



FISHERY ASSESSMENT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY:	Norway Pout (<i>Trisopterus esmarkii</i>)
LOCATION:	Denmark
DATE OF REPORT:	27/06/12
ASSESSOR:	Sam Peacock

Global Trust Certification Ltd, Quay side Business Centre., Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland Tel: 042 932 0912 Fax 042 938 6864

Issue No; 2; Issue Date; Nov 09

Report Ref: Norway Pout

CCM Code:

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1. Application Details and Summary of the Assessment Outcome			
Name:			
Address:			
Country: Denmark		Zip:	
Tel. No.		Fax. No. N/A	
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Key Contact:		Title:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification Ltd	
Assessor Name:	Peer Reviewer:	Assessment Days:	Initial/Surveillance/Re-certification:
Sam Peacock	Mike Platt	1	Surveillance
Assessment Period	27/6/2012		
Scope Details			
1. Scope of Assessment:		IFFO RS standard	
2. Fishery		Norway Pout (<i>Trisopterus esmarkii</i>)	
3. Fishery Location		ICES Sub Area IV & IIIa	
4. Fishery Method		Pelagic trawl	
Outcome of Assessment			
5. Overall Fishery Compliance Rating		HIGH	
6. Sub Components of Low Compliance		NONE	
7. Information deficiency		NONE	
8. Peer Review Evaluation		Agree with maintaining approval status	
9. Recommendation		Maintain approval	

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2. Quality of Information
Good; primarily EU and ICES websites
3. Compliance Level Achieved
HIGH
Recommendation
Maintain approval of fishery
4. Guidance for On-site Assessment
Based on High Compliance Findings
Based on Medium Compliance Findings
Key Stakeholders of the Fishery
5. Assessment Determination
The science and management of the Norway Pout fishery remains largely unchanged since the initial assessment. The fishery remains closed in 2012 as a result of ICES advice. The surveillance team recommends that this fishery remains approved to the IFFO RS standard.
HIGH COMPLIANCE
A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, C1, D1, D2, D3, E1, E2
MEDIUM COMPLIANCE

SUMMARY OF LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE					
	The Management Framework and Procedures	Stock assessment procedures and management advice	Precautionary approach	Management measures	Implementation
legal and administrative basis	High Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance
Fisheries management should be concerned with the whole stock unit	High Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance
Management actions should be scientifically based	High Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance
Research in support of fisheries conservation and management should exist	Low Compliance	High Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance
Best scientific evidence available should be taken into account when designing conservation and management measures	Low Compliance	High Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance
The precautionary approach is applied in the formulation of management plans	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	High Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance
The level of fishing permitted should be set according to management advice given by research organisations	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	High Compliance	Low Compliance
Where excess fishing capacity exist, mechanisms should be in established to reduced capacity	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	High Compliance	Low Compliance
Management measures should ensure that fishing gear and fishing practices do not have a significant impact on non-target species and the physical environment	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	High Compliance	Low Compliance
A management system for fisheries control and enforcement should be established	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	High Compliance
A framework for sanctions of violation of laws and regulations should be efficiently exists	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	High Compliance

KEY: Low Compliance Medium Compliance High Compliance:

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6. Rationale of the Assessment Outcome

a. The Management Framework and Procedure

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	a.i. The management of the fishery must include a legal and administrative basis for the implementation of measures and controls to support the conservation of the fishery.	Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: <i>There continues to be a legal and administrative framework at both European and National levels for the implementation of measures and controls to support the conservation of the fishery.</i></p> <p>There has been no substantial change in the European Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), which provides the main legal and administrative framework for Danish fisheries management, since the 2011 surveillance assessment. An extensive reform of the CFP is currently under discussion by the European parliament and council, and is expected to be implemented from 2013.</p> <p>The CFP is enforced in the Danish fishing sector by Danish Ministerial Order.</p> <p>For more information on the current CFP and its implementation in a Danish context please refer to the initial 2010 assessment report.</p> <p>Ref: 4,5,7</p>	HIGH
MEDIUM		
HIGH		
	a.ii. Fisheries management should be concerned with the whole stock unit over its entire area of distribution and take into account fishery removals and the biology of the species	Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: <i>The definition of the stock unit is unchanged since the initial assessment and remains in agreement with best available science.</i></p> <p>Fisheries management is concerned with the whole stock unit. The Norway Pout distribution is defined by ICES and is located in Subarea IV and division IIIa (Skagerrak-Kattegat) All fisheries removals (EU and Norway) and the biology of the species are accounted for in the formulation of management strategies which principally commence at EU level within the CFP framework</p>	HIGH
MEDIUM		
HIGH		

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	and with reference to ICES scientific advice. For more information on stock definitions, please refer to the initial assessment report. Ref: 4,5	
	a.iii .Management actions should be based on long-term conservation objectives	Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: <i>Management continues to be based on the objectives suggested by ICES in the 2006 report to the EC Commission and Norway government.</i></p> <p>In 2006 the EC Commission and Norway requested ICES for advice on the management of Norway Pout. ICES provided advice on the harvest control rules for Norway Pout in the North Sea (and Skagerrak-Kattegat) with the objective of allowing the Maximum Sustainable Yield to be obtained consistent with the precautionary approach, taking into account the function of Norway Pout in the ecosystem.</p> <p>For more information on the long-term objectives, please refer to the initial assessment report. Ref: 2,4,5</p>	HIGH
MEDIUM		
HIGH		

b. Stock Assessment Procedures and Management Advice

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	bi. Research in support of fisheries conservation and management should exist.	Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: <i>ICES continues to provide stock assessment reports based on fishery-dependent and –independent data.</i></p> <p>The ICES Working Group for the North Sea and the Skagerrak carries out bi-annual stock assessments of the Norway pout fishery,</p>	HIGH
MEDIUM		

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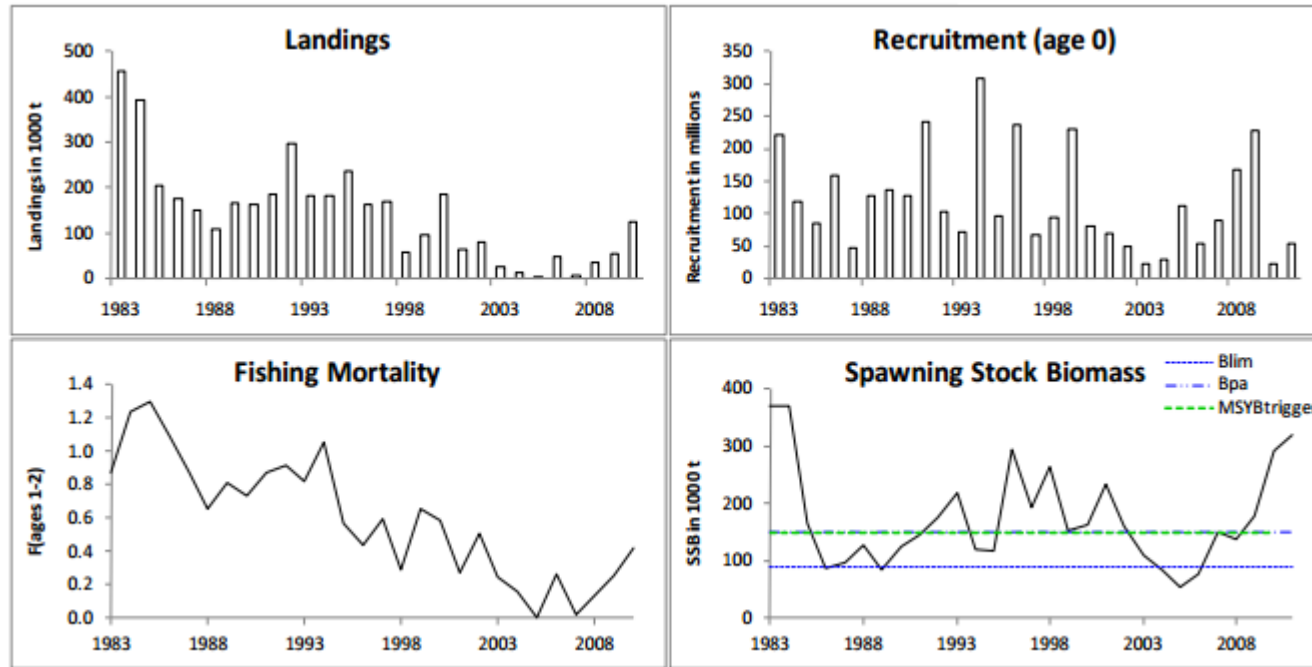
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HIGH

using both independent (surveys) and dependent data. At the time of this surveillance report, the most recent assessment was published in October 2011.



Norway pout in Subarea IV (North Sea) and Division IIIa (Skagerrak–Kattegat). Summary of stock assessment (weights in '000 tonnes). From the October 2011 ICES advice.

The stock size has increased since 2004 and is above MSY $B_{\text{escapement}}$. Recruitment was well above average in 2009, but very low in 2010 and 2011 and this is expected to bring SSB below the MSY $B_{\text{escapement}}$ in 2012. Fishing mortality has been lower than the natural mortality for this stock and has decreased in recent years to well below the long-term average F (0.6). The status of the stock is mainly determined by natural processes and recruitment.

	<p>A benchmark assessment of this stock was planned for 2012 but has not yet been published.</p> <p>For more general information on the scientific basis for the management of this fishery, please refer to the initial fishery assessment report.</p> <p>Ref: 1,2,4,5</p>	
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	b.ii Best scientific evidence available should be taken into account when designing conservation and management measures	Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: <i>The long-term management objectives for the fishery are based on the 2006 ICES recommendations. On-going management of the fishery continues to be based on the bi-annual ICES advice.</i></p> <p>The Norway pout fishery is regulated through a single-species TAC which is divided into quotas for the active fishing nations. There is also a series of technical measures such as minimum mesh size in the trawls, fishing area closures such as the Norway Pout box in the north-western part of the North Sea with the objective of protecting juvenile fishing grounds for important demersal species, and also bycatch regulations in the fishery to protect other species.</p> <p>For more information please refer to the initial fishery assessment report.</p> <p>Ref: 1,4,5</p>	HIGH
MEDIUM		
HIGH		

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c. The Precautionary Approach

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	c.i The precautionary approach is applied in the formulation of management plans.	Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: <i>The precautionary approach is a foundation of both the EU Common Fisheries Policy and the specific management of the Norway Pout fishery. There have been no significant changes since the previous surveillance assessment.</i></p> <p>ICES has evaluated and commented on three management strategies, following requests from managers – fixed fishing mortality (0.35), fixed TAC (50 000 t), and a variable TAC escapement strategy. The evaluation shows that all three management strategies are capable of generating stock trends that keep the stock at or above B_{pa} and avoid falling below B_{lim} with a high probability in the long term and they are therefore considered to be in accordance with the precautionary approach. In recent years the variable TAC escapement strategy has been followed.</p> <p>Ref: 1,2,4,5</p>	HIGH
MEDIUM		
HIGH		

d. Management Measures

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	d.i The level of fishing permitted should be set according to management advice given by research organisations.	Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: The initial assessment noted that annual TACs are set according to ICES management advice and have historically only been exceeded once. TACs continue to be set in line with ICES advice, with no directed fishery in 2012 (TAC set at 0t).</p> <p>Due to the short-lived nature of this species a preliminary TAC is set in autumn, which is updated on the basis of advice in the first half of the following year (using the escapement management strategy approach).In the October 2011 advice, ICES recommended</p>	HIGH
MEDIUM		
HIGH		

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	<p>that there be no directed fishery for Norway pout in 2012. Correspondent to this advice, the 2012 TAC for this Norway pout fishery was set at 0t.</p> <p>In recent years (since approx. 2001) landing have been substantially lower than quota due to high fuel prices.</p> <p>Ref: 2,3,4,5</p>	
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	d.ii Where excess fishing capacity exist, mechanisms should be in established to reduced capacity to allow for the recovery of the stock to sustainable levels.	Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: <i>The CFP includes a policy framework capable of concertedly reducing fleet capacity by decommissioning, as evidenced in other fisheries. The Norway Pout fishery is not currently considered depleted or over-fished, but the instruments for reducing capacity remain available should the need arise.</i></p>	HIGH
MEDIUM		
HIGH		
	<p>Allocation of the TAC is according to a regulated, licensing system (CFP) which is based on directing fishing capacity on the basis of fishing opportunities. For certain EU fisheries, there has been a concerted policy of decommissioning to bring fleet capacity to a level of economic stability based on the current reduced opportunities for certain EU fisheries.</p> <p>However, the Norway Pout fishery is not currently considered depleted or over-fished and capacity can be considered appropriate for the level of catches. Fishery managers act in accordance with the scientific advice and have introduced closed seasons and areas to allow the stock to recover when the SSB is close or below the B_{pa}.</p> <p>It is possible that capacity-reducing mechanisms will change substantially with the introduction of the CFP reforms scheduled for 2013.</p> <p>Ref: 4,5,7</p>	

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	d.iii Management measures should ensure that fishing gear and fishing practices do not have a significant impact on non-target species and the physical environment.	Rating
LOW	.	HIGH
MEDIUM	<p>Determination: <i>The initial assessment reported that management measured went to appropriate lengths to minimise non-target species and environmental impacts. There have been no significant changes since that time.</i></p>	
HIGH	<p>Fishery manager recognise the potential for substantial whitefish bycatch in this fishery and have taken appropriate actions to minimise this, including mesh-size restrictions, sorting grids, bycatch limits and other technical measures. At the time of the initial assessment these measures were considered appropriate and there have been no major changes in either the measures themselves or the understanding of the stock since that time.</p> <p>An amending regulation in 2012 made it illegal for EU vessels to fish for or transport basking shark, white shark, porbeagle, angel shark, common skate, or guitarfishes. Where caught accidentally these species are to be returned unharmed.</p> <p>For more details on the other measures in place please refer to the initial fishery assessment report.</p> <p>It is possible that such management measures will change substantially with the introduction of the CFP reforms scheduled for 2013. In particular, a ban on discarding is under discussion, although it is currently unclear precisely how such a ban would be implemented.</p> <p>Ref: 4,5,6,7</p>	HIGH

e. Implementation

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	e.i There should be a framework for sanctions of violation of Laws and regulations.	Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: Denmark operates in accordance with the EU framework for sanctions of violations of fishery laws and regulations. There have been no substantial changes since the previous surveillance assessment.</p> <p>EU member states are required to apply effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions against natural or legal persons engaged in IUU activities. The Danish fishing control system applies EU access regulations and administrates individual licensing.</p> <p>For more detailed information, see the original fishery assessment.</p> <p>Ref: 4,5</p>	HIGH
MEDIUM		
HIGH		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	e.ii A management system for fisheries control and enforcement should be established.	Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: The previous surveillance assessment reported that the EU Commission considered the Danish enforcement system to be robust and working efficiently. There is no evidence to suggest this has changed over the last year.</p> <p>The Danish Directorate of Fisheries is the competent authority with control and enforcement responsibilities. All Danish vessels must be registered and authorised individually. Vessels are inspected regularly and catches levels are monitored, both at sea and in port.</p> <p>For more detailed information, please refer to the original fishery assessment.</p> <p>Ref: 4,5</p>	HIGH
MEDIUM		
HIGH		

References

- 1 – ICES Norway pout advice (Subarea IV and Division IIIa), June 2011:
<http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2011/2011/nop-34%20June.pdf>
- 2 – ICES Norway pout advice (Subarea IV and Division IIIa), October 2011:
<http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2011/2011/nop-34%20oct.pdf>
- 3 – EU fishing TACs 2012:
http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/documentation/publications/poster_tac2012_en.pdf
- 4 – 2011 Norway pout (Denmark) IFFO RS surveillance assessment report:
<http://www.iffonet.net/downloads/IFFO%20RS/Whole%20Fish/Norway%20Pout%20surveillance%20report%202011.pdf>
- 5 – 2010 Norway pout (Denmark) IFFO RS initial assessment report:
<http://www.iffonet.net/downloads/IFFO%20RS/Whole%20Fish/Denmark%20-%20Norway%20Pout.pdf>
- 6 – 2012 regulation prohibiting fishing for or transporting of specified sharks and rays: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:116:0017:0018:EN:PDF>
- 7 – EU CFP reform process: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/reform/index_en.htm

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