



Cod fish quotas still on the decline to prevent collapse

This month the newsletter editor used ChatGPT to quickly get a feel for the condition of our favorite fish stock. It provided the following comparative summary of the cod fish populations for Norway and Iceland in 2025, based on the latest scientific assessments and quota decisions. It is not looking good for 2026

Norway – Northeast Arctic Cod (Barents Sea)

- **Quota & Trend:** 2025 total quota set at **340,000 tonnes**, down **25–31%** from 2024 — the lowest since 1991.
- **Stock Status:** Under **severe pressure** with spawning biomass below precautionary levels; poor recruitment from 2019–2020 year classes is the main driver.
- **Recovery Outlook:** Low quotas expected until **2028** to allow rebuilding; recruitment from post-2020 cohorts is slightly better but not yet fishery-significant.
- **Management:** Jointly managed with Russia under the Norwegian-Russian Fisheries Commission; quota changes can exceed the usual $\pm 20\%$ rule in crisis years.
- **Socio-economic Impact:** Coastal communities in Northern Norway are facing downsizing and layoffs due to reduced catches.

Iceland – Icelandic Cod

- **Quota & Trend:** 2025/26 quota advised at **~4% lower** than the previous season, marking the lowest since 2013.
- **Stock Status:** Still considered **healthy** by ICES, though biomass is down from recent highs.
- **Recent History:** Total catch in 2022 was **237,269 tonnes**; TAC for 2023/24 was **211,309 tonnes**.
- **Recovery & Outlook:** ICES projects the stock will remain above the minimum spawning threshold, with sustainable fishing possible; no crisis-level cuts needed.
- **Management:** Managed under Iceland's individual transferable quota (ITQ) system with strong monitoring and certification under the Iceland Responsible Fisheries program.

Ocean Temperature: A Shifting Habitat

Cod are cold-water fish with a narrow thermal tolerance, typically thriving between **0°C and 11°C**. Rising ocean temperatures—especially in the **North Atlantic and Barents Sea**—are disrupting their lifecycle in several ways:

Torske Klub Luncheon - Sep 13, 2025—Reserve today!

The luncheon will be held at the Des Plaines Elks Club, 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL (847)824-1556 for directions that day. Cocktail hour begins at noon; dinner starts promptly at 1:00 P.M. when, according to our tradition, our BOSS rings the bell to seat us for dinner. Make your regular dinner reservation **by Sunday evening before the luncheon**. Timely reservations insure that fish and a table space can be reserved for you. The fish order is called in after the deadline. There is a \$5 surcharge for late reservations.

Call **(847)886-4841** at any time day or night to leave a reservation. As usual, please leave your **MEMBERSHIP NUMBER**, **NAME**, and the **TOTAL** number of people in your party. The same information is required when you reserve for other members. We have reservations from the following members: **38, 51, 55, 58, 98, 102, 120, 124, 135, 149, 170A**. Board members note that they have a reservation automatically and must call or prearrange to cancel *or add guest to the count*. If you are not a member and wish to attend, call the same number and leave your name according to the principle “Once a guest, twice a friend, three times a member!” If you prefer email reservations, please send to **reservations@torskeklub.com** (not .org) with your total number of reservations, including yourself and guests. We will respond with a confirmation email. ****TIP** – Don't know or remember your membership number? Check the mailing label. It is the number by your name. **FREE Raffle Ticket** to each member that brings one or more guests to the dinner this 2025/2026 season, excluding Ladies day in February and Father/Son/Daughter day in March.

Reservation Line: 847-886-4841

**Reserve
before Midnight
Sunday
Sep 7**



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Migration & Distribution

Cod are **migrating northward** to cooler waters, reducing their presence in traditional fishing grounds like the **Norwegian coast** and **North Sea**.

This shift affects not only catch rates but also **spawning success**, as cod may spawn in less optimal areas.

Reproduction & Recruitment

Warmer waters can **alter spawning timing**, leading to mismatches between larval cod and their food sources (like plankton blooms).

Cod larvae in warmer, stratified waters often face **lower survival rates** due to reduced oxygen and poor-quality prey.

Physiological Stress

Elevated temperatures reduce **metabolic efficiency**, growth rates, and disease resistance.

Cod in the **Gulf of Maine**, for example, are already showing signs of stress due to warming faster than 97% of the world's oceans.

Prey Availability: The Food Chain Disrupted

Cod rely heavily on prey like **capelin, herring, and zooplankton** during their juvenile and adult stages. Climate-driven changes are reshaping this food web:

Plankton Blooms & Timing

Earlier plankton blooms caused by warming disrupt the **synchrony between cod larvae and their food**, leading to **starvation and poor recruitment**.

Capelin Collapse

In the Barents Sea, **capelin stocks have fluctuated dramatically**, often collapsing due to overfishing and environmental stress.

Capelin are a key prey species for Northeast Arctic cod—when they decline, cod growth and survival suffer.

Zooplankton Quality

Ocean stratification reduces nutrient mixing, leading to **lower-quality zooplankton** that are less nutritious for larval cod.

Even if plankton biomass increases, the **species composition** may not support cod development.



[The Scandinavian Day Festival is Back for 2025 !!](#)
[Reserve the Date: Sunday, September 7, 2025](#)



We have some catching up to do to celebrate the summer birthdays of many of our members.

June: The Hon. Perry Gubrandsen, Boss Ken Larson

July: Our Assistant Boss Lowell Olberg, Norris Harstad, William Scheiderich, Hank Solberg, Paul Johnson

August: Royal Norwegian Order of Merit recipient Don Hoganson, Tom Bendicsen, William Sexton, Dr. Marshall Petersen, past Hon. Norwegian Consul Paul Anderson, Christopher Betz, Clarence Peterson, Boss Emeritus Robert Alsaker, Thor Davidson, and David Pedersen.

September: John Teppen, Fred Glure, Sam Cory, Kurt Gustafson, Alex Gruener, Matt Gustafson, John Van Alstin.

Gratulerer med dagen og Skål !

Future 2025-2026 Events

Sep 7 [Vasa Park](#)

Scandinavian Day Festival
10AM to 5PM, South Elgin

Sep 13 Luncheon

Oct 11 Restauration 1825

Ken Larson

Nov 8 Emil Biorn Memorial Park update

Andrew Schneider

Dec 13 Christmas Program

Jan 10 A ride on the Rio Grande Zephyr

Fred Glure

Reminders

- 1) The price of our meal is \$35, excluding cocktails and raffle.
- 2) Please make checks out to **"Tom Peterson"**
- 3) The Torske Klub now also accepts Zelle payments via your cell phone. Tom will help you set this up at the check-in desk for the first time to insure you have it set up correctly.
- 4) The Elks Lodge large banquet room is accessible via the exterior door leading directly downstairs.

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