

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



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

Basic information

Location	In the Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone, mainly off the West and Northwest coasts of Iceland
Fishing gear	Handline, longline and Danish seine
Season	All year round
Quota / TAC	Approx. 3000 tonnes
Products	Splitted saltfish and fresh and frozen fillets and portions
Date certified	23 June 2011

Background information

In the eastern North Atlantic haddock is distributed from the Bay of Biscay to Spitzbergen, from the Barents Sea to Novaya Zemlya and around Iceland, but is rarely found near the south of Greenland. Icelandic waters are the northern boundary of haddock's distribution. The shelf areas north and east of Iceland represent a large part of the Icelandic continental shelf. In cold periods these areas are probably too cold for haddock. However, when there is an inflow of warm Atlantic seawater into the shelf areas north and east of Iceland, large areas become suitable for haddock.

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 haddock 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



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 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
Fishbase: www.fishbase.org/Summary/SpeciesSummary.php?id=1381

Certificate holder

Company Sæmark Seafood Ltl
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