IDENTIFICATION

SCIENTIFIC NAME
Allothracus villosus

SPECIES NAME(S)
Capelin

COMMON NAMES
Capelin in the Iceland/Greenland/Jan Mayen Area

STOCK IDENTIFICATION
Capelin in the Iceland East Greenland-Jan Mayen area is considered to be a separate stock (ICES, 2015) for assessment purposes. Genetic studies were almost solely focused on large-scale differentiation between populations (Reiss et al., 2009). Some microsatellite data within Northeast Atlantic were less conclusive in differentiating populations (Praebel et al., 2008).

RELATED LINKS:
- Icelandic Ministry of Industries and Innovation (MII)
- Marine Research Institute Iceland, Hafrannsaknastofnun (MRI)

ASSESSMENT

Strengths
- A two-stage management process ensures biomass is above the target escapement threshold before fishing can commence: in the last years, reproductive stock has been above the targeted escapement biomass.
- Managers have recently followed the scientific advice. In response to this advice, they have closed the fishery for 2018-2019 fishing year.
- The assessment model and harvest control rule consider the role of capelin as a key prey item.
- Catches have been around the set Total Allowable Catch. 
- Bycatch is considered negligible and there are no official reports of interactions of this fishery with ETP species.
- The pelagic fishery is thought to raise little effects on the seafloor or benthic communities. The fishery does not interact with protected species. Temporary area closures are enforced in Icelandic waters to protect juveniles.

Weaknesses
- Recruitment is below average over the recent time period. The portion of immature capelin is in a very low abundance, at 10.8 billion in 2017.
- Because of poor recruitment and low abundances in the Autumn acoustic surveys stock status has been downgraded.
- ICES only considers the initial TAC as precautionary and not the whole Harvest Control Rule.
- Acoustic surveys to assess the stock are highly dependent on the weather conditions and contribute to the uncertainties in the determination of the stock status.
- Stock is below B^lim.

SCORES

Management Quality:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stock Health:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Health</th>
<th>Future Health</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 6</td>
<td>&lt; 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FIPS

No related FIPS

MSC

- ISF Iceland capelin: MSC Certified

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ensure all catching countries fully comply with catch limits (including any limits or quotas in other fisheries) in order to support the stock to rebuild.
- Work with scientists and managers to review the harvest strategy, harvest control rule, and the TAC setting procedures, including ensuring that these are appropriately precautionary given the importance of capelin as a forage species.
- Encourage the Icelandic Marine Research Institute to commission a peer review of the stock assessment, including evaluation of the current acoustic monitoring survey to ensure optimal coverage and minimisation of uncertainty.
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>Icelandicmng</td>
<td>Iceland, Greenland and Norway</td>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>Midwater trawls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Seine nets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Management Unit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MANAGEMENT UNIT</th>
<th>ORGANIZATION</th>
<th>FISHING AREA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iceland, Greenland and Norway</td>
<td>Icelandic Ministry of Industries and Innovation ([MII])</td>
<td>FAZ 275a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>