

Cusk

Brosme brosme



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Species Description

The Cusk is an elongate, streamlined fish that can reach lengths of over 1 m. It has brush-like pectoral fins, and a single long dorsal fin that extends along its back. Its anal fin is long and separated from the rounded tail (caudal fin) by a notch. Colour ranges from reddish to greenish brown with light undersides. It has a barbel under the lower jaw.



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Key ID Features: * single long dorsal fin along the back * barbel under lower jaw

STATUS

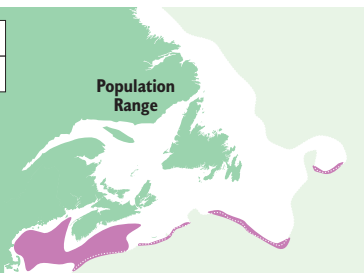


Endangered COSEWIC

Not Listed

SARA

Found on both sides of the North Atlantic Ocean. In Canada, its distribution is limited and it is concentrated in the southern Scotian Shelf and Gulf of Maine. Its population abundance has declined by approximately 85% over three generations.



Population Range

Interesting Points

- Solitary and not very active, Cusk are not migratory or school forming.
- It takes approximately six-ten years for a female to mature.
- Females can release over one million eggs when spawning.

Threats

- Overfishing. This species is not targeted, but is caught and discarded as bycatch in commercial fisheries for other species including Halibut, Cod, Haddock, Pollock, and Lobster (discarded Cusk have low survival rates).



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Cusks can grow to be over 1 m long



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Contacts, Information & Stewardship Opportunities

Contact: DFO Species at Risk 1-866-891-0771 or xmarsara@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Info: www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes, www.sararegistry.gc.ca

Stewardship: Maine Stewardship Council, www.msc.org