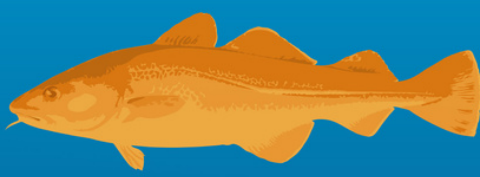


## North Sea cod

Atlantic Cod is an important fish in the North Sea ecosystem. It plays a central role in the food web as it is both a predator and a prey.



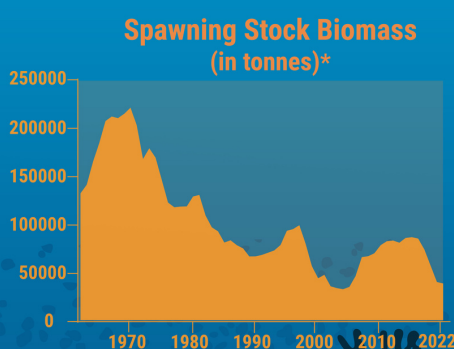
North Sea cod is fished in the waters of the EU, UK and Norway. Therefore, fishing quotas are negotiated between these three parties.



The main fishing method for catching cod is bottom trawling, a method that involves significant bycatch, is highly destructive on the seabed, and is fuel intensive.



North Sea cod has been overfished for decades. The population has become so small that it struggles to reproduce.

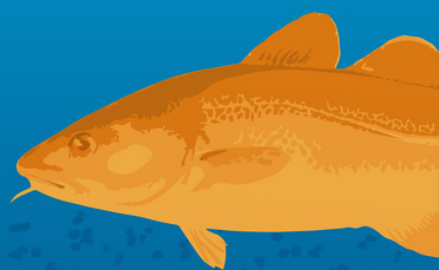


\*Data from ICES advice on fishing opportunities, 2022

Despite the dramatic state of North Sea cod, fishing quotas have been set above the scientific advice year after year, depleting the stock further.



Following strict fishing measures, the cod population in the North Sea started showing a minor upward trend. Without delay, countries are pushing for a sharp increase in allowed catches.



Increasing the fishing quota for North Sea cod ignores the fact that the population is still in a critical state and that its recovery should be a priority.

