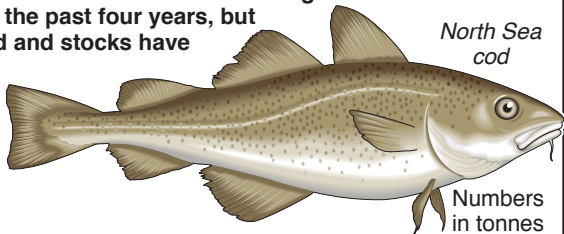


# Scientists urge ban on North Sea cod catch

ICES, the body which advises EU governments on fishing quotas, is calling for a complete ban on North Sea cod fishing in 2007. ICES has recommended this for the past four years, but ministers have refused and stocks have continued to dwindle



- Stocks below sustainable limits
- Stocks which need rebuilding
- Stocks recovering

| Species                           | Advice for 2006 | TAC* 2006 | Advice for 2007 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| North Sea cod                     | 0               | 26,500    | 0               |
| North Sea sandeel                 | 0               | 300,000   | 0               |
| Anchovy                           | 0               | 0         | 0               |
| Blue whiting                      | 1,500,000       | 2,100,000 | 980,000         |
| North Sea plaice                  | 48,000          | 57,000    | 32,000          |
| North Sea sole                    | 11,900          | 17,670    | 10,800          |
| Mackerel                          | 373,000-487,000 | 444,000   | 390,000-509,000 |
| Northern hake                     | 40,000          | 43,900    | 50,500          |
| Norwegian spring spawning herring | 732,000         | 967,000   | 1,280,000       |

\*TAC – Total Allowable Catch – set each year by EU Council of Ministers