MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

GBR22 – Norway Lobster in ICES Division 7a, Functional Unit 15

MarinTrust Programme
Unit C, Printworks
22 Amelia Street
London
SE17 3BZ
E: standards@marin-trust.com
T: +44 2039 780 819

Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*)
	Geographical area:	FAO 27 – Irish Sea, West
	Country of origin of the product:	UK & Ireland
	Stock:	Division 7a, FU 15
Date	July 2023	
Report Code	GBR22	
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 7a, FU 15
Fishery Location	FAO 27 – Irish Sea, West
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 Red List as a species of Least Concern, and does not appear in the CITES appendices. Norway lobster in FU15 is managed relative to established reference points and subject to annual stock assessment, therefore it was assessed under Category C. The most recent stock assessment was carried out in 2022, using TV survey data, international catches and discards, and catch sampling. The assessment concluded that stock abundance is substantially greater than the target reference point. For these reasons, the byproduct continues to meet the MT requirements and 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 7a, FU 15 (Irish Sea, West) 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 Division 7a, FU 15 (Irish Sea, West) 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*	Division 7a, FU 15	Yes	C	Least Concern[3]	No

---

[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 FU 15 is subject to annual stock assessment by the ICES Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion (WGCSE). The most recent assessment was conducted in 2022, using an underwater TV survey, commercial catches including length frequencies from catch sampling, fixed maturity and natural mortality rates, and discard survival estimates. The 2022 catch advice states that "the quality of input data and level of sampling for this stock are considered to be good" (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 target reference points MSY $B_{trigger}$ and MAP MSY $B_{trigger}$ have been set at 3,000 million individuals. Stock abundance in 2023 was projected by the most recent stock assessment to be 4,498 million individuals, and the 2022 catch advice states that "stock size is above MSY $B_{trigger}$" (ICES 2022). As abundance is greater than the target reference point, it is also above any possible limit reference point, and C1.2 is met.
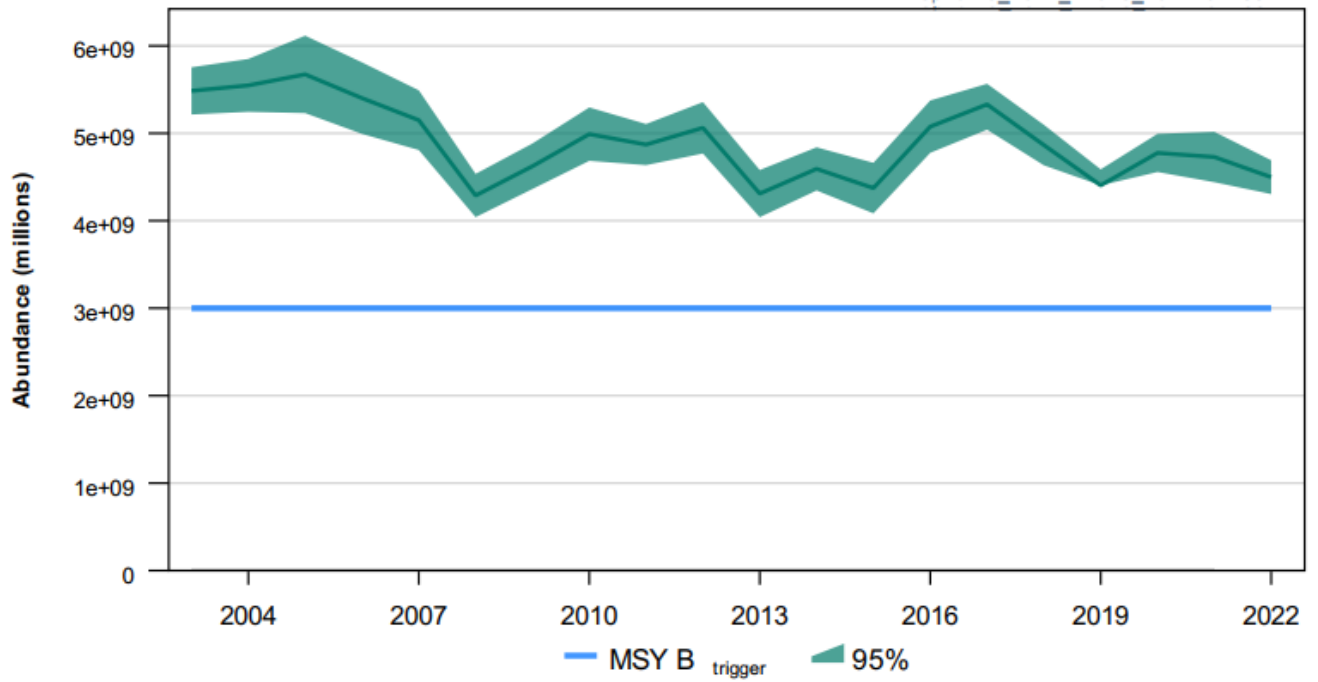
Norway lobster in FU15, estimated abundance relative to current reference point (ICES 2022)

References	
ICES (2022). Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) in Division 7.a, Functional Unit 15 (Irish Sea, West). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2022. ICES Advice 2022, nep.fu.15, https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19772407	

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