Atlantic cod

Georges Bank

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

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 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.

MANAGEMENT QUALITY:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Quality</th>
<th>Managers</th>
<th>Fishers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategy</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compliance</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Stock Health:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Health</th>
<th>Future Health</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>2.4</td>
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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.
3. 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.
4. If closed areas are opened, limit fishing to exempted gear types and require 100% observer coverage.
5. 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
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.
2. Companies sourcing from this fishery should communicate their support for maintaining closed areas to national and regional administrations.
3. 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.

RELATED LINKS:
- Canada - US Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee (TRAC)
- Canada-US Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC), New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC)

FIPS
No related FIPs

MSC
No related MSC fisheries

RECOMMENDED ACTION

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.

FISHSOURCE

https://www.fishsource.org/fishery_page/5366
This profile last updated on 5 July 2017