

## MSC Fishery Fact Sheet: Pelagic Freezer-Trawler Association Atlanto-Scandian herring



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

### Basic information

<b>Location</b>	North East Atlantic, ICES management areas IIa and IIb
<b>Fishing gear</b>	Pelagic trawl
<b>Season</b>	Typically, the PFA fishery mostly takes place in the third quarter of the year
<b>Quota / TAC</b>	ca. 13.000 MT - ca. 1,3% of TAC (2011 figures)
<b>Products</b>	Whole frozen
<b>Date certified</b>	July 2010

### Background information

The PFA Atlanto Scandian herring fisheries comprises 25 freezer-trawlers owned by nine companies from five EU-countries. The vessels catch Atlanto Scandian herring using pelagic midwater trawls. The annual fishery begins inshore along the west coast of Norway in spring where mature fish spawn. After spawning, adult fish move north–northwest to summer feeding grounds between Svalbard (Spitzbergen) and Iceland during which time they are fished by the international fleet.

**MSC webpage** <http://www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/certified/north-east-atlantic/pelagic-freezer-trawler-association-atlanto-scandian-herring>



Credit © PFA

## Sustainability notes

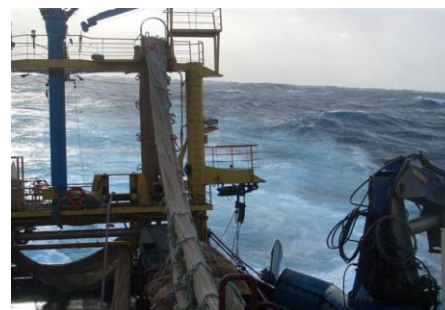
- Stock levels** Rapid expansion of fishing effort during the 1950s and 60s proved unsustainable, and all North East Atlantic herring stocks collapsed in the early 1970s. Following a period of recruitment failure, robust international management measures were introduced in the 1990s, since when the stock has increased. Landings have now been stable for more than a decade, and the current estimate of the Atlanto-Scandian herring stock is now at the highest it has been since 1988, and close to the highest recorded estimate in 1950. The International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) classifies the stock as having full reproductive capacity and the current levels of fishing mortality as being sustainable.
- Environmental Impact** The fishery has sophisticated sonar equipment and the fishermen's experience allow single-species shoals to be targeted. Limited bycatch of blue whiting, mackerel and redfish occurs. Landings of whiting and mackerel are counted against quotas for those species. The impact of the fishing on redfish stocks is expected to be minimal as catches comprise less than 1% of international catches. Habitat impacts are negligible as there is no physical contact between the trawl gear and the seabed and interactions with endangered, threatened and protected species are independently verified to be very limited.
- Management plan** The stock is managed under a coastal states agreement between EU, Norway, Iceland, Faroe Islands and Russia. TAQs are set each year based upon a management plan for the stock and current advice from ICES. The management plan allows for rapid response to scientific advice, an example being the halving of the quota in the middle of the fishing year in 1996 as the stock had fallen below the limit reference level. The fishery has its own operational policy, which aims to encourage regional co-operation, prevent over-fishing and reduce bycatches.
- Fishery Improvements** Recent improvements in monitoring, control and surveillance have been implemented to address identified under-reporting. There is now a high degree of enforcement and control in this fishery, with comprehensive surveillance of fishing vessels, and catch logging and inspection. A further improvement is that the client has now implemented a reporting program for any interactions with endangered species by its vessels, despite such interactions being very limited.

## Useful websites

- Suppliers:** [www.msc.org/where-to-buy/find-a-supplier](http://www.msc.org/where-to-buy/find-a-supplier)  
**Fishbase:** <http://www.fishbase.org/Summary/speciesSummary.php?ID=24>

## Certificate holder

- Company Address** Pelagic Freezer-Trawler Association  
P.O. Box 72  
2280 AB Rijswijk  
The Netherlands
- Contact Phone** Mr Gerard van Balsfoort  
+31 (0)70-336 9602
- Email** [gbalsfoort@pelagicfish.eu](mailto:gbalsfoort@pelagicfish.eu)
- Website** [www.pelagicfish.eu](http://www.pelagicfish.eu)



Credit © PFA

**Last updated:** October 2011