

MSC Fishery Fact Sheet: New Zealand Hoki



Latin name	<i>Macruronus novaezelandiae</i>
Deutsch	Langschwanz-seehecht
English	Hoki / Blue grenadier / Whip-tail
Español	Merluza de cola azul
Français	Grenadier bleu de N.Zel
Nederlands	Blauwe grenadier / Hoki

Basic information

Location	Widespread throughout the New Zealand EEZ. The main fishing grounds are off the West Coast of the South Island, in Cook Strait, on the Chatham Rise (east of the South Island) and in the Sub-Antarctic.
Fishing gear	Mid-water trawl and bottom trawl
Season	Hoki are caught year round
Quota / TAC	90,000 metric tonnes (TAC for 2008/09)
Products	Headed & gutted trunks, boneless fillets (skin on, skinless and smoked), steaks, portions, coated, blocks, fishmeal, oil
Date certified	First certified in March 2001 and recertified in November 2007

Background information

In 2001, New Zealand hoki was the first large whitefish fishery to achieve MSC certification. The fishery was subsequently re-certified in 2007. It is New Zealand's most abundant commercial species and the majority of product goes to the United States, Europe, Japan and Australia. The fishery has extensive research, individual transferable quotas (ITQ) and an integrated approach to management between industry and Government. Hoki is managed as two stocks: the eastern stock and the western stock.

Hoki is a fast growing fish living for 20-25 years and can grow to over a metre in length. Its white flaky flesh, which remains white after cooking, has few bones making it excellent safe product. They are caught using pelagic trawls (mid-water) during the winter spawning season and benthic (bottom) trawls at other times of year.

MSC webpage www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/certified/pacific/new-zealand-hoki



Hoki factory trawler FV Rehua © Sealord Group Ltd

Sustainability notes

Stock levels

The 2009 scientific assessments for these stocks show that both of the eastern and western stocks are in a healthy condition with stock sizes above the level that will produce the maximum sustainable yields (B_{MSY}). Hoki stock size is driven by recruitment fluctuations and regular scientific surveys are undertaken to assess levels of young hoki and to measure stock size. Since 2001, the western stock has declined in size as low recruitment levels from 1995 to 2001 flowed through the fishery. In response, the catch limit for the western stock was reduced from 137,000 t to 25,000 t. This management action was part of a determined process to promote stock rebuilding. Since 2002, higher levels of recruitment and low catches have enabled the stock to rebuild to above B_{MSY} .

Environmental Impact

The distribution of fishing activities and catch information collected by the New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) determines the impact on by-catch, including protected, threatened and endangered species. Measures are already in place to reduce the environmental impacts of the fishery on seabirds, on New Zealand fur seals and sensitive marine habitats. Further developments and an Environmental Risk Assessment are underway as part of the fishery's conditions of certification.

Management plan

The management system is legally robust, respects international law, complies with domestic law and observes customary and legal rights. Management actions are informed by clear, relevant information that draws on stakeholder input and allows managers to consider a range of management actions. The draft fisheries plan sets out the objectives and outcomes for the management of the NZ hoki fisheries.

Further notes

In late 2006 the Deepwater Group Ltd (the fishery client) and MFish entered into a formal partnership agreement to collaborate on the management of New Zealand's deepwater fisheries, including hoki. This has enabled co-management via a constructive and close working relationship under an agreed vision, agreed objectives and through a collaborative workplan.

Fishery Improvements

Concerns over the status of the western stock necessitated the adoption of a stock rebuilding plan. In line with the plan, management changes to date have seen a positive response in the western stock and the fishery remains on course to meet the required stock improvements.

Useful websites

Suppliers: www.msc.org/where-to-buy/find-a-supplier

Fishbase: www.fishbase.org/Summary/SpeciesSummary.php?id=1825

Certificate holder

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