## Mackerel fishery risks losing MSC certification

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The Northeast Atlantic mackerel fishery runs the risk of losing its MSC certification as being a sustainable fishery. The certification is at risk because a change in the migration pattern of this transboundary stock has ruptured previously agreed quota allocation arrangements. The apparent villain is Iceland. From 2005 to 2008, Iceland's fishery managers increased their mackerel catch from 363 tonnes to 112,286 tonnes. Iceland has also unilaterally awarded itself a 130,000 tonne mackerel quota for 2010. The Faroe Islands in 2009 pulled out of the management agreement between EU nations and Norway. The latest ICES stock assessment indicates that if this increased level of fishing activity continues the stock will decline. Unless the situation is resolved by the end of 2011, the escalation in fishing will lead to suspension of MSC-certification. More here

TAGS: Northeast Atlantic mackerel, overfishing, quota allocations breakdown, Iceland, Faroe Islands, ICES, MSC certification, sustainable, fisheries

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