

Cod (*Gadus morhua*) in Subdivision 5.b.1 (Faroe Plateau)

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach is applied, catches in 2025 should be no more than 2 848 tonnes. ICES is not in a position to advise on the corresponding level of fishing effort.

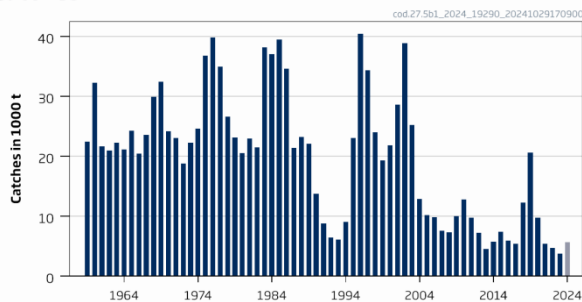
Non-fisheries conservation considerations

ICES has not identified any conservation aspects other than those related to the commercial fisheries.

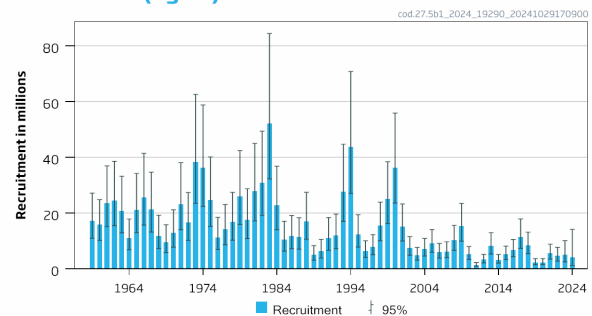
Stock development over time

Fishing pressure on the stock is above F_{MSY} and below F_{pa} and F_{lim} ; spawning-stock size is below MSY $B_{trigger}$, B_{pa} , and B_{lim} .

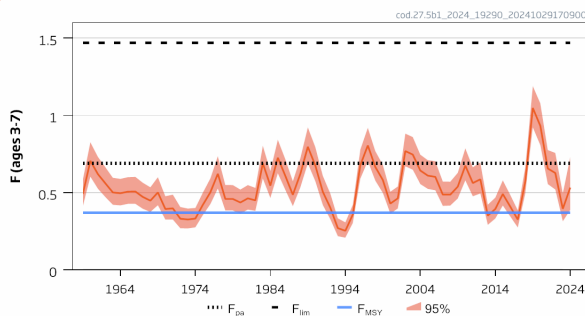
Catches



Recruitment (age 1)



F



SSB

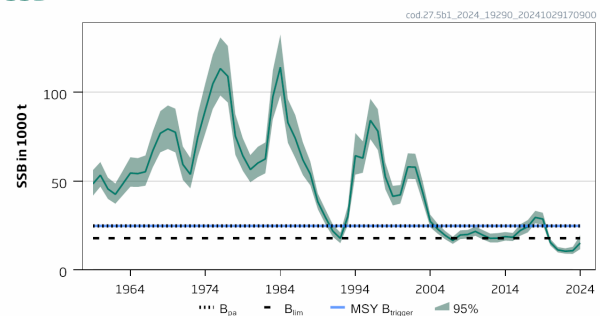


Figure 1 Cod in Subdivision 5.b.1. Summary of the stock assessment. Catches in 2024 are estimated for the full year based on reported catch in Q1–Q3 and are used in the assessment to produce an estimate of F in 2024.

Catch scenarios

Table 1 Cod in Subdivision 5.b.1. Assumptions made for the interim year and in the forecast.

Variable	Value	Notes
$F_{ages\ 3-7}$ (2024)	0.54	Based on catch-at-age estimate of 5 722 tonnes in 2024
SSB (2025)	15 519	Based on $F = 0.54$; tonnes
$R_{age\ 1}$ (2025)	5 206	Median of resampled estimates from 2012 to 2022; in thousands
Landings (2024)	5 722	Catch estimate for 2024 based on catch statistics to the end of September extrapolated to the entire year; in tonnes
Discards (2024)	0	Discarding is considered negligible; in tonnes

Table 2 Cod in Subdivision 5.b.1. Annual catch scenarios. All weights are in tonnes.

Basis	Total catch (2025)	F ₍₃₋₇₎ (2025)	SSB (2026)	% SSB change*	% advice change**
ICES advice basis					
Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach: F _{MSY} × SSB ₂₀₂₅ /MSYB _{trigger}	2 848	0.23	20 318	31	n/a
Other scenarios					
F = 0	0	0	23 920	54	n/a
F = F ₂₀₂₄	5 785	0.54	16 722	8	n/a
F = F _{pa}	6 935	0.69	15 272	-2	n/a
F = F _{lim}	11 084	1.47	10 300	-34	n/a

* SSB (2026) relative to SSB (2025) (15519 tonnes).
**The advice value for 2025 relative to the advice value for 2023–2024 as issued in 2022 (0 tonnes).

The advice for 2025 is higher than the advice in 2024 because of increasing stock size and that the stock is forecast to increase and be above B_{lim} in 2026 when the ICES MSY approach is followed.

Basis of the advice

Table 3 Cod in Subdivision 5.b.1. The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach
Management plan	A management plan (Fiskidagaskipan og umsitingarættan, 2019) was implemented in 2021, but ICES has not been requested to evaluate it

Quality of the assessment

Starting with the summer survey in 2021, there was a change in survey vessel and a further change in survey footgear in the summer 2024 survey. The indices have not been adjusted for these changes.

The assessment is mainly driven by catches, with little weight given to survey indices.

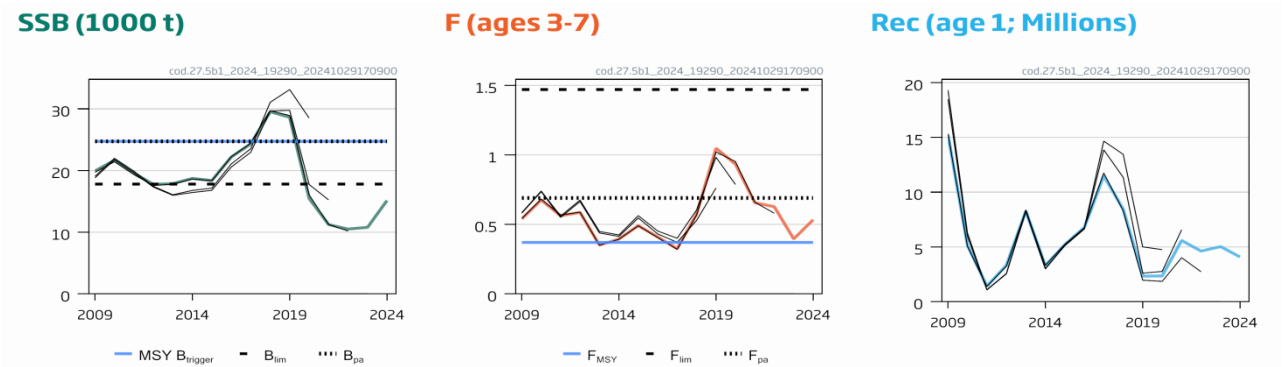


Figure 2 Cod in Subdivision 5.b.1. Historical assessment results. Results of the last five assessments are plotted, with the solid coloured line representing the current assessment.

Issues relevant for the advice

Faroe Plateau cod and Faroe haddock are caught in a mixed fishery.

Faroe Plateau cod is assessed to have been in a poor state (below B_{lim} since 2020) and is expected to be above B_{lim} at the start of 2026. Fishing mortality on the stock has rarely been less than 0.4 in the past 60 years and has recently been larger than 0.7.

In 2021 the Faroese authorities implemented a management plan (Fiskidagaskipan og umsitingarætlan, 2019) with a control rule that regulates the number of fishing days for cod, haddock, and saithe in the Faroe Plateau fishery. The management plan has not been evaluated by ICES, and therefore ICES bases its advice on the MSY approach.

ICES cannot quantify the relationship between effort and F for this stock.

Reference points

Table 4 Cod in Subdivision 5.b.1. Reference points, values, and their technical basis. All weights are in tonnes.

Framework	Reference point	Value	Technical basis	Source
Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach	MSY $B_{trigger}$	24 739	B_{pa}	ICES (2022)
	F_{MSY}	0.37	Stochastic simulations assuming segmented regression, Ricker and Beverton and Holt stock–recruitment relationships	ICES (2022)
Precautionary approach	B_{lim}	17 803	B_{loss} in 1992 from the 2022 assessment	ICES (2022)
	B_{pa}	24 739	$B_{lim} \times \exp(1.645 \times \sigma)$, where $\sigma = 0.20$	ICES (2022)
	F_{lim}	1.47	Stochastic simulations (ICES, 2017): the F that gives a 50% probability of $SSB > B_{lim}$	ICES (2022)
	F_{pa}	0.69	F_{P05} ; the F that leads to $SSB \geq B_{lim}$ with 95% probability	ICES (2022)
Management plan	SSB_{mgt}	Not applicable		
	F_{mgt}	Not applicable		

Basis of the assessment

Table 5 Cod in Subdivision 5.b.1. Basis of the assessment and advice.

ICES stock data category	1 (ICES, 2023)
Assessment type	SAM with catch-at-age data and age-disaggregated indices, using catches in the model and in the forecast (ICES, 2024).
Input data	Commercial catches, ages, and length frequencies from catch sampling; survey indices (FO-GFS-Q1, G1264, and FO-GFS-Q3, G3284); annual maturity data from FO-GFS-Q1 (G1264); natural mortality set at 0.2. Preliminary estimate of catch-at-age in the year (January to September) in which the assessment is carried out.
Discards and bycatch	Discarding is considered negligible
Indicators	Co-occurrence of high recruitment of cod with sandeel abundance
Other information	The stock was interbenchmarked in 2022 (ICES, 2022)
Working group	North-Western Working Group (NWWG)

History of the advice, catch, and management

Table 6 Cod in Subdivision 5.b.1. ICES advice and catch. All weights are in tonnes.

Fishing year	ICES advice	Catch corresponding to advice	Agreed total allowable catch (TAC)**	ICES catch
1987	No increase in F	< 31000		21391
1988	No increase in F (revised estimate)	< 29000 (23000)		23182
1989	No increase in F	< 19000		22068
1990	No increase in F	< 20000		13692
1991	TAC	< 16000		8750
1992	No increase in F	< 20000		6396
1993	No fishing	0		6107
1994	No fishing	0	8500/12500*,**	9046
1995	No fishing	0	12500*	23045
1996	F at lowest possible level	-	20000**	40422
1997	80% of F(95)	< 24000		34304
1998	30% reduction in effort from 1996/97	-		24005
1999	F less than proposed F_{pa} (0.35)	< 19000		19245
2000	F less than proposed F_{pa} (0.35)	< 20000		21833

Fishing year	ICES advice	Catch corresponding to advice	Agreed total allowable catch (TAC)***	ICES catch
2001	F less than proposed F_{pa} (0.35)	< 16000		28577
2002	75% of F(2000)	< 22000		38834
2003	75% of F(2001)	< 32000		25167
2004	25% reduction in effort	-		12840
2005	Rebuilding plan involving large reduction	-		10119
2006	Rebuilding plan involving large reduction	-		9844
2007	Rebuilding plan involving large reduction in effort	-		7511
2008	No fishing; development of a rebuilding plan	0		7315
2009	No fishing; development of a rebuilding plan	0		9979
2010	No fishing; development of a rebuilding plan	0		12762
2011	Reduce F to below F_{pa}	< 16000		9692
2012	Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) framework, reduce F by 30%	< 10000		7205
2013	MSY approach, $F < 0.20$	< 4800		4473
2014	MSY approach, reduce F by 69%	< 3600		5711
2015	MSY approach, reduce F by 23%	< 4500		7329
2016	Lowest possible level (LPL) and develop a mixed-fishery management plan	-		5876
2017	MSY approach ($F \leq 0.16$)	≤ 2800		5360
2018	MSY approach ($F \leq 0.22$)	≤ 4579		12214
2019^	MSY approach	≤ 9354		20609
2020	MSY approach	≤ 11679		9748
2021	MSY approach	≤ 6247		5412
2022	MSY approach	≤ 2206		4656
2023	MSY approach	0		3720
2024	MSY approach	0		
2025	MSY approach	≤ 2848		

* From 01 September in the quota year to 31 August the following year.

** The TAC was increased during the quota year.

*** Not applicable since 1997.

^ Since 2019 fishing year equals calendar year

History of the catch and landings

Table 7 Cod in Subdivision 5.b.1. Catch distribution by fleet in 2023 as estimated by ICES. All weights are in tonnes.

Table 7. Catch in Subdivision 3.B.1. Catch distribution by fleet in 2023 as estimated by ILES. All weights are in tonnes.					
Catch	Landings				Discards
3 720	Longlines 54%	Handlines 6%	Trawls 37%	Gillnets 3%	Negligible
	3 720				

There are no catches reported from the NEAFC regulatory areas.

Table 8 Cod in Subdivision 5.b.1. History of commercial catch and landings; catches in this table are those officially reported by each country and may differ from the ICES estimated catch. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	Denmark	Faroe Islands	France	Germany	Iceland	Norway	Greenland	Portugal	UK	Total
1986	8	34492	4	8		83			-	34595
1987	30	21303	17	12		21			8	21391
1988	10	22272	17	5		163				22467
1989		20535		7		285				20827
1990		12232		24		124				12380
1991		8203	*	16		89			1	8309
1992		5938	3**	12		39			74	6066
1993		5744	1**	+		57			186	5988
1994		8724		2**		36			56	8818
1995		19079	2**	2		38			43	19164
1996		39406	1**	+		507			126	40040
1997		33556		+		410			61**	34027
1998		23308				405			27**	23740
1999		19156		39		450			51	19696
2000		***	1	2		374			18	395
2001		29762	9**	9		531*			50	30361
2002		40602	20	6	5	573			42	41248
2003		30259	14	7		447			15	30742
2004		17540	2	3**		414		1	15	17975
2005		13556				201			24	13781
2006		11629	7	1**		49	5			11691
2007		9905	1**			71	7		360	10344
2008		9394	1			40			383	9818
2009		10736	1			14	7		300	11058
2010		13878	1			10			312	14206
2011		11348								11348
2012		8437			28					8466
2013		5331			20		2			5333
2014		6655				2			226	6883
2015		7812				33	14		367	8174
2016		6736				31	5		456	7232
2017		6215	2			16	5		388	6625
2018		13297	2			69			504	13872
2019		22282	1			219			233	22735
2020		10614	2			163			0	10779
2021		5875	3			65			0	5942
2022		4855	1			26			505	5387
2023		4744	3			14			312	5073

* Included in ICES Subdivision 5.b.2.

** Reported as ICES Division 5.b.

*** No reported catch.

Summary of the assessment

Table 9 Cod in Subdivision 5.b.1. Assessment summary.

Year	Recruitment			SSB			Total catch	F		
	Low	Midpoint	High	Low	Midpoint	High		Low	Midpoint	High
1959	10998	17286	27167	41707	48410	56189	22415	0.41	0.49	0.59
1960	10223	15930	24825	46828	53347	60774	32255	0.60	0.71	0.83
1961	15086	23608	36945	39967	45591	52006	21598	0.53	0.62	0.73
1962	15496	24449	38577	37214	42542	48632	20967	0.47	0.56	0.67

Year	Recruitment			SSB			Total catch	F		
	Low	Midpoint	High	Low	Midpoint	High		Low	Midpoint	High
1963	12913	20719	33242	42017	48476	55928	22215	0.42	0.50	0.60
1964	6818	11045	17893	46807	54498	63454	21078	0.42	0.50	0.59
1965	12984	21086	34245	46693	54220	62960	24212	0.43	0.51	0.60
1966	15724	25533	41461	47362	55242	64433	20418	0.43	0.51	0.60
1967	13199	21403	34706	57839	67241	78172	23562	0.40	0.47	0.56
1968	7252	11811	19236	66176	76939	89453	29930	0.38	0.45	0.54
1969	5843	9617	15829	68052	79392	92621	32371	0.42	0.50	0.60
1970	7763	12827	21193	66134	77494	90805	24183	0.33	0.39	0.48
1971	14076	23156	38093	50647	59346	69540	23010	0.33	0.40	0.49
1972	10202	16714	27383	45866	53788	63077	18727	0.27	0.33	0.41
1973	23538	38376	62568	63645	74912	88173	22228	0.27	0.33	0.40
1974	22403	36293	58794	76973	90003	105240	24581	0.28	0.33	0.40
1975	15248	24744	40152	90596	104840	121325	36775	0.35	0.42	0.50
1976	6912	11299	18469	98163	113364	130919	39799	0.43	0.50	0.59
1977	8676	14157	23102	94199	109019	126170	34927	0.53	0.62	0.74
1978	10310	16817	27431	64754	75381	87753	26585	0.38	0.46	0.55
1979	15966	26024	42417	55716	64287	74176	23112	0.38	0.46	0.55
1980	10850	17657	28735	49335	56486	64675	20513	0.37	0.44	0.52
1981	17188	27819	45025	52208	60176	69360	22963	0.39	0.46	0.55
1982	19201	30805	49421	54374	62485	71805	21489	0.38	0.45	0.53
1983	32277	52212	84460	84685	97535	112334	38133	0.59	0.69	0.80
1984	14040	22746	36852	98234	114122	132580	36979	0.47	0.55	0.64
1985	6373	10433	17078	71585	83017	96276	39484	0.63	0.73	0.84
1986	7212	11744	19124	62846	74000	87134	34595	0.52	0.61	0.72
1987	7055	11379	18351	53401	61982	71943	21391	0.41	0.49	0.57
1988	10612	17081	27493	47534	53864	61036	23182	0.53	0.62	0.72
1989	3100	5080	8325	34070	38285	43022	22068	0.69	0.80	0.92
1990	3870	6397	10572	25785	29685	34176	13692	0.57	0.68	0.80
1991	6660	11069	18395	18578	21807	25597	8750	0.42	0.51	0.61
1992	7196	11889	19643	15008	17735	20957	6396	0.33	0.40	0.49
1993	17015	27583	44715	25200	30132	36029	6107	0.22	0.27	0.33
1994	27077	43786	70806	53625	64296	77091	9046	0.21	0.25	0.31
1995	7803	12307	19413	54662	62916	72416	23045	0.30	0.36	0.42
1996	4079	6408	10067	73598	84231	96400	40422	0.59	0.68	0.78
1997	5057	7874	12260	67442	78128	90508	34304	0.70	0.81	0.92
1998	10058	15518	23942	45315	52395	60579	24005	0.58	0.67	0.77
1999	16230	24970	38418	36230	41416	47346	19245	0.50	0.58	0.68
2000	23601	36326	55911	37298	42229	47812	21833	0.36	0.43	0.51
2001	9974	15240	23287	51188	57975	65662	28577	0.40	0.46	0.54
2002	4857	7489	11548	51141	57844	65426	38834	0.67	0.77	0.88
2003	3128	4904	7687	37784	43352	49741	25167	0.65	0.75	0.86
2004	4603	7104	10964	23909	27263	31088	12840	0.56	0.64	0.75
2005	5962	9169	14101	20268	22912	25901	10119	0.52	0.61	0.71
2006	3856	5933	9131	17153	19368	21869	9844	0.52	0.60	0.70
2007	4039	6264	9713	14603	16531	18713	7511	0.41	0.49	0.57
2008	6661	10210	15649	17315	19637	22271	7315	0.42	0.49	0.57
2009	9909	15254	23482	17653	19944	22531	9979	0.46	0.54	0.63
2010	3334	5166	8004	19196	21657	24432	12762	0.58	0.68	0.79
2011	883	1410	2251	17105	19597	22452	9692	0.48	0.56	0.66
2012	2116	3321	5211	15398	17750	20461	7205	0.49	0.59	0.70
2013	5282	8282	12986	15434	17888	20732	4473	0.29	0.35	0.42
2014	2079	3279	5173	16447	18724	21317	5711	0.33	0.39	0.47
2015	3328	5206	8145	16207	18379	20841	7328	0.42	0.49	0.58
2016	4347	6772	10547	19207	22203	25667	5876	0.35	0.41	0.49
2017	7370	11489	17910	21056	24315	28079	5360	0.27	0.33	0.39
2018	5419	8448	13171	26207	29531	33276	12214	0.49	0.57	0.66

Year	Recruitment			SSB			Total catch	F		
	Low	Midpoint	High	Low	Midpoint	High		Low	Midpoint	High
2019	1478	2331	3678	25461	28632	32197	20609	0.92	1.05	1.19
2020	1490	2340	3674	13715	15463	17435	9748	0.81	0.93	1.08
2021	3520	5588	8871	9791	11236	12895	5412	0.56	0.66	0.78
2022	2756	4612	7717	9073	10504	12160	4656	0.52	0.63	0.76
2023	2498	5025	10109	8940	10792	13027	3720	0.31	0.40	0.50
2024	1174	4077	14157	11695	15149	19623	5657	0.39	0.53	0.73

* Catch estimate based on catch statistics to the end of September extrapolated to the entire year.

Sources and references

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[Download the stock assessment data and figures](#)

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