



Challenges and future outlooks for MSC-certification of coastal fisheries, the northern Norwegian coastal cod case

North Atlantic Seafood Forum

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Global whitefish summit

The Norwegian Fishermen's Association/Norges Fiskarlag (NFA)

Erlend Moksness / erlend.moksness@fiskarlaget.no

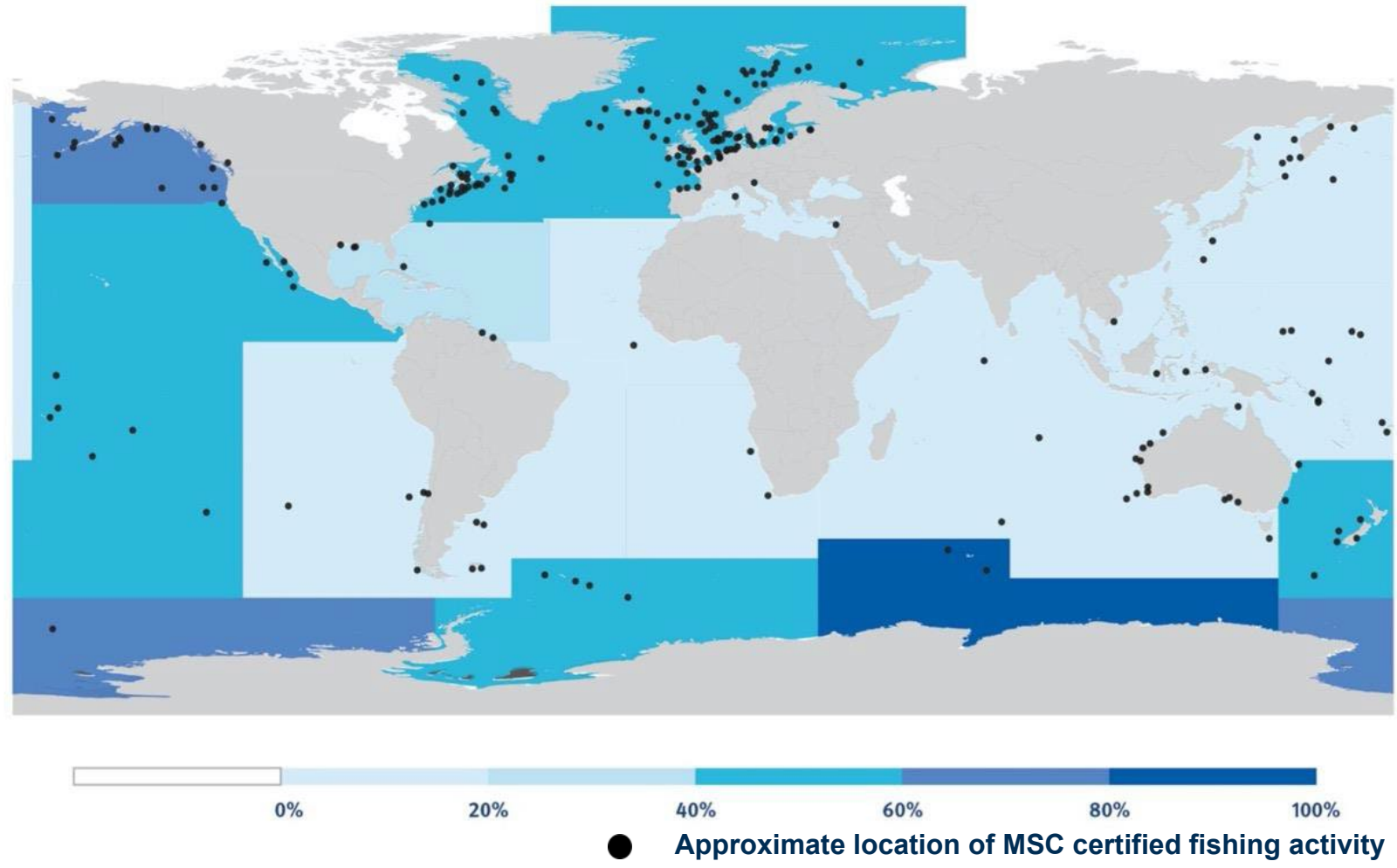




516 fisheries in
55 countries engaged in the
MSC program (2020-2021)

Challenges and future outlooks for MSC-certification of coastal fisheries

- **Big variation in coastal ecosystems**
- **No single answer**



Gisli Gislason, Program director MSC



The Northern Norwegian coastal cod case



What do we know and how do we count



The Norwegian coast

- ✓ **The coastline of totally 21,000 km**
- ✓ **Approximately 1190 fjords**
- ✓ **Representing different ecosystems and distinct stocks of many marine species, including cod**
- ✓ **Atlantic herring, capelin, northeast Arctic cod, and haddock, use the Norwegian coastal area as their spawning and nursery grounds.**
- ✓ **Represented a biomass of approx. 25 million metric tons (mt) and the biomass of their spawning products probably equals 5 million mt.**





The Northern coastal cod vs Barents Sea cod (Northeast Arctic Cod)

- Northern coastal cod levels classified as low in the last 20+ years in ICES estimates.
- Norwegian cod and haddock MSC certified in 2010/2015 with Northern coastal cod IPI clauses
- You cannot catch NEA cod with small vessels without bycatch of Northern coastal cod.



2021 situation:

- ✓ **The Northern Norwegian coastal cod:**
 - B_{lim} set to 115 782 t
 - Catches in 2022 set to max 7 865 t
- ✓ **NEA cod and haddock MSC certified outside 12 nm**
– «offshore» completed assessment
- ✓ **ICES/IMR started revision of science and management of coastal cod**





NFA offered another view:

Compare B_{lim} per unit area (t/km^2) in different cod stock

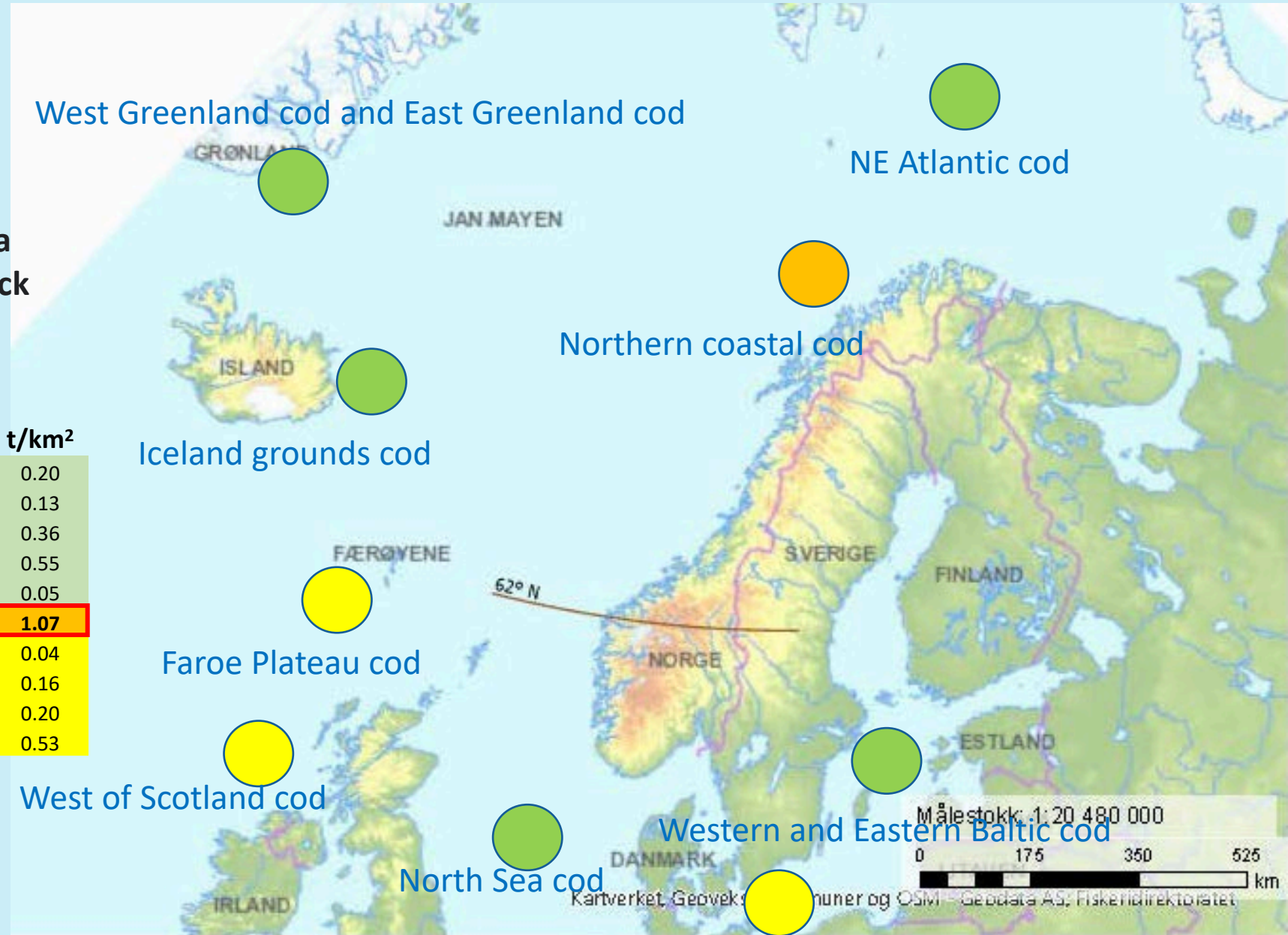
Cod stocks	Habitat Km ²	Max t/km ²	B_{lim} (t)	t/km^2
NEA cod	1,120,000	2.36	220,000	0.20
North Sea cod	523,846	0.42	69,841	0.13
East Baltic cod	290,000	1.66	104,402	0.36
Iceland grounds cod	228,110	4.14	125,000	0.55
West and East Greenland cod	205,000	0.58	10,354	0.05
Northern coastal cod	108,000	1.30	115,782	1.07
Inshore West Greenland cod	98,000	0.92	4,346	0.04
West Baltic cod	91,500	0.44	14,500	0.16
West of Scotland cod	70,800	0.64	14,376	0.20
Faroe Plateau cod	40,000	2.71	21,000	0.53





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Revised advise 2022



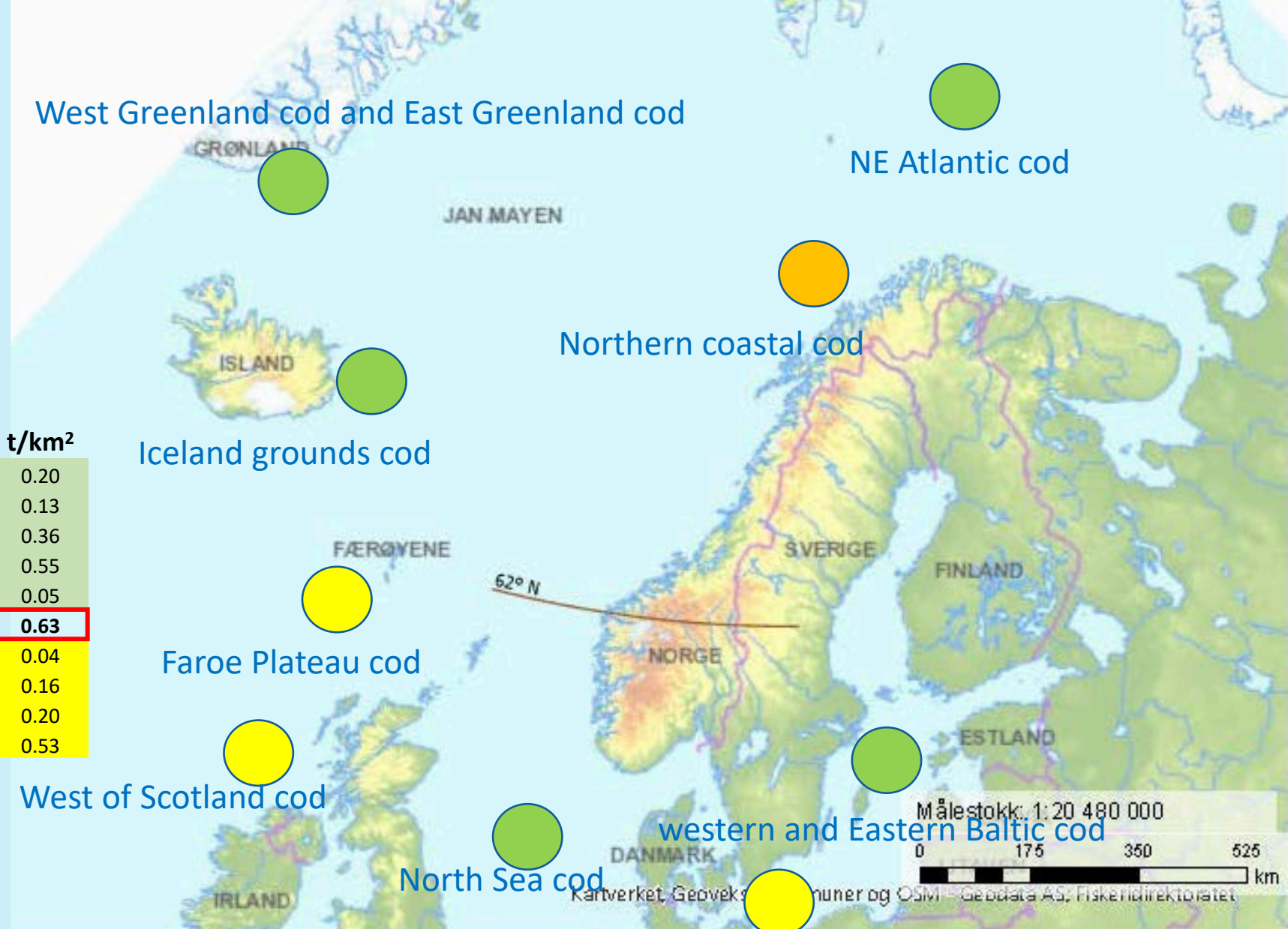
- ✓ **ICES WKNCCCHCR**
- ✓ **Recommended (7 June 2022):**
 - ✓ **No biological reference point**
 - ✓ **Reference point $F_{0.1} = 67\ 743\ \text{Mt}$**
- ✓ **ICES latest advise (15 June 2022):**
 - ✓ **Confirmed Reference point $F_{0.1} = 67\ 743\ \text{Mt}$**
 - ✓ **Catches in 2023 set to max 29 347 Mt**
 - ✓ **Catches 2022 increased from 7 865 MT to 12 146 MT**

ICES WKNCCCHCR (26-27 April 2022) - Workshop on the evaluation of northern Norwegian coastal cod harvest control rules





Status today:



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Conclusions and recommendation

- ✓ More difficult to have coastal stocks MSC certificated compared to offshore stocks
 - Reliable biomass estimates of coastal stocks
 - Understand interaction between abundant offshore stocks and less abundant coastal stocks

- ✓ Use different approaches to evaluate a coastal stock





Thank you

