

Status report for 2008

Russian catches of north east arctic cod and haddock

1. Introduction

Pursuant to the protocol from the 36th session of the Joint Norwegian-Russian Fisheries Commission section 12.6 subsection 9, the analysis group shall '*Prepare a method for the analysis of satellite tracking data and information about transportation and landing of fish in ports*'. The second meeting concerning this task was held in Bergen in week 13, 2009. The work on the method is expected to be completed in the course of 2009.

However, this analysis of Russian catches of cod and haddock is in fact the seventh in a series of Norwegian products, based on previously used methods¹.

NEAFC port state control scheme, which was introduced on 1 May 2007, has proved a reliable source of information about landings in third countries², and has therefore been used as basis for landed quantities in the analysis conclusion. The same applies to Russian landings in Norway, which are based on figures from the Norwegian Register of Salesnote. As far as Russia is concerned, we have, as in previous years, included documented landed quantities and quantities calculated on the basis of tracking information until and including 30 November 2008³.

2. Documented quantities

The documented quantities landed in Russia have increased in the case of both cod and haddock. In the case of haddock, the quantity has increased almost fourfold compared with 2007 and, in the case of cod, it has increased by approx. 38 %. These quantities have been documented by the Norwegian authorities through inspections at sea and in ports. Through these inspections, based on a review of the catch logbooks,

¹ Available at the Directorate of Fisheries' website: www.fiskeridir.no

² Third countries: In this context, countries other than Norway and Russia that are covered by NEAFC's port state control. Third-country landings mainly occur in the Netherlands. No landings have been registered in states not covered by NEAFC's port state control.

³ As of 1 December 2008, Russian tracking data were no longer transferred in REZ.

it has been observed that, during some periods, some fishing vessels fish a disproportionate share of haddock compared with other vessels in the same zone. This fishing took place in the Russian economic zone (REZ), and the catches were transhipped to other vessels in whole or in part and landed in Russia. Hence, there is a possibility that vessels have landed cod, registered as haddock, in Russia in 2008.

Analyses of tracking data show great activity of transport vessels in the direction of Murmansk/Arkhangelsk. It also includes a great number of fishing vessels to which cod and haddock quotas are registered, but which were not inspected by Norwegian authorities in 2008⁴. Some of these probably also have quotas for the so-called 'Murmansk cod'⁵.

The documented quantities of cod and haddock landed in Norway decreased in 2008 compared with 2007, (by 5.2% and 14.8%, respectively). This is a new trend compared with previous years, which showed a gradual increase in the quantities landed in Norway between 2005 and 2007.

As far as documented quantities of cod and haddock landed in third countries are concerned, there was a small increase of 1.3 % in the case of cod and a marked decrease of 50.2% in the case of haddock.

For 2008 as a whole, it has been possible to document a total of 172,360 tonnes of cod and 57,000 tonnes of haddock. This represents a small increase of 1,500 tonnes in the case of cod and a slight decrease of approximately 3,000 tonnes in the case of haddock as a result of the considerable decrease in the quantities landed in third countries.

Table 1: Documented quantities broken down by destinations in Norway, third countries and Russia 2008.

	Norway		Third countries		Russia	
	Cod	Haddock	Cod	Haddock	Cod	Haddock
Transport vessel			77,667,000	13,309,000	7,244,000	16,404,000
Fishing vessel			2,415,000	548,000	4,154,000	3,029,000
Total	80,876,000	23,698,000	80,082,000	13,857,000	11,398,000	19,433,000

3. Calculation method for Russia

In the case of Russia, it was decided to use the same method of calculation as formed the basis for the conclusion of the analysis for 2007, distinguishing between trips for which one has complete information and trips for which this is not the case. Cargo capacities have been obtained from the 'Lloyds Register Fairplay'⁶ website. In the case of vessels for which cargo capacity is not stated, the analysis was consistently based on the lowest known cargo capacity, since most of the vessels fall into the category of small coastal vessels.

⁴ Some of these have not been inspected for several years because of fishing in REZ

⁵ 21,000 tonnes of cod

⁶ Available at www.ships-register.com. New cargo capacities make little difference in terms of total quantities.

Each registered cargo load was interpreted and classified using the figures 0, 1 and 2⁷. A category 0 classification is used where it is concluded that information about the actual quantities is lacking, that the quantities are under-estimated or that they are based on tracking information only. A category 1 classification means that the actual quantities are uncertain, while a category 2 classification means that the actual quantities have been determined with certainty.

The analysis is based on the average of the quantities classified as category 1 and 2 on trips classified between 0 and 1.

Table 2: Registered catches of cod and haddock broken down by destinations in Norway, third countries and Russia in 2008.

	Russia		SUM	
	Cod	Haddock	Cod	Haddock
Transport vessel	20,302,000	38,597,000	20,302,000	38,597,000
Fishing vessel	24,479,000	17,768,000	24,479,000	17,768,000
Norway			80,876,000	23,698,000
Third countries			80,082,000	13,857,000
Total			205,739,000	93,920,000

Table 2 shows registered catches of 205,739 tonnes of cod and 93,920 tonnes of haddock. Based on a Russian quota of **190,650 tonnes of cod** and **69,500 tonnes of haddock**, this suggests a possible overfishing of approximately **15,000 tonnes** of cod and **24,000 tonnes** of haddock.

4. Development trends 2002-2008

Figure 1 shows that registered Russian overfishing of cod has declined in recent years. In this context, it should be noted that Russian cod quotas have varied during these years, from almost 190,000 in 2007 to almost 214,000 tonnes in 2005. Figure 2 below shows overfishing as a percentage of the quota for each year, and the trend is the same.

⁷ Discretionary assessment based on vessel size and history of capacity utilisation and species.

Figure 1: Registered overfishing of **cod** during the years 2002-2008.

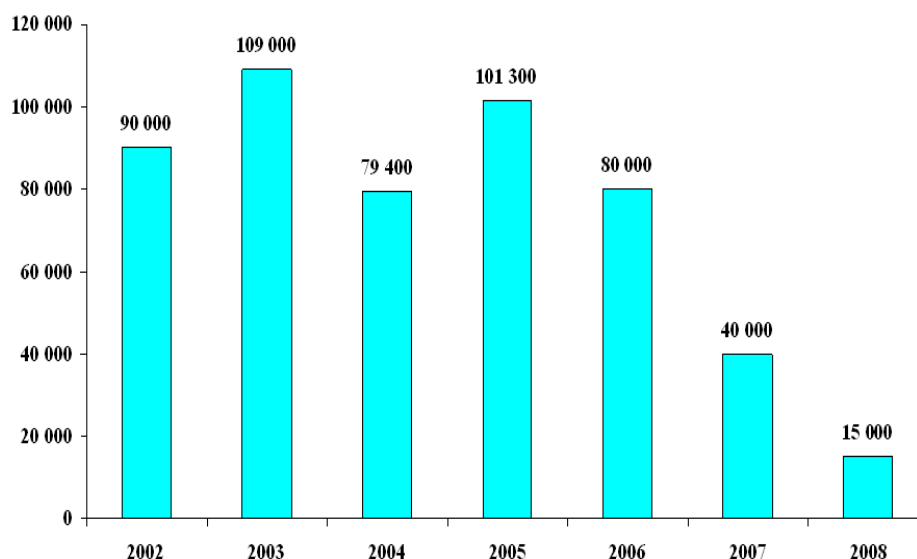


Figure 2: Overfishing of **cod** as a percentage of the quotas for the years 2002-2008.

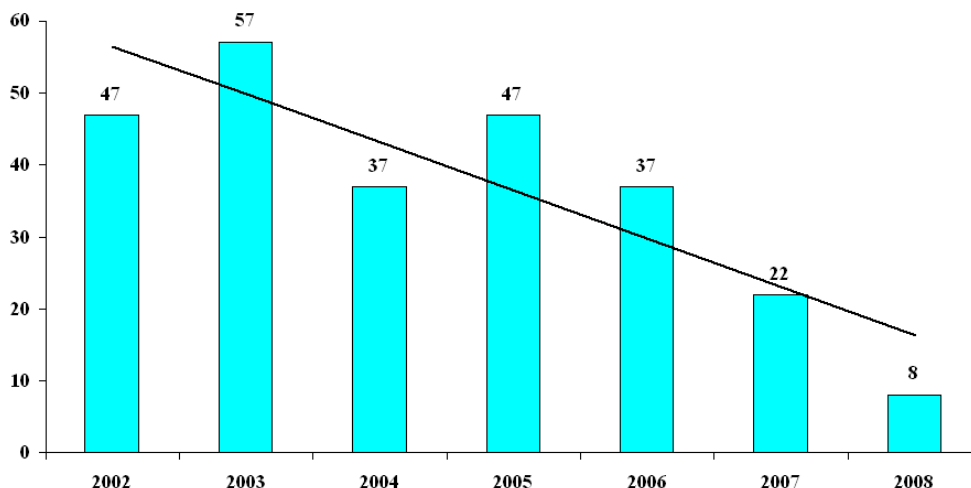


Figure 2 shows a positive trend for overfishing in relation to the quota for each year. For 2008, we are down to 8% overfishing, after a gradual decline since 2002 and 2003, when overfishing was registered to be 47% and 57%, respectively.

Figure 3: Relationship between documented and calculated quantities of **cod** for the years 2002-2008 (in per cent).

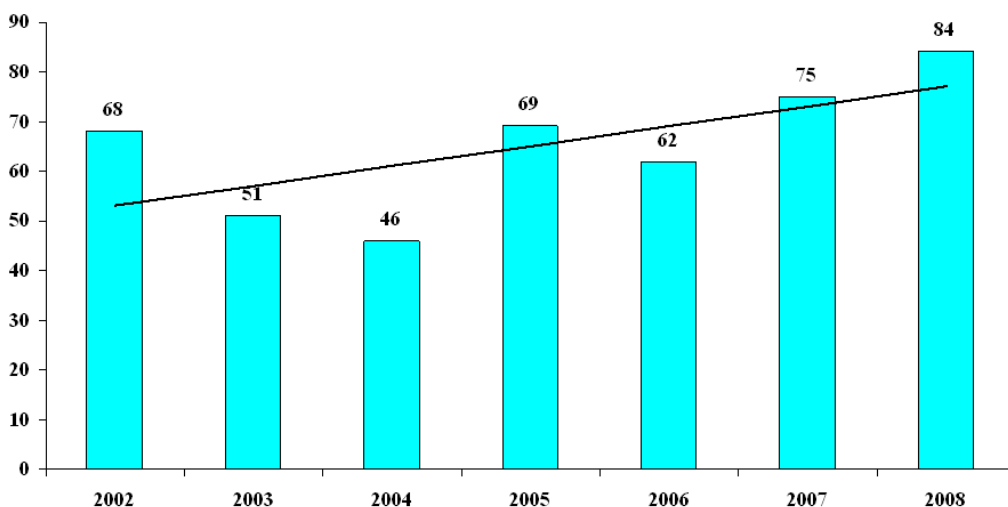
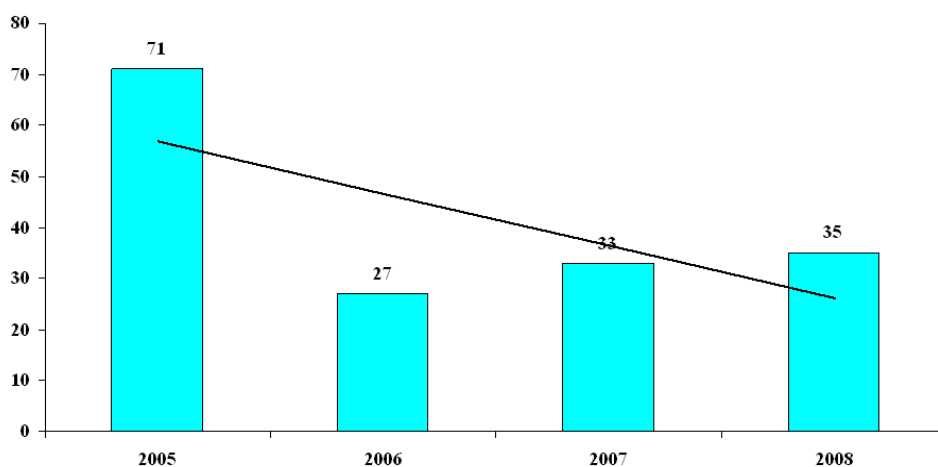


Figure 3 shows the relationship between documented quantities of cod, based on inspections, landings in Norway and data from NEAFC’s database, and calculated quantities of cod. It shows that the analysis is increasingly based on documented quantities. For 2008, 84% of registered total catches are based on documented quantities.

Figure 4: Registered overfishing of haddock (as a percentage of total quotas) during the years 2005- 2007.



In the case of haddock, analyses are available from 2005 and onwards. Registered overfishing has increased slightly since 2007 (from 33% to 35%). For 2008, the analysis is based on a 61% documented quantity compared with 71% in 2007.

4. Conclusion

Russian overfishing of cod and haddock continues, but overfishing of cod is at its lowest since 2002. Overfishing of cod has declined steadily since 2005. In the case of haddock, the registrations show that overfishing was somewhat greater in 2008 compared with 2007.

Registered catches amount to approximately 206,000 tonnes of cod and approximately 85,000 tonnes of haddock. Based on a Russian quota of 190,650 tonnes of cod and 69,500 tonnes of haddock, this suggests possible overfishing of approximately **15,000 tonnes of cod** and **24,000 tonnes of haddock**. It is not inconceivable that some of the haddock is actually cod.

Better access to information has contributed to reducing the uncertainties of the catch registrations over time. More so than in previous years, the conclusions for 2008 are based on documented quantities – 84% in the case of cod and 61% in the case of haddock.