

Gadus morhua* (Atlantic Cod)*Priority 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)****Class:** *Actinopterygii* (Ray-finned Fishes)**Order:** *Gadiformes* (Cods, Haddocks, Grenadiers)**Family:** *Gadidae* (Cods)**General comments:**

General information:

<http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/sos/spsyn/pg/cod/><http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/saw/cod/>**No Species Conservation Range Maps Available for Atlantic Cod****SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:****Risk of Extirpation:**IUCN Red List Status: **Vulnerable****State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern: NA****Recent Significant Declines: NA****Regional Endemic: NA****High Regional Conservation Priority:**

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Stock Assessments:

Status: Unstable/Decreasing, Status Comment:

Reference:

High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA**Understudied rare taxa: NA****Historical: NA****Culturally Significant: NA****Habitats Assigned to Atlantic Cod:**

Formation Name	Subtidal
Macrogroup Name	Subtidal Bedrock Bottom
Habitat System Name: Bedrock	**Primary Habitat** Notes: spawning aggregation, and non-spawning adults
Habitat System Name: Kelp Bed	Notes: juvenile
Macrogroup Name	Subtidal Coarse Gravel Bottom
Habitat System Name: Coarse Gravel	**Primary Habitat** Notes: spawning aggregation, and non-spawning adults, also juvenile habitat
Habitat System Name: Erect Epifauna	
Habitat System Name: Kelp Bed	**Primary Habitat** Notes: juvenile
Macrogroup Name	Subtidal Pelagic (Water Column)
Habitat System Name: Offshore	**Primary Habitat** Notes: spawning activity at night in the water column
Macrogroup Name	Subtidal Sand Bottom
Habitat System Name: Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	**Primary Habitat** Notes: primary for juvenile, non-primary for adult
Habitat System Name: Unvegetated	Notes: adult

Stressors Assigned to Atlantic Cod:

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Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability		Moderate Severity	High Severity
	Highly Actionable	Medium-High	High
	Moderately Actionable	Medium	Medium-High
	Actionable with Difficulty	Low	Low

IUCN Level 1 Threat Biological Resource Use**IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources**Severity:** Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable**Notes:** Historic heavy fishing pressure has drastically reduced Atlantic cod stocks in the Gulf of Maine and Maine waters. Past fishing on spawning aggregations likely extirpated local populations. While there are current regulatory measures in place that severely limit cod fishing and the landing of cod, the stocks may be too far reduced to recover, and further limits on catch may have minimal impact.**IUCN Level 1 Threat Human Intrusions and Disturbance****IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Recreational Activities**Severity:** Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable**Notes:** Historic heavy fishing pressure has drastically reduced Atlantic cod stocks in the Gulf of Maine and Maine waters. Past fishing on spawning aggregations likely extirpated local populations. While there are current regulatory measures in place that do not allow recreational cod take, the stocks may be too far reduced to recover.**IUCN Level 1 Threat Climate Change and Severe Weather****IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Habitat Shifting or Alteration**Severity:** Severe **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty**Notes:** As a coldwater species, changes in habitat associated with climate change and other environmental variables may limit the ability of the population to reach its potential, and may cause shifts in range or range truncation.. Additionally, while reduced fishing pressure may allow cod stocks to rebuild slightly, changed in habitat associated with climate change and other environmental variables may limit the ability of the population to reach its potential.**IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Temperature Extremes**Severity:** Severe **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty**Notes:** While reduced fishing pressure may allow cod stocks to rebuild slightly, changed in habitat associated with climate change and other environmental variables may limit the ability of the population to reach its potential.**IUCN Level 1 Threat Energy Production and Mining****IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Oil and Gas Drilling**Severity:** Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty**Notes:** There is potential for offshore oil spills in the Gulf of Maine from tankers. The use of oil dispersants increases the effect on groundfish and pelagic species by increasing the toxicity of oil globules, though the exact effects are not well documented.**Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Atlantic Cod:**None. **Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.****Guild Level Conservation Actions:**

This Species is currently not attributed to a guild.

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Family: *Gadidae* (Cods)

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.