



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

Haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*)

Description

Haddock has a lifespan of 9-10 years. They have three dorsal fins, two anal fins, and a black lateral line. The haddock has increased in its population size and is no longer overfished.

Habitat and Distribution

Haddock can be found in deep, cool waters off the coasts of the Atlantic Ocean. They migrate seasonally to optimal habitat conditions, ranging from the Grand Banks to Cape Cod in the summer, and increasing their range south bound to North Carolina in the winter.

Sounds

Haddock are known to make knocking sounds during the spawning process. Their sounds are still being studied.

Feeding

Juveniles and adults will eat almost any small invertebrate they come across, the most common being small crabs, sea worms, clams, starfish, sea cucumbers, sea urchins, and squid.

Threats

Due to overfishing, haddock stocks crashed in the 1980's. Now with heavy fishing restrictions, the haddock population has made a sufficient recovery. Today they risk habitat threats such as pollution, and oil exploration.

Fun Fact

Like the Cod, female haddocks produce different amounts of eggs based on their size. A female at 2.2 lbs can make 170,000 eggs while the largest females can have up to 3,000,000 eggs.



Family: Gadidae
Status: Vulnerable
Length: 20 - 24 inches
Weight: 3 - 5 lbs