

Atlantic Cod

Gadus morhua (Laurentian South & Southern populations)



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Species Description

The Atlantic Cod is a large, heavy-bodied, streamlined marine fish that can grow up to 2 m in length (typically closer to 1 m). It is greenish, reddish or dark brown coloured, with spots along its sides, and lighter undersides. It can be recognized by its three dorsal fins, two anal fins, pale line running down the sides of its body (lateral line), and barbel under the lower jaw.



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Key ID Features: * three dorsal fins * pale lateral line * barbell under jaw

STATUS

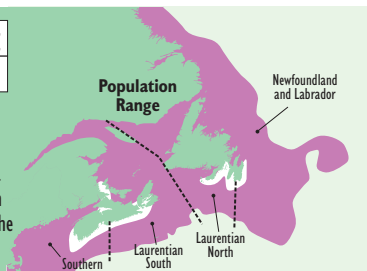


Endangered COSEWIC

Not Listed SARA

SARA

Found along the continental shelves and coastal inshore waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Two populations occur in the waters off Nova Scotia. Over the last 22 years, the Laurentian South population has declined by 90% and the Southern population by 64%.



Interesting Points

- Can live up to 25 years.
- Predator at the top of the food chain.
- Communicates through low-frequency noise produced by muscles vibrating against the air bladder.



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Threats

- Historical population collapse in the 1990s from overfishing.
- Continued threats include direct fishing, incidental take as bycatch, and high natural mortality rates.



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Learn how you can help on page 136.

Contacts, Information & Stewardship Opportunities

Contact: DFO Species at Risk 1-866-891-0771 or xmarsara@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Info: www.sararegistry.gc.ca, www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes

Stewardship: SeaChoice www.seachoice.org, Off The Hook www.offthefhookcsf.ca