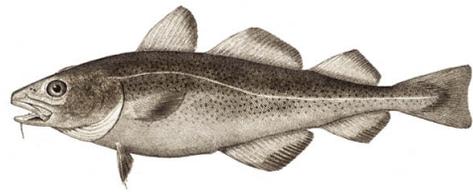


Atlantic cod North Sea

IDENTIFICATION



SCIENTIFIC NAME

Gadus morhua

SPECIES NAME(S)

Atlantic cod

STOCK IDENTIFICATION

Population substructure is apparent with North Sea Atlantic cod ([González-Irusta and Wright 2016](#))([ICES 2019](#))([Jorde et al. 2018](#)). Numerous sub-populations both inshore and offshore mix throughout the range of this meta-stock. Until 2010, ICES provided advice on these sub-populations. In recent years, however, ICES has only provided advice for the overall meta-population given the uncertainty in mixing among the components by area and season. While the current ICES approach is reasonable given the uncertainty, different sub-populations are experiencing declines in biomass at different rates ([ICES 2019](#))([ICES 2019](#)).

This profile is for cod in North Sea, eastern English Channel, and Skagerrak (Subarea 4 Division 7.d and subdivision 20).



RELATED LINKS:

- [European Commission \(EC\)](#) , [Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries \(DoF\)](#)

ASSESSMENT

Strengths

- Managers have followed the scientific advice except for 2019.
- Area quotas are in effect which aim to limit exploitation on more vulnerable sub-components.
- Harvesters have complied with the discard ban and reporting requirements.
- Harvesters have generally complied with set quotas.
- Managers have initiated a management strategy evaluation process.

Weaknesses

- Model used to provide advice has a severe retrospective pattern that overestimates stock size and underestimates fishing mortality relative to the terminal year.
- Because of the retrospective pattern, projections are likely optimistic
- Stock is at a low level of abundance, having only briefly been above B_{lim} since 1996.
- Fishing mortality has not been below F_{PA} or F_{MSY} since 1963 and has recently been trending up.
- Recruitment has been low since the late 1990s.
- Managers have not agreed on a management plan for this stock.

SCORES

Management Quality:

Management Strategy	Managers Compliance	Fishers Compliance
1.9	9.3	8

Stock Health:

Current Health	Future Health
4.6	3.9

FIPS

No related FIPs

MSC

- DFPO Denmark North Sea & Skagerrak cod & saithe:
MSC Certified
- Norway North Sea demersal:
MSC Recertified
- Scottish Fisheries Sustainable Accreditation Group (SFSAG) North Sea cod:
MSC Certified

RECOMMENDATIONS

RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN

1. Support the initiation of an industry led North Sea cod fishery improvement project or Marine Stewardship Council certification.
2. Engage with the Seafish Discard Action Group (DAG) and the North Sea Advisory Council (NS AC) by participating in meetings.

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.

 ASSESSMENT UNIT	 MANAGEMENT UNIT	 FLAG COUNTRY	 FISHING GEAR
North Seamng	European Union	Denmark	Bottom trawls
			Danish seines
			Set gillnets (anchored)
		United Kingdom	Bottom pair trawls
			Bottom trawls
			Danish seines
	Norway	Norway	Scottish seines
			Bottom trawls
			Danish seines
			Gillnets and entangling nets
			Hooks and lines
			Pots
			Purse seines

Management Unit

 MANAGEMENT UNIT	ORGANIZATION	FISHING AREA
European Union	European Commission (EC)	FAO 27.4, FAO 27.3.a, FAO 27.7.d
Norway	Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries (DoF)	FAO 27.4, FAO 27.3.a, FAO 27.7.d