

Communicating data science

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Introduction

Introduction

Atlantic cod also known by its scientific name *Gadus morhua* is one of the most commercially important fish species in the world, with a long history of human exploitation dating back to the 10th century during by the Vikings Kurlanski (1997a).

This species has been an important source of food and income for coastal communities across the North Atlantic region, supporting a vast industry of fishermen, processors, and distributors for centuries. However, the sustainability of the Atlantic cod fishery has been increasingly threatened in recent years due to overfishing, habitat destruction, and climate change.

The warming of ocean waters, caused by increasing greenhouse gas emissions, has altered the biology, ecology, and behaviour of Atlantic cod, leading to declines in population and distribution. These changes have had significant impacts on the commercial fishing industry, which has relied heavily on Atlantic cod as a source of income and food for centuries.

In recent years, scientific research and policy efforts have been focused on understanding the impacts of climate change on Atlantic cod, and developing sustainable fishing strategies that take into account the changing environmental conditions.

This report aims to review the current state of knowledge on the impact of climate change on Atlantic cod, including the ecological and environmental factors that shape its distribution and abundance, considering some of the socio-economic implications of its decline, and the strategies for sustainable management and conservation in the face of climate change.

Through an analysis of the data regarding sea surface temperature increase and fishing, this report seeks to contribute to a more comprehensive and evidence-based understanding of the challenges associated with the Atlantic cod fishery in the era of climate change.

Background and context

Atlantic cod fishing has a long and complex history that dates back to at least the 11th century. Cod was a vital food source for European colonizers and became one of the most important commercial fish species in the North Atlantic.

The first recorded European explorers to fish for cod in North America were the Vikings, who fished for cod off the coast of Newfoundland around 1000 AD. Later, in the 15th and 16th centuries, European fishermen established seasonal fishing camps along the New England coastline, nicknaming it Cape Cod Kurlanski (1997b).

As European fishing fleets grew in size and range, they began to explore deeper waters and more distant fishing grounds, leading to the development of large-scale commercial fishing operations. By the late 18th century, French and English fleets were competing for the rich cod fisheries of the Grand Banks and other areas leading to the modernization and a significant increase of cod fishing Kurlanski (1997c).

As such from its beginning of being an important food source, to its increased values in trade as a commodity and its increased significance culturally due to it becoming a staple of many coastal diets and the naval development that produced experienced seamen and naval infrastructure that was required during the naval arms race of the colonial era.

Objectives

The report aims to analyse the impacts of climate change on Atlantic cod fisheries in Iceland, Norway, Danish Faroe Islands. The objectives of the report include evaluating the state of Atlantic cod fisheries from 1950 to 2010, identifying the scientific evidence linking climate change to changes in Atlantic cod's biology, ecology, and behaviour, identifying the key challenges facing the fisheries, and examining potential innovative management approaches to promote the resilience, adaptation, and sustainability of Atlantic cod fisheries.

The countries of Iceland, Norway and Denmark were chosen due to their availability of cod in their natural waters, the economy value of the fish and the long lasting traditions of cod consumption from the Viking era.

specify why these countries

iceland, norway gdp

proof of cultural significance on these countries

Overall, the report aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the ecological consequences of climate change on Atlantic cod fisheries and propose strategies for adaptation and mitigation. exhaustion of cod fisheries (fishing quotas, alternative fishing, like fishlike cod pangaceas)

Scope and limitations

The report is limited in scope to the impacts of climate change on Atlantic cod fisheries in Iceland, Norway and Danish Faroe Islands from 1950 to 2010. The report does not cover other fish species or historical changes in Atlantic cod populations prior to the onset of climate change. The analysis is based on existing scientific research and data, which may be limited in scope or availability. While the report provides an analysis of the ecological impact of climate change on Atlantic cod fisheries, it does not advocate for specific management strategies or policy recommendations. The report aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the issues and potential solutions within the knowledge and expertise limitations of the author.

fish data is only yearly and doesn't fully represent fishing seasons temperature sensitivity of measuring equipment may mean there are measurement errors which aren't accounted for

TODO talk here about overfishing as a limitation that is hard to account for

II. Climate Change and its Impact on Cod Fisheries

Causes and Effects of Climate Change

Climate change is primarily caused by the increase in greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere, particularly carbon dioxide (CO₂). Human activities, such as burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and agriculture, are the main sources of GHG emissions. These activities release large amounts of CO₂ and as a result the planet is experiencing a rise in temperature due to the heat-trapping effect of these gases.

Climate change is having a significant impact on plant and animal species, and these changes are having ripple effects throughout ecosystems. One of the most significant impacts of climate change on ecosystems is that it is causing shifts in the behavior and distribution of species. As temperatures and precipitation patterns change, some species are migrating to cooler or wetter areas. For example, some fish species are moving further north or to deeper waters in response to warming ocean temperatures.

These shifts in the distribution of species can have significant implications for ecosystems. As species move, they may encounter new competitors, predators, or prey, which can have cascading effects on food webs. Additionally, if certain species decline or disappear entirely, it can impact the availability of food and other resources for other species. This can lead to changes in the abundance and distribution of species, and can have significant impacts on ecosystem health and function.

These changes in ecosystems can also have impacts on human livelihoods. For example, in the fishing industry, changes in the distribution of fish species can impact the abundance and availability of fish, which can impact the success of fishing operations. These impacts can have economic and social implications for communities that rely on the fishing industry for their livelihoods.

Historical Changes in Cod Populations

Atlantic cod populations have undergone significant changes over the centuries due to human fishing activities. Before European colonization, cod populations were plentiful and sustained Indigenous communities along the coast of North America. However, as commercial fishing began in the 15th century, the pressure on cod populations increased, leading to their depletion. By the early 1900s, there were concerns about the sustainability of the fishery, and measures such as fishing quotas and seasonal closures were implemented to allow for the recovery of the population.

These conservation measures led to a partial recovery of the cod population in the mid-20th century. However, during this time, technological advancements in fishing methods, such as

motorized vessels and sonar technology, allowed for increased efficiency and the exploitation of deeper waters, further depleting cod populations. Despite concerns about the sustainability of the fishery, the demand for cod continued to increase, and fishing pressure intensified in the latter half of the 20th century.

In addition to overfishing, the cod population was also impacted by changes in the climate. As ocean temperatures increased in the latter half of the 20th century, the cod's food sources began to shift, leading to changes in their distribution and abundance "Climate Change Indicators: Sea Surface Temperature" (n.d.). Warmer waters also allowed for the expansion of predators, such as seals and haddock, which preyed on cod populations.

These changes in the ocean ecosystem, coupled with overfishing, contributed to the collapse of multiple fisheries such as the Atlantic Northwest cod fishery in the 1990s, with cod population reaching 1% of its historical value despite efforts to regulate fishing and promote sustainability Cochrane (2000).

Current Situation of Cod Fisheries

According to the ICES's latest fisheries overviews, the cod population in Icelandic waters is currently being fished above its sustainable harvest rate. While the biomass ratios of cod are currently in a desirable condition, the fishing mortality rates for cod are above the recommended levels for sustainable fishing ICES (2022).

In Norway there have been fluctuations in the cod population over the years. While the cod population had declined sharply in the 1980s due to overfishing, there have been some signs of recovery in recent years. However, the cod population in the Norwegian Sea, as well as in some other areas, has been declining since 2014.

ICES data highlights the impact of climate change on the cod population in Norway, with changes in ocean temperature and acidity levels affecting the fish's growth, reproduction, and survival rates. However data suggests that measures such as reducing fishing pressure, improving fishing practices, and protecting spawning and nursery areas can help to support the recovery and long-term sustainability of the cod population in Norway Zbiciak and Markiewicz (2023).

In the Danish Faroe Islands the subdivision of Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*), North-east Arctic cod stocks that are fished within the Faroese ecoregion has been increasing since the late 1990s, and in 2021, the spawning-stock biomass (SSB) was estimated to be at its highest level since the early 1970s. ICES only advises that catches of Northeast Arctic cod should not exceed 783,000 tonnes in 2023 ICES (2023).

Regarding another division of subdivision of Atlantic cod, Faroese cod, the report states that the stock is in a healthy state, with the SSB estimated to be at or above the precautionary reference point. ICES advises that catches of Faroese cod should not exceed 9,815 tonnes in 2023 ICES (2023).

Lastly, ICES notes that Icelandic cod is currently below the precautionary reference point, and ICES advises that no directed fishing for Icelandic cod should take place in 2023 ICES (2023).

The Effects of Climate Change on Cod Fisheries

Iceland

Norway

Faroe Islands

V. Conclusion A. Summary of Findings B. Implications for Cod Fisheries and Fishing Communities C. Future Directions for Research and Action

This improves the world because governments can take this data to plan for longevity of cod supplies for future generations

If the p-value of the test is less than 0.05, you can reject the null hypothesis that the time series is non-stationary and assume that it is stationary.

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