

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



Latin name	<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>
Deutsch	Schellfisch
English	Haddock
Español	Eglefino
Français	Eglefin
Nederlands	Schelvis

Basic information

Location	North Norwegian coast, Barents Sea and Svalbard area
Fishing gear	Longlines
Season	August - May.
Quota / TAC	3,000MT (2009 figures)
Products	Fillets, loins, portions, various breaded products (direct from DLP)
Date certified	27 th February 2009

Background information

Though all haddock 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. This stock is often found intermingled with cod in the area, and historically haddock was mainly taken as bycatch by cod fisheries. Following a decline in cod landings in the early 1970s, however, vessels began targeting haddock more directly.

Mature haddock migrate south from the Barents Sea in the early months of the year to the west coast of Norway, where they spawn, mostly along the shelf edge. They then migrate back north. Their distribution varies from year to year within this area according to temperatures and the abundance of prey species.

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

MSC webpage

www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/certified/north-east-atlantic/domstein-longliner-partners-north-east-arctic-haddock



Frøyanes fishing
© Domstein

Haddock photo (top right): Eiliv Leren
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Sustainability notes

- Stock levels** For nearly 20 years the North East Arctic haddock stock has been assessed as being above its scientifically determined precautionary target level. The very healthy state of this haddock stock reflects the precautionary approach applied to the management of this fishery.
- Environmental Impact** The distribution of fishing activities and catch information collected by fishers allows for the impacts on by-catch, protected, threatened and endangered species to be determined. On the basis of this information, management measures in place to identify and reduce environmental impacts have been designed to protect key elements of the ecosystem. Night time fishing reduces the potential for seabirds to be caught during the process of setting the longline fishing gear.
- Management plan** The healthy nature of the North East Arctic haddock stock reflects the impressive framework within which the fishery is currently managed. Underlying this framework is a particularly strong performance in the identification, planning and implementation of key research projects, providing a comprehensive information base from which to take management actions.
- 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=1381

Certificate holder

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Longline hook © Domstein

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