

## MSC Fishery Fact Sheet: Atlantic cod longline, handline and Danish seine



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

### Basic information

<b>Location</b>	In the Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone, mainly off the West and Northwest coasts of Iceland
<b>Fishing gear</b>	Handline, longline and Danish seine
<b>Season</b>	All year round
<b>Quota / TAC</b>	Approx. 6500 tonnes
<b>Products</b>	Splitted saltfish and fresh and frozen fillets and portions
<b>Date certified</b>	23 June 2011

### Background information

The cod (*Gadus morhua*) can be found in cold salt water in the Northern hemisphere. It prefers shallow water, only rarely venturing to 1,800 feet, and it is commonly found in 120 feet or less. Cod migrate for spawning and moves into still-shallower water close to coastlines in search of warmer spawning grounds.

The Icelandic stock is one of the most important cod stocks. Historically, the Icelandic economy has been entirely based on fishing, mostly cod, which is prized for the whiteness of its flesh and its large flakes. It has virtually no fat (0.3%) and is more than 18 % protein, which is unusually high even for a fish.

The Sæmark fleet is made up of 22 boats supplying four fish processing companies associated with Sæmark Seafood Ltd - Fiskvinnslan Íslandssaga hf., Hraðfrystihús Hellissands hf., Oddi hf., Þórsberg ehf. This fishing fleet catches Atlantic cod year-round using long line, handline and Danish seine mainly off the west and north-west coasts of Iceland.

**MSC webpage** [www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/certified/north-east-atlantic/atlantic-cod-haddock-longline-handline-and-danish-seine](http://www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/certified/north-east-atlantic/atlantic-cod-haddock-longline-handline-and-danish-seine)



## Sustainability notes

### Stock levels

Over the past 20 years the number of cod large enough to catch has been low and the haddock stocks have varied but the current fishing rates are now considered sustainable. The structure of the cod stock has been investigated for many decades and detailed annual assessments monitor the haddock stock which includes any biological issues specific to haddock.

### Environmental Impact

Bycatch of marine mammals and seabirds is considered to be low in longline and Danish seine fisheries. In order to reduce any bycatch of seabirds the longline fishery is also using bird scaring devices during fishing operations. The fishing gears used are considered to have low impact on marine habitats. Handlines, longlines and Danish seine do not make any substantial contact with or negatively affect the seabed.

### Management plan

Fishing for cod and haddock in Icelandic waters is subject to a management system that is obliged by law to aim for the sustainable utilisation of the stock which ensures in maximum benefits for the Icelandic nation. The management system in Iceland includes input by stakeholders and they are invited to have their say regarding regulations and the regulatory approach.

### Fishery Improvements

The fishery has committed to a number of improvements including working with stakeholders to ensure the reference points, that help monitor the state of the stock, are implemented and formally adopting a harvest control rule and strategy. The fishery will also analyse data that looks at stock trends and put in place appropriate management measures in response to the results.

## Useful websites

**Suppliers:** [www.msc.org/where-to-buy/find-a-supplier](http://www.msc.org/where-to-buy/find-a-supplier)  
**Fishbase:** <http://fishbase.org/Summary/SpeciesSummary.php?id=69>

## Certificate holder

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