COD FISHERIES

- Cod numbers have risen from dangerously low levels so the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) has removed cod from their red list of fish to avoid eating. This could lead to the cod gaining certification for sale in British high streets.
- The decline in North Atlantic cod was exacerbated by warming oceans in western shelf areas of the North Sea basin. This reduced the fishes reproductive success.
- Between 1996 and 2006, annual cod catches in the North Sea plummeted from 80,000 to 20,000 tonnes. But after the imposition of strict catch controls, cod stocks recovered over the next eight years, from approximately 20,000 tonnes to 70,000 tonnes.
- Fishing effort limitations put in place since 2003 were based on the number of days the fishing fleet could spend at sea. After the new long-term management plan they also put limitations on the fleet’s capacity, which is now calculated as the ratio kW/days. In 2010, this long-term management plan implied a reduction in fishing effort of 13 percent, and in 2011 they made a further reduction of approximately 15 percent. However cod numbers may never reach the peak levels of the 1970s and 1980s.
- Iceland's fishery zone has an area of 760,000 square kilometres, which approximately seven times the size of Iceland. One of the most accessible destinations for fishing is Sudureyri, which is on the west coast of Iceland. Some of the largest fish stocks in the North Atlantic are found in Icelandic waters. The cod stock is Iceland's most important catch and cod numbers are generally healthy.

- Cod fisheries in Iceland have met the highest international requirements on sustainable use of marine resources. Its cod is only caught on lines, rather than nets from Iceland's inshore.
- The fish is mainly trawled by long-trip boats, following well-managed principles. For example, they do not discard fish when more than the allowable catch of a species has been landed – instead they sell it and funds are given to the fishermen’s mission charities. In addition to this, when fish are repeatedly caught over the quota in an area, the fishing grounds are closed.