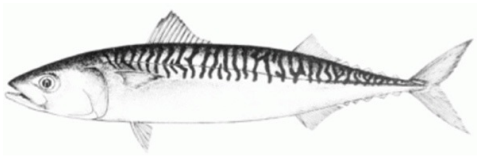


Atlantic mackerel

NE Atlantic

IDENTIFICATION



SCIENTIFIC NAME

Scomber scombrus

SPECIES NAME(S)

Atlantic mackerel

COMMON NAMES

Atlantic mackerel, joey, mackerel

STOCK IDENTIFICATION

Northeast Atlantic mackerel defines the mackerel in the region from ICES Division 9a in the south to Division 2a in the north. Spawning areas are equally widely distributed but catches are attributed to three spawning components by area – North Sea (4, 3a), Western (6, 7, 8a,b,d,e) and Southern (8c, 9a). Fish from Southern and Western areas have been shown to migrate to the North Sea, Norwegian Sea and Baltic Sea after spawning where they become indistinct from other components. For practical purposes all mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic are considered to form a single stock (ICES, 2012a,b).



RELATED LINKS:

- [European Commission \(EC\)](#) , [Faroese Ministry of Fisheries](#) , [Icelandic Directorate of Fisheries](#) , [Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries \(DoF\)](#)
- [International Council for the Exploration of the Sea \(ICES\)](#)

ASSESSMENT

Strengths

- The management agreement, though lacking in its implementation, is precautionary.

Weaknesses

- No international agreement exists between all states participating in the fishery and advised catches are routinely exceeded.
- Fishing mortality in the entire area remains above F_{MSY} .
- The North Sea spawning biomass remains low.

SCORES

Management Quality:

Management Strategy	Managers Compliance	Fishers Compliance
≥ 6	0	10

Stock Health:

Current Health	Future Health
7.3	4.8

FIPS

No related FIPs

MSC

- Danish Pelagic Producers Organisation North East Atlantic mackerel:
Withdrawn
- Faroese Pelagic Organization North East Atlantic mackerel:
Suspended
- Hastings Fleet mackerel drift net:
Withdrawn
- ISF Iceland mackerel:
Suspended
- MINSA North East Atlantic mackerel:
Suspended
- Northern Ireland Pelagic Sustainability Group (NIPSG) Irish Sea-Atlantic mackerel & North Sea herring:
Suspended
- Pelagic Freezer Trawler Association North East Atlantic mackerel pelagic trawl:
Withdrawn
- South West Handline Mackerel:
Withdrawn

RECOMMENDATIONS

RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN





Against the background of the Marine Stewardship Council suspending multiple NE Atlantic Mackerel certifications (as of 2 March 2019), and noting that an ICES inter-benchmarking process to review quality issues in the stock assessment is underway (due March 2019) the supply chain, as a matter of urgency, should:

- Form, or join, a coordinated group of like-minded companies within the supply chain and agree to a clear set of criteria for when the members would cease to source North East Atlantic mackerel. Such criteria might include the state of the stock, catch, effort and specific timescales.
- Communicate the consensus position of the group to all parties in the current negotiations around the allocation of North East Atlantic mackerel.
- Make every effort to increase the membership of the group to include buyers, processors, etc from a wide range of countries.
- Vigorously communicate their concerns around the North East Atlantic mackerel fishery to as wide a range of relevant audiences as possible.

- Cease sourcing North East Atlantic mackerel if the criteria are not met for the forthcoming fishing season (autumn 2019 onwards).

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	
NE Atlanticmng	EU	Denmark	Midwater trawls	
			Purse seines	
		France	Midwater trawls	
			Purse seines	
		Germany	Midwater trawls	
		Ireland	Midwater trawls	
		Lithuania	Midwater trawls	
		Netherlands	Midwater trawls	
		Poland	Cast nets	
		Portugal	Midwater trawls	
		Spain	Midwater trawls	
			Pole-lines hand operated	
			Purse seines	
		Sweden	Mechanized lines	
			Midwater trawls	
			Purse seines	
		United Kingdom	Drift gillnets	
			Hooks and lines	
			Mechanized lines	
			Midwater trawls	
			Pole-lines hand operated	
		Faroe Islands	Faroe Islands	Midwater trawls
				Seine nets
		Iceland	Iceland	Midwater trawls
Norway	Norway	Midwater trawls		
		Pole-lines hand operated		
		Purse seines		

Management Unit

 MANAGEMENT UNIT	ORGANIZATION	FISHING AREA
EU	European Commission (EC)	FAO 27
Faroe Islands	Faroe Ministry of Fisheries	FAO 27
Iceland	Icelandic Directorate of Fisheries	FAO 27.14b, FAO 27.5a
Norway	Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries (DoF)	FAO 27