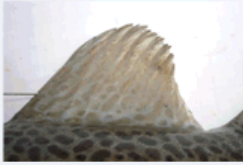
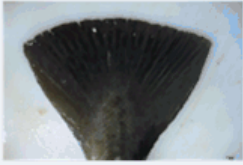


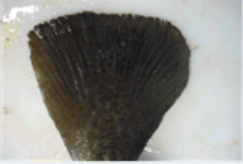


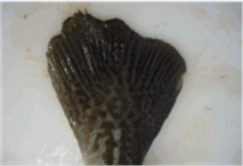






## Atlantic Cod (*Gadus morhua*) Fin Erosion Key

1 <sup>st</sup> Dorsal Fin	Caudal Fin	Pectoral Fins	Score	Description
			0	Insignificant 0-5% Loss
			1	Moderate 6-20% Loss
			2	Significant 21-50% Loss
			3	Severe 50+% Loss

## Atlantic Cod (*Gadus morhua*) Fin Erosion Key

Regularly monitoring fish for signs of fin erosion and damage is a key part of welfare management and may help to identify particular points in the production cycle where welfare improvements could be made.

This simple scoring system for percentage area of fin loss should be used whenever husbandry procedures provide an opportunity to closely monitor fish, such as at the point of stocking, during grading, at the time of vaccination and at slaughter.

Average or total fin erosion scores for groups of cod in individual cages can be used to understand differences between hatchery origins or farm site locations or to monitor changes over time.

### Guidance notes:

- 1) Study the key for a few minutes before starting.
- 2) For consistency the same person should make the assessments each time, if possible.
- 3) If assessments are made on live fish, ensure they are correctly sedated with a licensed anaesthetic such as MS-222.
- 4) Aim to assess a minimum of 30 fish at each inspection to take account of variability.
- 5) Lay the fish on a smooth wet surface and examine each fin in turn. Spend no more than a few seconds per fin.
- 6) Estimate the percentage area of fin loss using the photographic key to guide selection of a fin erosion score for each fin.
- 7) Record any additional damage observed such as broken or protruding fin rays, fresh or old wounds, swelling and haemorrhaging.
- 8) For record purposes make a note of; assessment date, site name, cage number.

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