

MSC Fishery Fact Sheet: Faroese Pelagic Organization Atlanto-Scandian herring



Latin name	<i>Clupea harengus</i>
Deutsch	Hering
English	Atlantic herring
Español	Arenque
Français	Hareng de l'Atlantique
Nederlands	Haring

Basic information

Location	North-East Atlantic
Fishing gear	Purse seine and pelagic (mid-water) trawl
Season	August to October and in January-February
Quota / TAC	74,606 tonnes (2009 figures)
Products	whole frozen, butterfly fillets, skinless fillets and headed & gutted
Date certified	2 March 2010

Background information

The Atlanto-Scandian herring (also known as Norwegian Spring Spawning herring) is possibly the largest of the herring stocks in the northeast Atlantic. The stock is managed according to the EU, Norway, Iceland, Faroes, and Russia agreement, which is structured around controlling harvests at precautionary levels to ensure long-term sustainability of the stock.

The certified fishery comprises five large technologically advanced vessels (four RSW-vessels and one processing vessel) using purse seines and pelagic trawl. They follow the migration of the stock closely as it moves from the wintering and spawning grounds along the Norwegian coast to the summer feeding grounds in the Faroese, Icelandic, Jan Mayen, Svalbard and international areas.

The processing vessel M/S Nordborg is one of the largest and most modern fishing vessels in the North Atlantic. It has a sophisticated production system, which allows the herring to be processed at sea and frozen immediately after.

MSC webpage

<http://www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/certified/north-east-atlantic/fpo-as-herring>



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Sustainability notes

Stock levels

The stock is one of the world's largest fisheries. It is classified as having full reproductive capacity, being harvested sustainably and it is highly likely that the spawning stock has been above target levels for more than a decade. Fishing mortality is currently at a level that would maximise catches over the long-term without reducing the overall abundance of the stock.

Environmental Impact

Bycatch and other commercial species (mackerel, saithe, blue whiting and redfish) within this fishery is low. All bycatch is landed as catches cannot be sorted on board but are assessed to be within sustainable limits, with the exception of redfish, where no direct fishing is recommended. Interactions with endangered, threatened or protected species are considered to be very limited. There is no physical contact between the fishing gear and the seabed, and so habitat impacts are negligible.

Management plan

The fishery is managed according to an international agreement between the EC, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway and Russia, which is implemented in Faroe Islands under national management systems. Management advice is provided by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea. The rights-based management system of vessel licensing and quota allocation provides incentives for members to conduct fishing in a sustainable manner by providing long-term planning and guaranteed fixed shares of future quotas.

Fishery Improvements

There were no required areas for improvement set at certification. However, the client has since published a Codex for member vessels which was formally adopted in January 2011. Although discarding and slippage of catches occurs infrequently, the Codex requires that any occurrences are recorded, for reporting to the relevant government agency, and also that bycatch is minimised.

Useful websites

Suppliers: www.msc.org/where-to-buy/find-a-supplier
Fishbase: www.fishbase.org/Summary/SpeciesSummary.php?id=24

Certificate holder

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