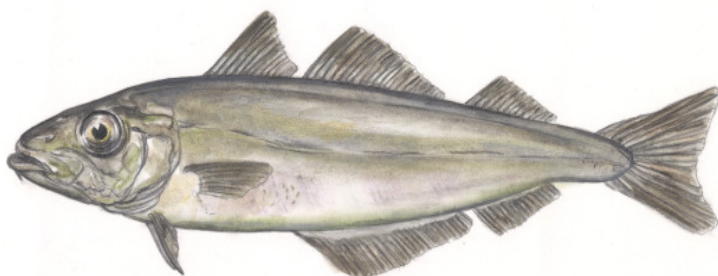


Saithe



Biology facts

Depth Range	demersal, 37-364 m
Max Age	25 years
Maturity Age	2-10 years
Max Size	1.3 m
Max Weight	32 kg
Prey	small crustaceans and small fishes
Other	An active, gregarious fish occurring in inshore and offshore waters. Usually enters coastal waters in spring and returns to deeper waters in winter. Spawns in batches. Saithe is found in the Eastern Atlantic (Barents Sea, Spitsbergen to Bay of Biscay, around Iceland) and in the Western Atlantic (Southwest Greenland, Hudson Strait to North Carolina).

Fishery Facts

Latin Name	<i>Pollachius virens</i>
Fishing Method	bottom and pelagic trawls, purse seiners, gill net, long-line, Danish seine and hand line
Annual catch	339 987 t (FAO 1999), 495 833 t (FAO 2006)
Management	Faroe stock: Spawning closures are presently maintained.
Main fishing nations	Norway 197 969 t and Faeroe Islands 34 5423 t (FAO 1999)
Certification	The Norway north-east Arctic saithe fishery is certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) in 2008. The fishing methods which are allowed to use in the Norwegian Sea are trawl, gill net, purse seine, Danish seine and hand line. Germany North Sea saithe trawl fishery is certified by the MSC in 2008. The fishing methods which is certified is demersal otter trawl.

Spendenkonto

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Main Concern

- All four Saithe stocks are not in an overfished state, however the Faroes & Iceland stocks are being overfished & ICES recommends significant reductions in the amounts of Saithe taken from these stocks.
- Mainly used fishing gear is the bottom trawl. Bottom trawling is one of the most destructive fishing methods. Seabed impacts, especially on cold-water corals in the fishing regions, is a big problem.
- Low prices for Saithe/Haddock and high prices for Cod have kept the fishing rate on Cod higher than expected. Cod is listed as vulnerable by IUCN (1996).
- A justifiable alternative for Saithes is the Saithe fishery in the Northeast Atlantic (Barents Sea, Norwegian Sea, West Scotland, Rockall, North Sea and Skagerrak/Kattegat) caught with long lines, hand lines, Danish seines and purse seines.

Main Sources

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<http://www.fishbase.de/Summary/SpeciesSummary.php?id=1343&lang=English>

<http://www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/certified/north-east-atlantic/Germany-North-Sea-saithe-trawl/Germany-north-sea-saithe-trawl/?searchterm=Pollachius%20virens>

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<http://www.ices.dk/reports/ACOM/2008/AFWG/directory.asp>

<http://www.ices.dk/reports/ACOM/2008/NWWG/directory.asp>

Kelleher K (2005). Discards in the world's marine fisheries. An update. FAO technical paper 470. Rome, Italy: Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. p44-5. www.fao.org/docrep/008/y5936e/y5936e00.htm

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