collaborate in conducting an assessment of cod in this area, and in allocating catch shares. The US also conducts an overall assessment for the entire Georges Bank.


RELATED LINKS:

- [Canada-US Transboundary Management Guidance Committee \(TMGC\)](#), [New England Fishery Management Council \(NEFMC\)](#)
- [Canada - US Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee \(TRAC\)](#)

ASSESSMENT

Strengths

A new management system has been undertaken to reduce fishing mortality and increase the probability of rebuilding. Catches and fishing mortality have responded with a lowering of both over the last few years

Weaknesses

This stock is in a state of depletion. Current estimates place it at only 10% of its SSB_{MSY} levels and slightly larger than 5% of carrying capacity.

Understandably stock recruitment is also well below average and will continue to be so unless the current trend is reversed.

Fishery has some impacts to PET species and habitat structure, but managers from both countries have recently implemented measures to reduce these interactions. The results of these actions are unknown at this point.

SCORES

Management Quality:

Management Strategy	Managers Compliance	Fishers Compliance
0.4	10	10

Stock Health:

Current Health	Future Health
0.8	2.4

FIPS

No related FIPs

MSC

No related MSC fisheries

RECOMMENDATIONS

CATCHERS & REGULATORS

1. Maintain a low fishing mortality rate to allow for rebuilding.
2. Improve the understanding of gear impacts on the bottom habitat.

1. Support maintenance of existing closed areas to cod harvest as a tool to help rebuilding, including when decisions are expected at the US New England Fishery Management Council meetings.
2. If closed areas are opened, limit fishing to exempted gear types and require 100% observer coverage.
3. Conduct stock structure and population dynamic research to ensure stock boundaries between this stock and the Gulf of Maine stock are appropriate.

RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN

- This profile is not currently high on our priority list for development, and we can't at this time provide an accurate prediction of when it will be developed. To speed up an evaluation of the sustainability status of lower priority fisheries we have initiated a program whereby industry can directly contract SFP-approved analysts to develop a FishSource profile on a fishery. More information on this External Contributor Program is available at <https://www.sustainablefish.org/Programs/Science/External-Contributor-Program>.

1. Contact the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee to encourage them to recommend maintaining a low fishing mortality rate and to undertake analyses to better understand the impact of fishing on bottom habitat.

1. Companies sourcing from the stock should communicate their support for maintaining closed areas to national and regional administrations.
2. Companies not currently sourcing from this fishery should avoid doing so until sufficient recovery is seen in the stock. Companies should however encourage regulators to maintain existing closed areas.