



# FISHERY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



|                        |                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>FISHERY:</b>        | Norway Pout                 |
| <b>LOCATION:</b>       | Denmark                     |
| <b>DATE OF REPORT:</b> | 1 <sup>st</sup> August 2011 |
| <b>ASSESSOR:</b>       | Sam Peacock                 |

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

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| 1. Application Details and Summary of the Assessment Outcome |                                   |   |   |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Name:</b> Triple Nine Fish Protein/FF Skagen              |                                   |   |   |
| <b>Address:</b>  |                                   |   |   |
| <b>Country:</b> Denmark                                      |                                   | <b>Zip:</b>                               |   |
| <b>Tel. No.</b>  |                                   | <b>Fax. No.</b> N/A                       |   |
| <b>Email address:</b>  |                                   | <b>Applicant Code:</b> IFFO 104/ IFFO 105 |   |
| <b>Key Contact:</b>  |                                   | <b>Title:</b>                             |   |
| <b>Certification Body Details</b>                            |                                   |   |   |
| <b>Name of Certification Body:</b>                           |                                   | Global Trust Certification Ltd.           |   |
| <b>Assessor Name:</b>  | <b>Peer Reviewer:</b>             | <b>Assessment Days:</b>                   | <b>Initial/Surveillance/Re-certification:</b> |
| Sam Peacock  | Mike Platt                        | 1   | Surveillance                                  |
| <b>Assessment Period</b>                                     | 1 <sup>st</sup> August 2011       |   |   |
| <b>Scope Details</b>   |                                   |   |   |
| <b>1. Scope of Assessment:</b>                               | IFFO Global RS Standard Issue 1.0 |   |   |
| <b>2. Fishery</b>  | Norway Pout                       |   |   |
| <b>3. Fishery Location</b>                                   | ICES Sub Area IV & IIIa           |   |   |
| <b>4. Fishery Method</b>                                     | Pelagic trawl                     |   |   |
| <b>Outcome of Assessment</b>                                 |                                   |   |   |
| <b>5. Overall Fishery Compliance Rating</b>                  | <b>HIGH</b>                       |   |   |
| <b>6. Sub Components of Low Compliance</b>                   | NONE                              |   |   |
| <b>7. Information deficiency</b>                             | NONE                              |   |   |
| <b>8. Peer Review Evaluation</b>                             | AGREE WITH ASSESSMENT             |   |   |
| <b>9. Recommendation</b>                                     | <b>MAINTAIN APPROVAL STATUS</b>   |   |   |

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|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| <b>2. Quality of Information</b> |
| HIGH                             |

|                                     |
|-------------------------------------|
| <b>3. Compliance Level Achieved</b> |
| HIGH                                |
| <b>Recommendation</b>               |
| <b>Approve fishery.</b>             |

|   |
|---|
| <b>4. Guidance for On-site Assessment</b>   |
| <b>Based on High Compliance Findings</b>  |
| The sites must only identify Norway Pout and Northsea Sandeel as IFFO RS compliant. |
|   |
| <b>Based on Medium Compliance Findings</b>  |
|   |
| <b>Key Stakeholders of the Fishery</b>  |
|   |

|  |
|--|
| <b>5. Assessment Determination</b>   |
| The science and management of the Norway Pout fishery remains largely unchanged since the initial assessment. The surveillance team recommends that this fishery remains approved to the IFFO RS standard. |
| <b>HIGH COMPLIANCE</b>   |
| A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, C1, D1, D2, D3, E1, E2   |
| <b>MEDIUM COMPLIANCE</b>   |
|  |

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

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KEY:  Low Compliance  Medium Compliance  High Compliance:

### 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.   | References | Rating |
|---------------------|--|--|------------|--------|
| LOW                 |  | <p><b>Determination:</b> <i>As at the time of the initial report, there is a fishery management framework at both European and National Danish 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 2010 initial assessment. The CFP is implemented in the Danish fishing sector by Danish Ministerial Order.</p> | 3-5        | HIGH   |
| MEDIUM              |  |  |            |        |
| HIGH                |  |  |            |        |
| LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE |  | 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  | References | Rating |
| LOW                 |  | <p><b>Determination:</b> <i>The definition of the stock unit remains unchanged from the initial report, and is therefore of high compliance.</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 and with</p>            | 1,2,6      | HIGH   |
| MEDIUM              |  |  |            |        |
| HIGH                |  |  |            |        |

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|        |  |            |        |
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|        | reference to ICES scientific advice.<br>For more information, see the initial assessment report.   |            |        |
|        | a.iii .Management actions should be based on long-term conservation objectives   | References | Rating |
| LOW    | <p><b>Determination:</b> <i>Management of the Norway Pout fishery continues to be based on the long-term conservation objectives described by ICES in the 2006 report to the EC Commission and Norwegian 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. For more information, see the initial assessment.</p> | 1,2        | HIGH   |
| MEDIUM |  |            |        |
| HIGH   |  |            |        |

**b. Stock Assessment Procedures and Management Advice**

|                     |   |            |        |
|---------------------|---|------------|--------|
| LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE | bi. Research in support of fisheries conservation and management should exist.  | References | Rating |
| LOW                 | <p><b>Determination:</b> <i>As at the time of the initial assessment, research in support of fishery management is primarily carried out by ICES, and continues to be used as the basis for management decisions.</i></p> <p>The ICES Working Group for the North Sea and the Skagerrak carries out research assessments of the demersal stocks of the North Sea and the Skagerrak. To assess the Norway Pout stock, both, independent (surveys) and dependent data are used.</p> | 1,2        | HIGH   |
| MEDIUM              |   |            |        |
| HIGH                |   |            |        |

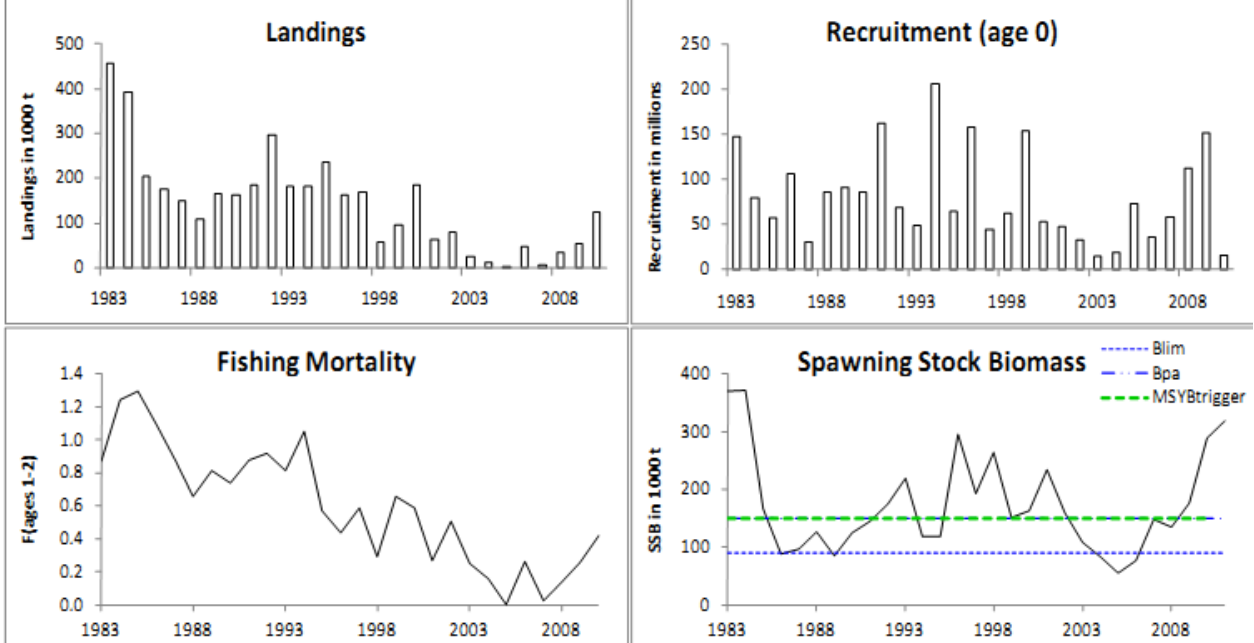
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|                     |   |            |        |
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|                     |  <p>Norway pout in Subarea IV (North Sea) and Division IIIa (Skagerrak–Kattegat). Summary of stock assessment (weights in '000 tons). MSY Btrigger should be read as MSY Bescapement.</p> <p>The stock size has increased since 2004 and is above MSY Bescapement. Recruitment was well above average in 2009, but very low in 2010. 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> |            |        |
| LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE | b.ii Best scientific evidence available should be taken into account when designing conservation and management measures  | References | Rating |

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|        |   |       |      |
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| LOW    | <p><b>Determination:</b> <i>The long-term management plan for the Norway Pout fishery was designed with considerable scientific input and support. This management plan continues to be implemented and so the fishery scores highly under this criterion.</i></p> <p>ICES (2009 year book) has provided potential options for the long-term management of the fishery ranging from fishing mortality fixed to 0.35, a fixed TAC of 50,000t or a variable TAC based on an escapement strategy for the stock. Each instance is capable of generating stock abundance estimates that stay above a minimum biomass of 90,000t suggested to represent the biomass limit below which serious recruitment impairment is expected for conservation purposes. This is based on the lowest observed biomass.</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 by catch regulations in the fishery to protect other species.</p> <p>For more information, see the initial assessment report.</p> | 1,2,7 | HIGH |
| MEDIUM |   |       |      |
| HIGH   |   |       |      |

**c. The Precautionary Approach**

| LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE | c.i The precautionary approach is applied in the formulation of management plans.  | References | Rating |
|---------------------|--|------------|--------|
| LOW                 | <p><b>Determination:</b> <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</i></p> | 1,6,7      | HIGH   |
| MEDIUM              |  |            |        |

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| HIGH | <p><i>since the initial assessment.</i></p> <p>ICES concluded around the time of the initial report that the management strategy approach is in accordance with the precautionary approach for the long term conservation of the stock. Current SSB is estimated to be around 300-350,000 tonnes, which is well above the estimated precautionary SSB of 150,000 tonnes. Historically, actual reported catches have been less than or in accordance with TAC. For more detailed information on the precautionary approach, and the CFP adherence to it, see the initial assessment.</p> |  |
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**d. Management Measures**

| LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE | d.i The level of fishing permitted should be set according to management advice given by research organisations.   | References | Rating |
|---------------------|--|------------|--------|
| LOW                 | <p><b>Determination:</b> <i>The initial assessment noted that annual TACs are set according to ICES management advice, and have historically only been exceeded once. In line with this advice, there has been no directed fishery for 2011 (TAC set at 0t) to reflect the biology of the species and its resultant categorisation.</i></p> <p>The Norway Pout has a relatively short life-span, the stock is rapidly impacted by the highly variable recruitment and by variation in predation mortality (ICES, 2009a). At the present fishing mortality levels, the stock status is more strongly affected by natural processes e.g. predation other than by effects of the fishery, but it is important to keep the stock sufficiently high so as not to cause trophic impact (ICES, 2009a).</p> <p>Fishery management continues to reflect ICES scientific advice, which produces an initial recommended TAC in October of the previous year, and a revised recommendation in June of the management year. As Norway Pout is a category 5 species, there is no directed fishery in 2011, and ICES recommends total landings do not exceed 6,000t. This closure is a function of the long-term management plan, and does not directly reflect the state of the stock.</p> | 1,2        | HIGH   |
| MEDIUM              |  |            |        |
| HIGH                |  |            |        |

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|                     |  |   |            |        |
| 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.   | References | Rating |
| LOW                 |  | <p><b>Determination:</b> <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> <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. However, the Norway Pout fishery is not currently considered depleted or over-fished and capacity can be considered appropriate for the level of catches. The 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 Bpa.</p> | 3-5        | HIGH   |
| MEDIUM              |  |   |            |        |
| HIGH                |  |   |            |        |
| 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.  | References | Rating |
| LOW                 |  | <p><b>Determination:</b> <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> <p>In the Norwegian zone, mesh size limitations are 16 to 80 mm, and individual landings must contain less than 20% by-catch of Cod, Haddock and Saithe. During the last 10 years, by-catches of Cod, Haddock and Saithe in the combined Norwegian fishery for Norway Pout and Blue Whiting have been 0.1 %, 1.5 % and 3.5%, respectively. In addition, technical</p>  | 3-5        | HIGH   |
| MEDIUM              |  |   |            |        |
| HIGH                |  |   |            |        |

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|  |  | measures have been imposed to reduce the by-catch of non-target species like Haddock, Saithe etc. Sorting grids and square mesh panels have been shown to reduce by-catches of Whiting and Haddock by 57% and 37%, respectively. For more information, see the initial assessment report. |  |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|

**e. Implementation**

| LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE |  | e.i There should be a framework for sanctions of violation of Laws and regulations.  | References | Rating |
|---------------------|--|--|------------|--------|
| LOW                 |  | <p><b>Determination:</b> Denmark operates in accordance with the EU framework for sanctions of violations of fishery laws and regulations. There is no change since the original 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. For more detailed information, see the original fishery assessment.</p> | 3          | HIGH   |
| MEDIUM              |  |  |            |        |
| HIGH                |  |  |            |        |
| LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE |  | e.ii A management system for fisheries control and enforcement should be established.  | References | Rating |
| LOW                 |  | <p><b>Determination:</b> The original fishery 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</p>   | 3          | HIGH   |
| MEDIUM              |  |  |            |        |
| HIGH                |  |  |            |        |

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|  |  | <p>individually. Vessels are inspected regularly and catches levels are monitored, both at sea and in port. For more detailed information, see the original fishery assessment.</p> |  |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|

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## References

1 – ICES Norway Pout advice June 2011:

<http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2011/2011/nop-34%20June.pdf>

2 – ICES Norway Pout advice October 2010:

<http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2010/2010/Nop-34.pdf>

3 - About the Common Fisheries Policy, Control and Enforcement:

[http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/control\\_enforcement\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/control_enforcement_en.htm)

4 - About the Common Fisheries Policy, Managing a Common Resource:

[http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp_en.htm)

5 - About the Common Fisheries Policy, The International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC):

[http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/external\\_relations/rfos/ibsfc\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/external_relations/rfos/ibsfc_en.htm)

6 - Fish Source, Norway Pout-North Sea: [www.fishsource.com](http://www.fishsource.com)

7 - EC fishing TACs 2011:

[http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/documentation/publications/poster\\_tac2011\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/documentation/publications/poster_tac2011_en.pdf)

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