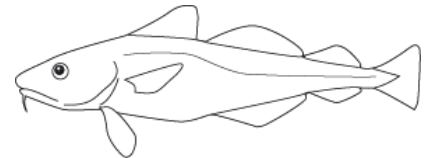


Explanations on the ICES Advice for 2024

Eastern Baltic cod



The directed fishery for cod in the eastern Baltic Sea has already been closed since mid-2019. In EU waters, only a bycatch quota in the mixed flatfish fishery is still in effect. The bulk of the remaining catch is taken by Russia. Although fishing pressure is now very low, the stock shows no signs of recovery. Natural mortality is considered more than ten times higher than fishing mortality. The lack of oxygen in the deep basins of the eastern Baltic Sea is particularly critical. As a result, important spawning and feeding areas are lost.

ICES again recommends the closure of the fishery for 2024 based on the precautionary approach. The EU has so far translated this into a bycatch quota of 595 tons and closed all recreational fisheries. The management objective is now no longer to rebuild the stock to sustainable levels, but to conserve what remains of that stock in order to allow for a recovery once the environmental conditions become more favourable.

Contact:

Dr. Uwe Krumme

Thünen Institute of Baltic Sea Fisheries, 18069 Rostock

Phone: +49 (0)381 66099-148, Mail: uwe.krumme@thuenen.de

<https://www.thuenen.de/en/thuenen-topics/fisheries/understanding-fish-stock-developments-scientific-basis-for-sustainable-use/ices-advice-on-fishing-opportunities-whats-behind-it>