

MSC Fishery Fact Sheet: Domstein Longliner Partners North East Arctic cod



Latin name	<i>Gadus morhua</i>
Deutsch	Kabeljau
English	Atlantic cod
Español	Bacalao
Français	Morue
Nederlands	Kabeljauw

Basic information

Location	North Norwegian coast, Barents Sea and Svalbard area
Fishing gear	Longlines
Season	August - May.
Quota / TAC	5,000MT (2009 figures)
Products	Fillets, loins, portions, various breaded products (direct from DLP)
Date certified	27 th February 2009

Background information

Though all cod in the North Atlantic is the same species, localized and isolated populations have developed which can be managed as separate stocks. The Domstein Longline Partnership relies on a sustainable stock in the North East Arctic which they pursue far out at sea, thus avoiding catching the juvenile cod and cod from other stocks that remain in coastal waters.

In the early months of the year, these cod migrate south to spawn in the Vestfjorden of north-western Norway where cod fishing has taken place for centuries. They then return to their summer feeding grounds in the Barents Sea.

Domstein was founded at the beginning of the last century, but now fish with modern vessels that have low fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions. DLP North East Arctic cod is the first cod fishery in the North Atlantic to be certified as sustainable and well-managed fishery.

MSC webpage:

www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/in-assessment/north-east-atlantic/domstein-longliner-partners-north-east-arctic-cod



Frøyanes fishing
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Sustainability notes

- Stock levels** The North East Arctic cod stock from which vessels from the Domstein Longline Partnership take their cod catch is assessed as being in a very healthy state. The most recent stock assessments show the stock as consistently being above the level supporting long-term productivity for this stock. Having spent much of the 60's, 70's and 80's oscillating around it's limit reference point, the current status of the stock reflects well on the management measures now in place.
- Environmental Impact** Significant information is available to the managers of this fishery to understand the impacts of this fishery on the ecosystem in which it operates. Using an automated longline system for fishing, fishing is undertaken primarily at night time which significantly reduces the potential for seabirds to be caught during the process of setting the fishing gear.
- Management plan** The legal basis of the management system is strong with the management system assessed as respecting both international and customary law. Stakeholder input into management alongside a sound foundation of research information allows managers to consider a range of appropriate management actions in response to identified issues in the fishery.
- Further notes** Historically, illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing has been an issue in the Barents Sea. Concerted efforts by both Norwegian and Russian Governments have seen a significant reduction in the level of IUU fishing occurring in the Barents Sea.
- Fishery Improvements** While noting that the level of IUU fishing in the Barents Sea has reduced, further work is required to better and more transparently quantify IUU catches for inclusion in the stock assessment process. A number of conditions of certification are also in place to deliver further research which is required to evaluate the impact of the fishery on sensitive habitats and by-catch of species of conservation concern, including catch of coastal cod, tusk, elasmobranchs and seabirds.

Useful websites

- Suppliers:** www.msc.org/where-to-buy/find-a-supplier
Fishbase: www.fishbase.org/Summary/SpeciesSummary.php?id=69

Certificate holder

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