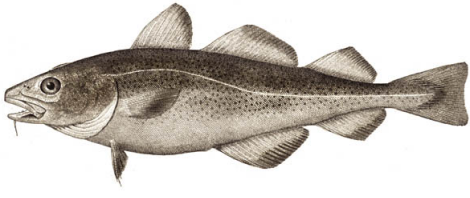


Atlantic cod W of Scotland

IDENTIFICATION



SCIENTIFIC NAME

Gadus morhua

SPECIES NAME(S)

Atlantic cod

STOCK IDENTIFICATION

Cod west of Scotland is assessed as a single stock but at least two subpopulations may be present: a southern subcomponent with some exchange with the Irish Sea and a northern component which intermixes with the [North Sea stock](#) (ICES, 2013b).



RELATED LINKS:

- [European Commission \(EC\)](#)
- [International Council for the Exploration of the Sea \(ICES\)](#)

ASSESSMENT

Strengths

- The directed fishery is closed. Areas closed to most gears have been put in place to protect cod but a review may be beneficial in assisting the stock's recovery.
- Cod in the region is assessed annually by an analytical age-based model.
- A representative network of benthic habitats is in the process of being mapped and established.

Weaknesses

- The spawning stock is depleted and recruitment is impaired.
- Discards from bycatch fisheries are contributing to very high fishing mortality which is impairing recovery. Uncertainty in catch and discards series is high.
- The management plan requires a revision of its target fishing mortality.

SCORES

Management Quality:

Management Strategy	Managers Compliance	Fishers Compliance
0.4	10	< 6

Stock Health:

Current Health	Future Health
0.9	2.4

FIPS

No related FIPs

MSC

No related MSC fisheries

RECOMMENDATIONS

CATCHERS & REGULATORS





- Start a fishery improvement project to address sustainability issues in this fishery. For advice on starting a FIP, see [SFP's Seafood Industry Guide to FIPs](#).
- Communicate to fishery managers that there are sustainability issues in this fishery that may be affecting the sale of products, and request that they comprehensively evaluate and address such issues.

RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN


- Encourage your supply chain to start a fishery improvement project. For advice on starting a FIP see [SFP's Seafood Industry Guide to FIPs](#).
- Work with other suppliers and buyers on a pre-competitive basis to start a supplier roundtable to review improvement needs in this and other similar fisheries, catalyze fishery improvement projects, and monitor progress in improvement efforts.

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
W of Scotlandmng	EU	Ireland	Single boat bottom otter trawls
		Norway	Bottom-set longlines
			Single boat bottom otter trawls
		United Kingdom	Single boat bottom otter trawls

Management Unit

 MANAGEMENT UNIT	ORGANIZATION	FISHING AREA
EU	European Commission (EC)	FAO 27.6.a, FAO 27.5.b