



© Dieter Craasmann

NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	< VULNERABLE >	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX



Geographical range

Amazing Species: Atlantic Cod

The **Atlantic Cod**, *Gadus morhua*, is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. This species is found on both the eastern and western shores of the northern Atlantic Ocean and feeds on a variety of food items including plant life, crustaceans and small fishes (including juveniles of their own species).

The rapid economic growth of the United States, during the 18th and 19th centuries, is sometimes attributed to the incredible magnitude of the Cod fishing industry in the northwest Atlantic. Since the 1970s, however, there has been a catastrophic crash of annual catches and it is now estimated that over 70% of the western Atlantic Cod stock has been decimated from its historical level. Populations may now be outside safe biological limits.

Atlantic Cod symbolizes how a once abundant species can be exploited to the point of crisis. Found largely in international waters, it is difficult to impose restrictions on the number of fish that can be sustainably harvested from the sea. The only hope for the future of this fish may be the imposition of no-catch zones, including some migration routes, and areas where fish can spawn undisturbed.

www.iucnredlist.org
[Help Save Species](#)
www.arkive.org



The production of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is made possible through the IUCN Red List Partnership: IUCN (including the Species Survival Commission), BirdLife International, Conservation International, NatureServe and Zoological Society of London.