MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

GBR21 – Norway Lobster in ICES Division 4a, Functional Unit 9

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*)
	Geographical area:	FAO27 – Central North Sea, Moray Firth
	Country of origin of the product:	UK & Ireland
	Stock:	Division 4a, Functional Unit (FU) 9
Date		July 2023
Report Code		GBR21
Assessor		Sam Peacock
Country of origin of the product - PASS		UK & Ireland
Country of origin of the product - FAIL		n/a

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Pelagia UK			
Country: UK			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LRQA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Jose Peiro Crespo	0.2	Surveillance 2
Assessment Period		July 2023 – July 2024	

Scope Details	
Main Species	Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*)
Stock	Division 4a, FU 9
Fishery Location	FAO27 – Central North Sea, Moray Firth
Management Authority (Country/ State)	UK, EU
Gear Type(s)	Demersal trawls, creels
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Pass
Recommendation	Pass

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
Norway lobster has been categorised by the IUCN as a species of Least Concern, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices. Norway lobster in Functional Unit (FU) 9 is managed relative to target reference points, and as such it was assessed under Category C. The most recent stock assessment was conducted in 2022, using underwater TV survey data, international catches, discards, and catch sampling. The assessment concluded that stock size is currently significantly larger than the target reference point MSY $B_{trigger}$. As the byproduct continues to meet the MT requirements, it should remain approved for use as a raw material.

Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The by-product fishery under assessment is Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) demersal trawl and creel fisheries in ICES Division 4a, FU 9 (Central North Sea, Moray Firth) in FAO area 27. The species is classified as LC by the IUCN. The stock is managed relative to biomass-based reference points. The most recent stock assessment conducted by the ICES Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion (WGCSE) in 2022 indicated that stock abundance was above the target reference point (MSY $B_{trigger}$). Therefore, it passes Category C. The peer review supports the auditor's recommendation to pass Norway lobster demersal trawl and creel fisheries in ICES ICES Division 4a, FU 9 (Central North Sea, Moray Firth) under the Marin Trust IFFO RS v2.0 by-fishery standard for the production of fishmeal and fish oil.

Notes for On-site Auditor

Species Categorisation

NB: If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in CITES Appendix 1, it **cannot** be approved for use as an MarinTrust raw material.

IUCN Red list Category

By-product material from a species listed by IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature) under the Red List for the following categories shall immediately fail the assessment;

- EXTINCT (E) AND EXTINCT IN THE WILD (EW)

- CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR) facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.

- ENDANGERED (EN) facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

By-product material may be used from the following categories provided that all clauses in the MarinTrust standard are passed.

- VULNERABLE (VU) facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

- NEAR THREATENED (NT) does not qualify for above now, but is close or is likely to qualify for, a threatened category in the near future.

- LEAST CONCERN (LC) Widespread and abundant.

- DATA DEFICIENT (DD) and NOT EVALUATED (NE)

Table 3 Species Categorisation Table

Common name	Latin name	Stock	Management	Category	IUCN Red List Category[1]	CITES Appendix 1[2]
Norway lobster	*Nephrops norvegicus*		Yes	C	Least Concern[3]	No

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[1] https://www.iucnredlist.org/
[2] https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php
[3] https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/169967/85697412

CATEGORY C SPECIES

In a by-product assessment, Category C species are those which are subject to a species-specific management regime and are usually targeted species in fisheries for human consumption.

Clause C1 should be completed for each Category C species. If there are no Category C species in the fishery under assessment, this section can be deleted. Where a species fails this Clause, it should be assessed as a Category D species instead.

Species Name	Norway lobster		
C1	**Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements**		
	C1.1	Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, OR are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.	PASS
	C1.2	The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy), OR removals by the fishery under assessment are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.	PASS
		Clause outcome:	PASS

C1.1 Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, OR are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.

Norway lobster in FU9 is subject to annual stock assessment by the ICES Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak (WGNSSK). The most recent assessment was conducted in 2022 using an underwater TV survey linked to yield-per-recruit analysis from length data, which also utilised international landings data and discards. Length and sex composition is considered to be well sampled, and catch sampling "is considered to represent the fishery adequately" (ICES 2022). C1.1 is met.

C1.2 The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy), OR removals by the fishery under assessment are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.

The 2022 catch advice provides an indication of the status of the stock relative to reference points. The biomass target reference points MSY $B_{trigger}$ and MAP MSY $B_{trigger}$ are set at 262 million individuals. Stock abundance in 2023 was projected to be 396 million individuals, and the 2022 catch advice states that "stock size is above MSY $B_{trigger}$" (ICES 2022). This also means that stock size is above any possible limit reference point, and C1.2 is met.
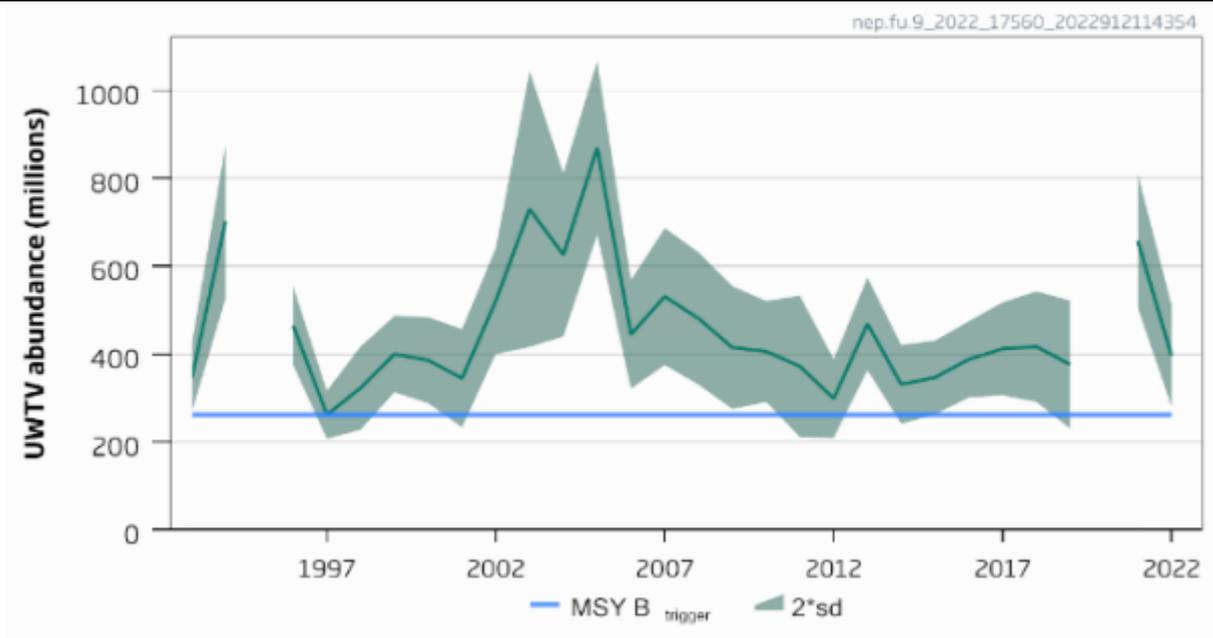
Norway lobster in Functional Unit 9, stock size estimates relative to current reference point (ICES 2022)

References

ICES (2022). Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) in Division 4.a, Functional Unit 9 (central North Sea, Moray Firth). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2022. ICES Advice 2022, nep.fu.9. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19772443

Links	
MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.2.2
FAO CCRF	7.5.3
GSSI	D.3.04, D5.01

CATEGORY D SPECIES

Category D species are those which are not subject to a species-specific management regime. In the case of mixed trawl fisheries, Category D species may make up the majority of landings. The comparative lack of scientific information on the status of the population of the species means that a risk-assessment style approach must be taken.

D1	**Species Name**	n/a	
Productivity Attribute		**Value**	**Score**
Average age at maturity (years)			
Average maximum age (years)			
Fecundity (eggs/spawning)			
Average maximum size (cm)			
Average size at maturity (cm)			
Reproductive strategy			
Mean trophic level			
	Average Productivity Score		
Susceptibility Attribute		**Value**	**Score**
Availability (area overlap)			
Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear)			
Selectivity of gear type			
Post-capture mortality			
	Average Susceptibility Score		
	PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)		
	Compliance rating		
Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant) *For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision*			
References			
Standard clauses 1.3.2.2			

Table D2 - Productivity / Susceptibility attributes and scores.

Productivity attributes	High productivity (Low risk, score = 1)	Medium productivity (medium risk, score = 2)	Low productivity (high risk, score = 3)
Average age at maturity	<5 years	5-15 years	>15 years
Average maximum age	<10 years	10-25 years	>25 years
Fecundity	>20,000 eggs per year	100-20,000 eggs per year	<100 eggs per year
Average maximum size	<100 cm	100-300 cm	>300 cm
Average size at maturity	<40 cm	40-200 cm	>200 cm
Reproductive strategy	Broadcast spawner	Demersal egg layer	Live bearer
Mean Trophic Level	<2.75	2.75-3.25	>3.25

Susceptibility attributes	Low susceptibility (Low risk, score = 1)		Medium susceptibility (medium risk, score = 2)		High susceptibility (high risk, score = 3)	
Areal overlap (availability) Overlap of the fishing effort with the species range	<10% overlap		10-30% overlap		>30% overlap	
Encounterability The position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear, and the position of the stock/species within the habitat relative to the position of the gear	Low overlap with fishing gear (low encounterability).		Medium overlap with fishing gear.		High overlap with fishing gear (high encounterability). Default score for target species	
Selectivity of gear type Potential of the gear to retain species	a	Individuals < size at maturity are rarely caught	a	Individuals < size at maturity are regularly caught.	a	Individuals < size at maturity are frequently caught
	b	Individuals < size at maturity can escape or avoid gear.	b	Individuals < half the size at maturity can escape or avoid gear.	b	Individuals < half the size at maturity are retained by gear.
Post-capture mortality (PCM) The chance that, if captured, a species would be released and that it would be in a condition permitting subsequent survival	Evidence of majority released post-capture and survival.		Evidence of some released post-capture and survival.		Retained species or majority dead when released.	

D3		Average Susceptibility Score		
		1 - 1.75	1.76 - 2.24	2.25 - 3
Average Productivity Score	1 - 1.75	PASS	PASS	PASS
	1.76 - 2.24	PASS	PASS	TABLE D4
	2.25 - 3	PASS	TABLE D4	TABLE D4

D4	Species Name		n/a	
	Impacts On Species Categorised as Vulnerable by D1-D3 - Minimum Requirements			
	D4.1	The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts.		
	D4.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.		
			Outcome:	

Evidence

D4.1: The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts.

D4.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.

References

Links

MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.2.2, 4.1.4
FAO CCRF	7.5.1
GSSI	D.5.01