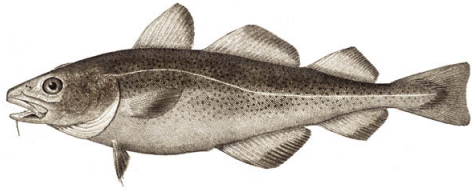


# Atlantic cod Georges Bank

## 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 \(TMGC\)](#), [Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada \(DFO\)](#), [New England Fishery Management Council \(NEFMC\)](#)
- [Canada - US Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee \(TRAC\)](#), [Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada \(DFO\)](#), [New England Fishery Management Council \(NEFMC\)](#), [Northeast Fisheries Science Center \(NEFSC\)](#)

## 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. 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


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.

# Fisheries

Within FishSource, the term "fishery" is used to indicate each unique combination of a flag country with a fishing gear, operating within a particular management unit, upon a resource. That resource may have a known biological stock structure and/or may be assessed at another level for practical or jurisdictional reasons. A fishery is the finest scale of resolution captured in FishSource profiles, as it is generally the scale at which sustainability can most fairly and practically be evaluated.

 <b>ASSESSMENT UNIT</b>	 <b>MANAGEMENT UNIT</b>	 <b>FLAG COUNTRY</b>	 <b>FISHING GEAR</b>
E Georges Bankmng	Canada 5Zc	Canada	Bottom trawls
	US E. Georges Bank	United States	Bottom trawls
Georges Bankmng	US W. Georges Bank	United States	Bottom trawls
			Gillnets and entangling nets
			Longlines

## Management Unit

 <b>MANAGEMENT UNIT</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>FISHING AREA</b>
Canada 5Zc	Canada-US Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC), Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)	FAO 21.5.Z.c
US E. Georges Bank	Canada-US Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC), New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC)	NOAA Atlantic Statistical Area 561, NOAA Atlantic Statistical Area 562
US W. Georges Bank	New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC)	FAO 21.5.Z.u