

# Cod



## Biology facts

<b>Depth Range</b>	benthopelagic, 0–600 m (Atlantic Cod) demersal, 0-1280 m (Pacific Cod)
<b>Max Age</b>	25 years (Atlantic Cod) 18 years (Pacific Cod)
<b>Maturity Age</b>	2-4 years (Atlantic Cod)
<b>Max Size</b>	200 cm (Atlantic Cod) 119 cm (Pacific Cod)
<b>Max Weight</b>	96 kg (Atlantic Cod) 22.7 kg (Pacific Cod)
<b>Prey</b>	fish, invertebrates (Atlantic Cod) fish, squid, large benthic and benthopelagic crustaceans (Pacific Cod)
<b>Other</b>	Pacific Cod occurs in the North Pacific from Yellow Sea to the Bering Strait, along the Aleutians and in the south to about Los Angeles (USA). Rare in the southern part of its range. Atlantic Cod occurs in coastal waters of the Northwest and the Northeast Atlantic.

## Fishery Facts

<b>Latin Name</b>	<i>Gadus morhua</i> (Atlantic Cod) <i>Gadus macrocephalus</i> (Pacific Cod)
<b>Fishing Method</b>	bottom and otter trawls, hook and line, Danish seine, gill net, bottom-longline farmed production of Atlantic Cod in marine cages in Norway
<b>Annual catch</b>	wild catch: 823 482 t, farmed production: 13 228 t (FAO 2006) (Atlantic Cod) 342 302 t (FAO 2006) (Pacific Cod)
<b>Management</b>	ICES recommend a close of the fisheries at the Norwegian Coast and in Kattegat, Skagerrak, North Sea, Eastern Channel, west of

### Spendenkonto

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Scotland, Greenland and Faroe Plateau and Bank, Irish Sea and Celtic Sea.

**Main fishing nations** The most important stocks are the Norwegian Arctic stock in the Barents Sea (424 000 t in 2007) and the Icelandic stock (193 000 t in 2007), together accounting for >80% of Northeast Atlantic catches.

**Certification** The bottom hook and line gear Cod fishery in the Pacific Ocean is certified by Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) in 2006. Only one fishery in the eastern Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands is certified.

### Main Concerns

- **Atlantic Cod is listed on the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Red List as vulnerable “facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future” (last assessed in 1996).**
- **Many stocks, like stocks of US and Canadian waters and of the Northeast Atlantic are in extremely poor condition and classified as being overfished. Cod in the North Sea and adjacent waters for example are at historical lows, having declined almost 90% since the early 1970s.**
- **A further concern is that Cod are often caught using bottom trawling gear which damages seabed habitats that are important for the survival of many other species and accidentally catches non-targeted marine animals as bycatch.**
- **A justifiable alternative for Atlantic Cod is the Cod fishery with long-lines, Danish seines and hand lines in the North East Atlantic (Barents Sea, Norwegian Sea, Iceland) and the Western Baltic Sea. For Pacific Cod the the Cod fishery with long lines, hooks and lines, traps and pots in the Northeast Pacific (Bering Sea, Alaska and Aleutian Islands) is justifiable.**
- **Also Cod farming in Norway is no alternative, because the broodstock is taken from wild stocks and because of the the huge number of escapes.**

### Main Sources

<http://www.fao.org>

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<http://www.fishbase.org/Summary/speciesSummary.php?ID=69&genusname=Gadus&speciesname=morhua>

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[http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/cr/cr\\_seafoodwatch/content/media/MBA\\_SeafoodWatch\\_AtlanticCodReport.pdf](http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/cr/cr_seafoodwatch/content/media/MBA_SeafoodWatch_AtlanticCodReport.pdf)

[http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch/species/atlantic\\_cod.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch/species/atlantic_cod.htm)

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