

Case studies

(FISH510.9: Principles of utilisation: The precautionary approach)

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A case study on harvests, cod in Icelandic waters

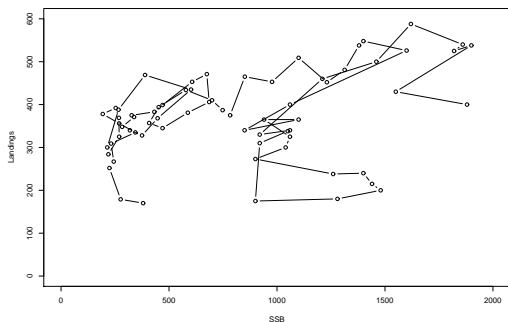


Figure: Landings and SSB of cod in Icelandic waters, from 1928 onwards.

Adoption of an HCR needs extensive evaluation

A number of points are obvious based on catch and stock history

The history of the fishery

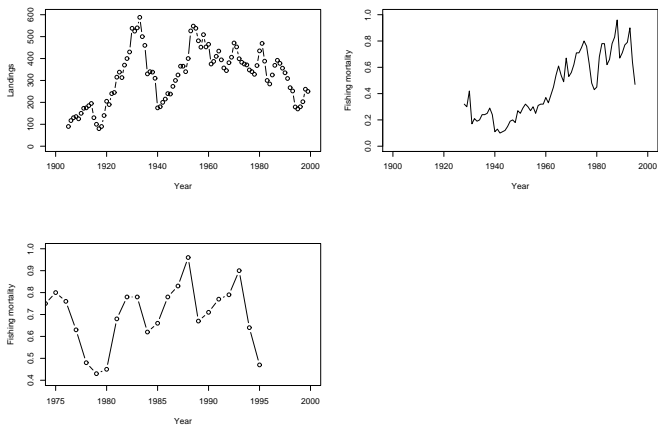


Figure: Fishing mortality of cod in Icelandic waters, from 1928 onwards.

Assessments at ICES

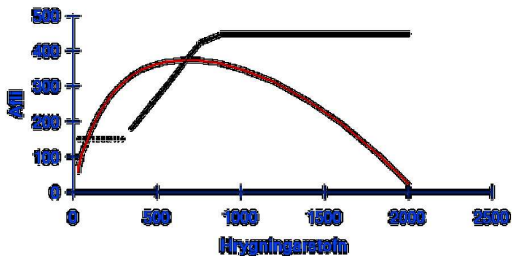
In 1992 ICES was asked to provide advice on the cod stock in Icelandic waters. Considerable work was undertaken to prepare data, conduct analyses etc.

ICES recommended a 40% reduction in fishing mortality.

The advice was adopted.

Analyses included estimation of reductions which guaranteed with over 90% probability that fishing effort would not need to be cut further (i.e. that the stock would come back up).

Harvest control rule and equilibrium catch



1993 working group: investigate a formal harvest strategy for cod in Icelandic waters. Included biologists, economists and representatives from the fishing industry. Evaluated the biological and economic consequences of different strategies, took into account prejudices, and all known biological details. HCR adopted in 1994/5.

Multispecies concerns

