Atlantic cod - Barents Sea

IDENTIFICATION

SCIENTIFIC NAME: Gadus morhua

SPECIES NAME(S):
- Atlantic cod

COMMON NAMES:
- Barents Sea cod
- Northeast Arctic cod
- Norwegian-Russian cod

STOCK IDENTIFICATION:
Genetic studies support the distinctness of different populations in the Atlantic Ocean (Bradbury et al. 2013), being two stocks identified in the Barents Sea: NE Arctic and Norwegian coastal waters. There is some overlap over the spawning season in the Norwegian coast but the stocks are assessed by ICES separately as Cod in Subareas I and II (Northeast Arctic cod) and Cod in Subareas I and II (Norwegian coastal waters cod), haddock and saithe are also targeted in this fishery.

RELATED LINKS:
- Joint Norwegian-Russian Fishery Commission (JNRFC)
- International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

ASSESSMENT

Strengths
- The stock assessment process incorporates many best practices features.
- Scientific advice is consistent with the management plan, which is regularly revised and found to be in accordance to the Precautionary Approach by ICES, such as the harvest control rule.
- Stock biomass is following a decreasing trend but remains in a good condition.
- Catch rates have been below the set TAC. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is considered to have been effectively addressed. Unreported landings are considered zero since 2009.
- Event not included in the current assessment, bycatch and discarding time series are being updated.
- There are several management measures in place: spatial, temporal and closures for the protection of juvenile, technical measures in the fishing measures and also control measures. Some are harmonized within Russian and Norwegian EEZ waters.

Weaknesses
- Several issues – related to survey coverage, catch-at-age data and catches' sampling - contribute to uncertainties in the assessment, especially on the spawning stock and recruitment estimates.
- Fishing mortality has been increasing and is currently at the target. The spawning stock has shown a decreasing trend.
- The agreed catch limit for 2018 is above the scientific recommendation, like has been happening in the past 3 years. ICES highlights the TAC is not established in accordance to the Harvest Control Rule in place.
- Fishing levels are unknown but assumed to be negligible, below 5%.
- Catches have been below the set TAC. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is considered to have been effectively addressed. Unreported landings are considered zero since 2009.
- Event not included in the current assessment, bycatch and discarding time series are being updated.
- There are several management measures in place: spatial, temporal and closures for the protection of juvenile, technical measures in the fishing measures and also control measures. Some are harmonized within Russian and Norwegian EEZ waters.

SCORES

Management Quality:
- Management Strategy: 8.1
- Managers Compliance: 8.6
- Fishers Compliance: 10

Stock Health:
- Current Health: 10
- Future Health: 8

FIPs
No related FIPs

MSC
- AGARBA Spain Barents Sea cod: MSC Recertified
- Arhengaard Trawl fleet Norwegian & Barents Seas cod, haddock & saithe: MSC Certified
- Barents Sea cod, haddock and saithe: MSC Recertified
- Compagnie des Pêches Saint Malo and Euronor cod and haddock: MSC Recertified
- Faroe Islands and Iceland North East Arctic cod, haddock and saithe: MSC Recertified
- FIUN Barents & Norwegian Seas cod and haddock: MSC Recertified
- Greenland cod, haddock and saithe trawl: MSC Recertified
- Murmanseld 2 Barents Sea cod and haddock: MSC Full Assessment
- Norway North East Arctic cod: MSC Recertified
- Oceanprom Barents Sea cod and haddock: MSC Certified
- Pescafría-Pesquera Rodríguez Barents sea cod: Withdrawn
- Russian Federation Barents sea cod and haddock: MSC Recertified
- UK Fisheries/DFFU/Doggerbank Northeast Arctic cod, haddock and saithe: MSC Recertified

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Make urgent further efforts (e.g. via additional technical conservation measures) to reduce the bycatch of golden redfish and coastal cod.
- Implement an at-sea monitoring programme to improve data on protected, endangered, and threatened species interactions.
- Participate in the ongoing efforts to investigate impacts of bottom trawls on the soft-bottom habitat of the Barents Sea.
- Press regulators to set the catch limit in line with the agreed harvest control rule.

Stock Profile
https://www.fishsource.org/stock_page/1727
This profile last updated on 15 August 2018
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.

### Assessment Unit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Unit</th>
<th>Management Unit</th>
<th>Flag Country</th>
<th>Fishing Gear</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barents Sea</td>
<td>Norway/Russia</td>
<td>Faroe Islands</td>
<td>Bottom trawls</td>
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<td>Single boat bottom otter trawls</td>
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<td>Twin boat bottom otter trawls</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
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<td>Greenland</td>
<td>Bottom trawls</td>
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<td>Iceland</td>
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<td>Norway</td>
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<td>Danish seines</td>
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<td>Gillnets and entangling nets</td>
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<td>Longlines</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
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### Management Unit

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Unit</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Fishing Area</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norway/Russia</td>
<td>Joint Norwegian-Russian Fishery Commission [JNRF]</td>
<td>FAO 27.1, FAO 27.2b, FAO 27.2a</td>
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</tbody>
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*Fisheries*

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