



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment *Cod (Gadus morhua)* in FAO 27, ICES 2 between 62°N and 67°N (Norwegian Sea), southern Norwegian coastal cod

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:	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)
	Geographical area:	ICES Subarea 2 between 62°N and 67°N (Norwegian Sea), southern Norwegian coastal cod
	Country of origin of the product:	Latvia Flag country: Norway
	Stock:	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) in Subarea 2 between 62°N and 67°N (Norwegian Sea), southern Norwegian coastal cod
Date	16 October 2023	
Report Code	LVA02	
Assessor	Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Latvia Flag country: Norway	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Organization of Fishery Producers of Kurzeme			
Country: Latvia			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification/NSF	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval
Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	Léa Lebechnech	0.5	Initial
Assessment Period	October 2023 – October 2024		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)
Stock	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) in Subarea 2 between 62°N and 67°N (Norwegian Sea), southern Norwegian coastal cod
Fishery Location	ICES Subarea 2 between 62°N and 67°N (Norwegian Sea), southern Norwegian coastal cod
Management Authority (Country/ State)	European Commission (EC), Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia
Gear Type(s)	Gillnets, bottom trawl, others Danish seine and longline/handline
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor's recommendation
Recommendation	APPROVED

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species - IUCN's Red List, or if it appears in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as Marin Trust raw material. Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) is not categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>There are reference points based on Maximum Sustainable Yield – MSY approach for this stock, thus the species was assessed under category C. Catches of the stock are provided, thus it PASSES C1.1. There is not limit reference point, but the biomass of the species is above the MSY proxy, thus it PASSES C.1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) in Subarea 2 between 62°N and 67°N (Norwegian Sea), southern Norwegian coastal cod is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products standard.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) in Subarea 2 between 62°N and 67°N (Norwegian Sea), southern Norwegian coastal cod as Category C, the stock being subject to a specific management regime and reference points are defined.</p> <p>Fishery removals are considered in the stock assessment process and the most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is above proxy reference point. Therefore, the stock is considered to satisfy C1.1. and C1.2.</p> <p>In conclusion southern Norwegian coastal cod passes both clauses (C1.1 and C1.2) and therefore should be approved under the MarinTrust Standard v2.3.</p>
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 a 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
Cod	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) in Subarea 2 between 62°N and 67°N (Norwegian Sea), southern Norwegian coastal cod	European Commission (EC), Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia	C	LC	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

² <https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

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		Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)		
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.	Yes	
	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.	Yes	
			Clause outcome:	Pass
<p>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.</p> <p>According to ICES (2023): “ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches in 2023 and in 2024 should be no more than 9136 tonnes. Assuming recreational catches of 4420 tonnes, this implies a commercial catch of no more than 4716 tonnes.”</p> <p>The most recent stock advice uses trends-based assessment based on standardized Catch per unit effort - CPUE index from the reference fleet (ICES, 2022). The input data is CPUE (2007–2021) from a coastal reference fleet (9–15 m). Commercial catches (landings, age, and length frequencies from commercial catch sampling); catches reported from tourist fishing businesses raised to total recreational catches, annual maturity data from the Norwegian coastal survey Q4 (A6335). Bycatch is included. Discarding is not included in the commercial catch, but discarding in the rod and line sector of the recreational fishery is included in the recreational catch estimate.</p> <p>The catches are represented in Figure 1.</p>				

Catches

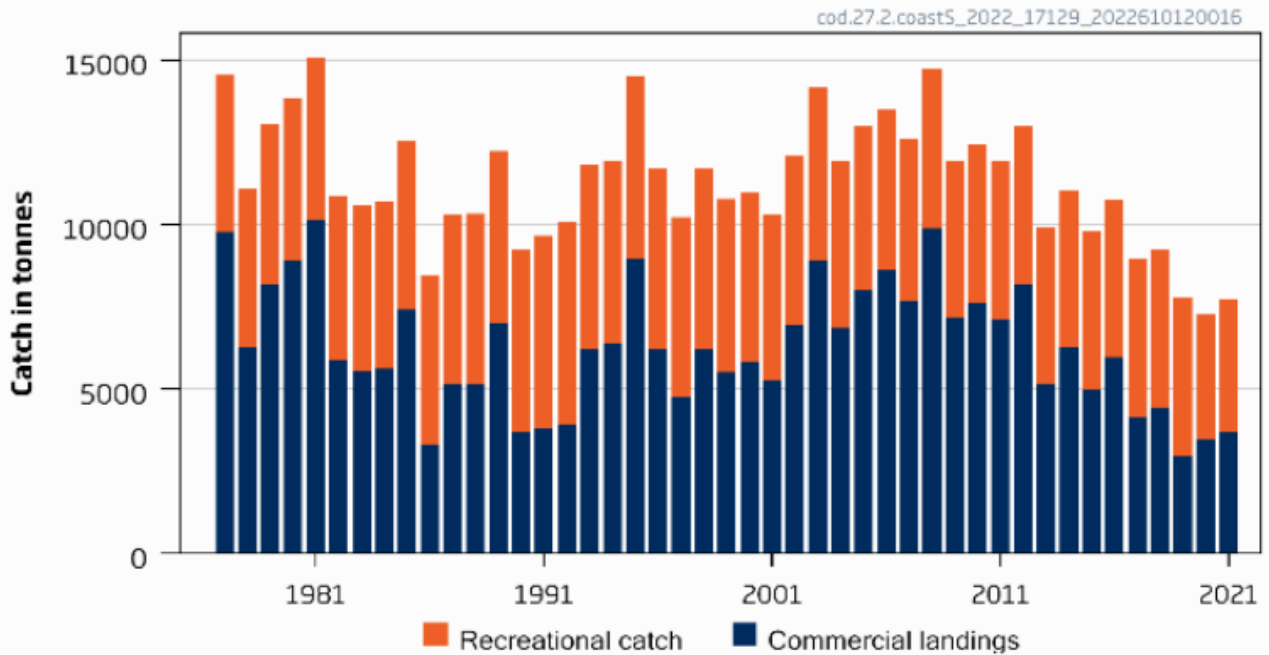


Figure 1. Catches of cod (*Gadus morhua*) in subarea 2 between 62°N and 67°N, southern Norwegian coastal cod. Recreational catches are fixed from 2009–2019 at 4800 tonnes.

Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process. C.1.1 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 ICES (2023) assessment uses the maximum sustainable yield – MSY approach, with MSY $B_{\text{trigger proxy}}$ (I_{trigger}) and $F_{\text{MSY proxy}}$ as the reference points, and no limit reference point is defined (Figure 3).

Reference points

Table 3 Cod (*Gadus morhua*) in Subarea 2 between 62°N and 67°N, southern Norwegian coastal cod. Reference points estimated with length-based indicator (LBI).

Framework	Reference point	Value	Technical basis	Source
MSY approach	MSY $B_{\text{trigger proxy}}$	0.081	$I_{\text{loss}} \times 1.4$; I_{loss} defined as the lowest biomass index value.	ICES (2022b)
	$F_{\text{MSY proxy}}$	$\frac{L_{\text{mean}}}{L_{\text{MSY proxy}}} = 1$	Relative value from LBI analysis, assuming $M/K = 0.90$ at L_{inf} . $L_{F=M}$ is based on L_c (Length at 50% of modal abundance), which varies each year: $LF=\gamma M, K=\theta M$.	ICES (2022b)
Precautionary approach	B_{lim}	Not defined		
	B_{pa}	Not defined		
	F_{lim}	Not defined		
	F_{pa}	Not defined		
Management plan	SSB_{mgt}	Not defined		
	F_{mgt}	Not defined		

Figure 2. Source: ICES (2023).

According to ICES (2023): “Stock size is above the MSY $B_{\text{trigger proxy}}$ (I_{trigger}), and fishing pressure is below the $F_{\text{MSY proxy}}$ ” (Figure 2).

Biomass index

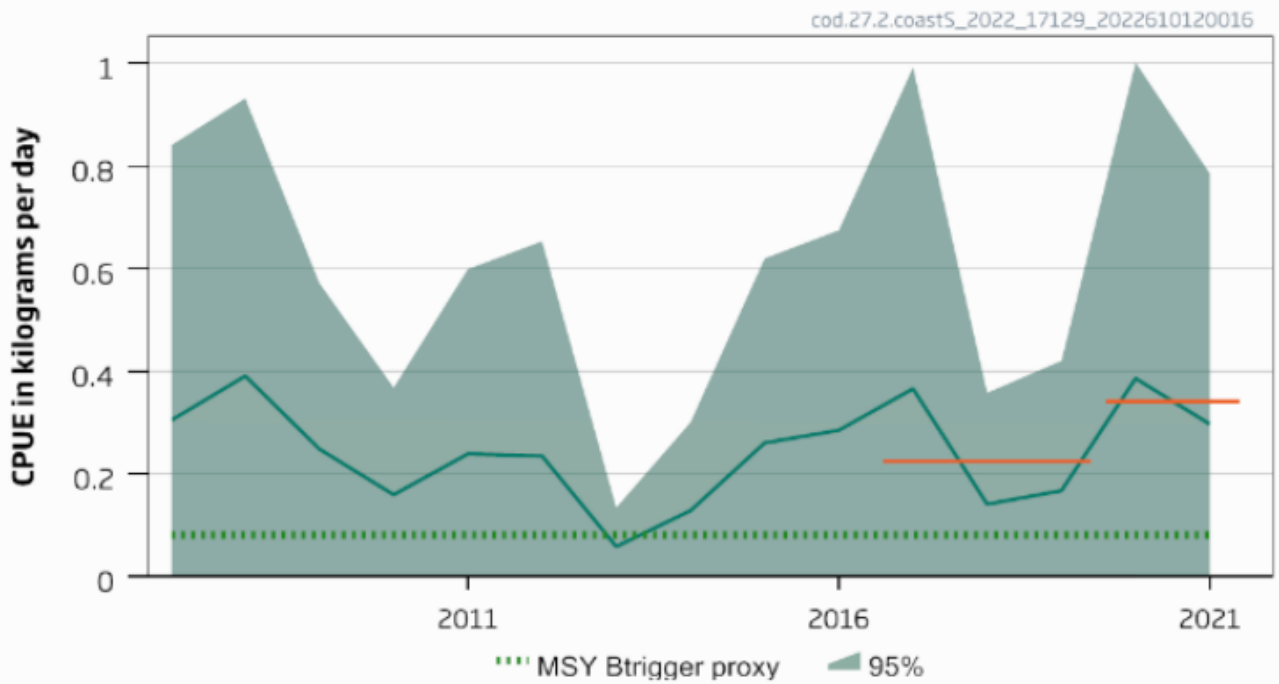


Figure 3. Biomass index of cod (*Gadus morhua*) in subarea 2 between 62°N and 67°N, southern Norwegian coastal cod. The biomass index is a composite standardized CPUE index from the coastal reference fleet (9–15 m vessel length) in areas 6 and 7 during quarters 3 and 4, 2007–2021. The horizontal orange lines indicate the average of the most recent two years and the previous three years (ICES, 2023).

The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the proxy. C.1.2 is met.

References

- ICES. 2022b. ICES technical guidance for harvest control rules and stock assessments for stocks in categories 2 and 3. In Report of ICES Advisory Committee, 2022. ICES Advice 2022, Section 16.4.11. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19801564>
- ICES. 2023. Cod (*Gadus morhua*) in Subarea 2 between 62°N and 67°N (Norwegian Sea), southern Norwegian coastal cod. In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2023. ICES Advice 2023, cod.27.1-2coastS, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21828309>

Links

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