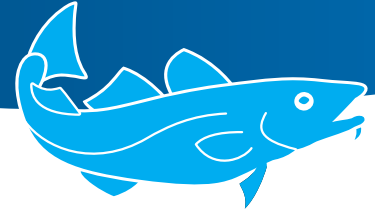


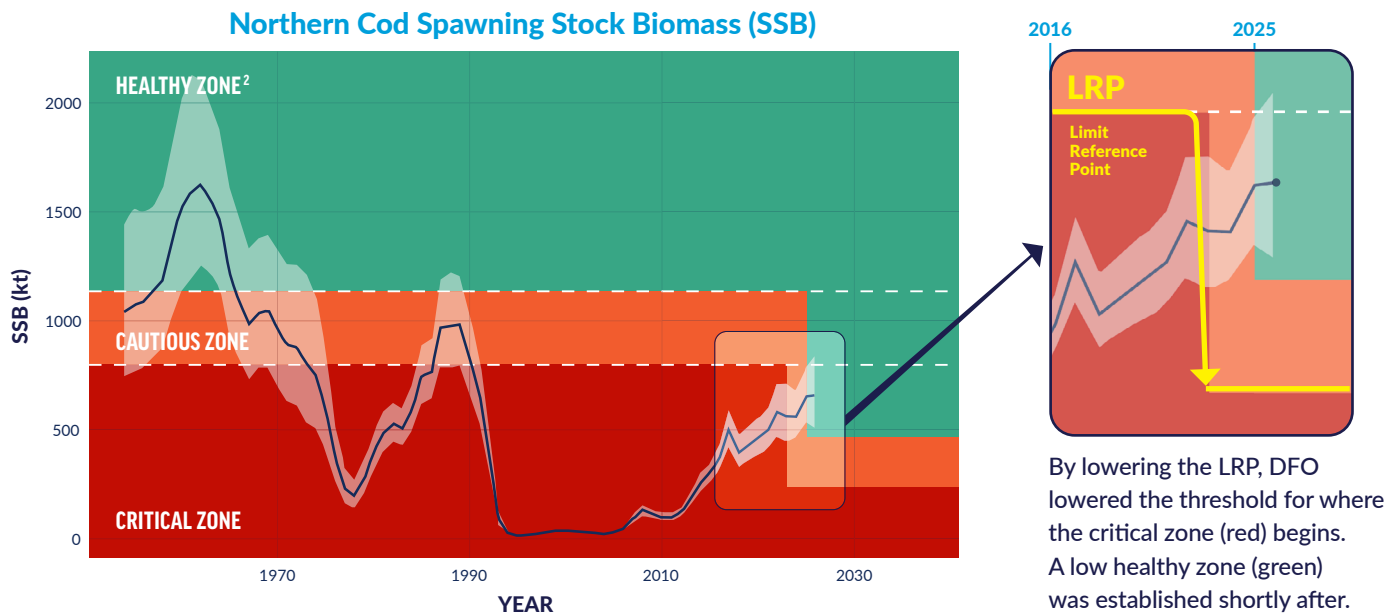
MOVING THE BENCHMARK WON'T REBUILD NORTHERN COD

In just three years, Canada reopened the northern cod fishery and declared the stock healthy — not because cod recovered, but because the benchmarks changed. Under the previous benchmark, northern cod would still be classified in the critical zone today. The stock did not suddenly recover, the definition changed.



Northern cod has not recovered

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)¹ measures spawning biomass, which means the total weight of adult fish that can reproduce. In the past, the critical level was around 790,000 tonnes. Today's cod biomass is about 540,000 tonnes — well below that level.



Without real recovery, increasing fishing pressure risks pushing the stock back toward depletion.



The goal

The goal of cod management must be rebuilding to abundant levels that can support a resilient ecosystem and a viable thriving fishery. Strong rebuilding standards protect both ocean ecosystems and the long-term future of fishing communities.

More fish and more food in the ocean, not more shifts in what counts as healthy.

¹ DFO manages fish stocks using a Precautionary Approach by categorizing them into healthy, cautious, and critical zones, aiming to prevent stocks from entering the critical zone where serious harm occurs.

² As proposed by Oceana Canada in 2025. Instead, DFO adopted a very low Healthy zone.