



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

GBR21

Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) in ICES Division 4a, FU9

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 (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO 27
	Country of origin of the product:	UK & Ireland
	Stock:	ICES Division 4a, FU9
Date	July 2024	
Report Code	GBR21	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	UK & Ireland	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	None	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Aberdeen (Pelagia)			
Country: UK			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		NSF / Global Trust Certification Ltd.	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Matthew Jew	0.2	Re-approval
Assessment Period		July 2024 – July 2025	

Scope Details	
Main Species	Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>)
Stock	ICES Division 4a, FU9
Fishery Location	FAO 27
Management Authority (Country/ State)	UK
Gear Type(s)	All gears
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's recommendation
Recommendation	APPROVED

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as Marin trust raw material. Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) has been categorised by the IUCN as Least Concern, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices. Therefore, <i>Nephrops norvegicus</i> is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>Norway lobster in ICES Division 4a, Functional Unit 9 (FU9) is managed relative to target reference points and is subject to annual quotas, and was therefore assessed under Category C. An EU Multi-annual Management Plan (MAP) has been agreed for this stock; however there is no agreement between the EU and UK regarding the plan, and FU9 is entirely within UK waters.</p> <p>The stock was most recently assessed in 2023. The stock assessment outputs are considered reliable, and therefore C1.1 is met. The stock assessment concluded that estimated abundance is substantially above the target reference point level. For this reason, C1.2 is met.</p> <p>Therefore, Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) in ICES Division 4a, FU9 is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) in ICES Division 4.a, FU9 as Category C, the stock is subject to a specific management regime.</p> <p>Fishery removals are considered in the stock assessment process. The most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is above $MSY_{Btrigger}$. Therefore, the stock is considered to have biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy). It passes Category C.</p> <p>Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) in ICES Division 4.a, FU9 passes both clauses (C1.1 and C1.2) and therefore should be approved under the MarinTrust Standard v.2.3</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
N/A

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	<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	ICES Division 4a, FU9	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 (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</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.	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 ICES Division 4a, Functional Unit 9 (FU9) is subjected to regular 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 2023, and used an underwater TV survey to produce a yield-per-recruit analysis from length data. The assessment utilised all commercial catches, one survey index, maturity data from catch sampling, and natural mortality assumptions from other studies. Discards, BMS landings and bycatch were included in the assessment.

The 2023 ICES catch advice states, "ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, and assuming that discard rates and fishery selection patterns do not change from the average of the years 2020–2022, catches in 2024 should be no more than 1770 tonnes" (ICES 2023).

Catches are presented in the figure below:

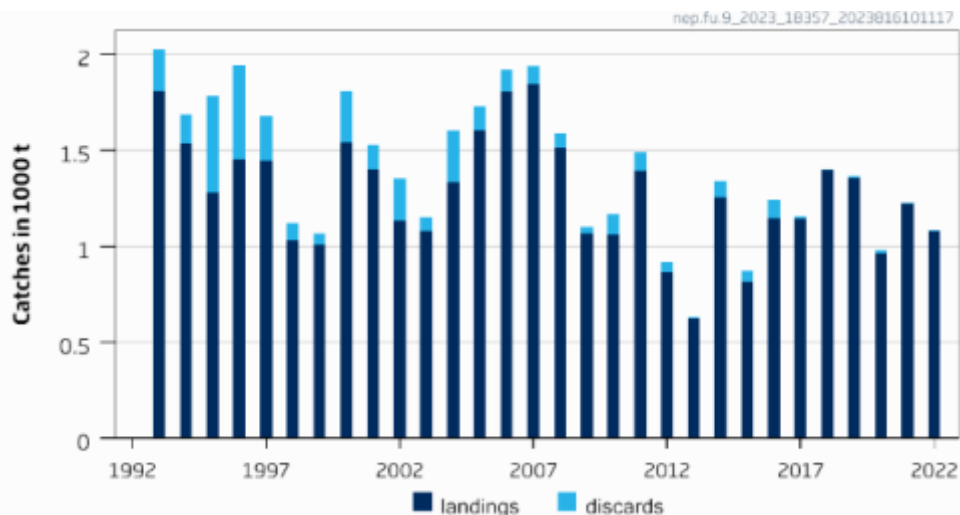


Figure 1. Norway lobster in ICES Division 4a. Catches (ICES 2023)

Therefore, fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process and therefore the stock PASSES clause C1.1.

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 regular ICES catch advice includes an indication of the status of the stock relative to established reference points. The target reference points $MSY B_{trigger}$ and $MAP MSY B_{trigger}$ have been set at 262 million individuals. No limit reference points have been established. The catch advice includes an estimate for stock abundance in 2024, placing it at 545 million individuals, over twice the target reference point level.

The ICES catch advice states, “Fishing pressure on the stock is below F_{MSY} , and stock size is above $MSY B_{trigger}$ ” (ICES 2023).

See diagram below for estimated abundance over time.

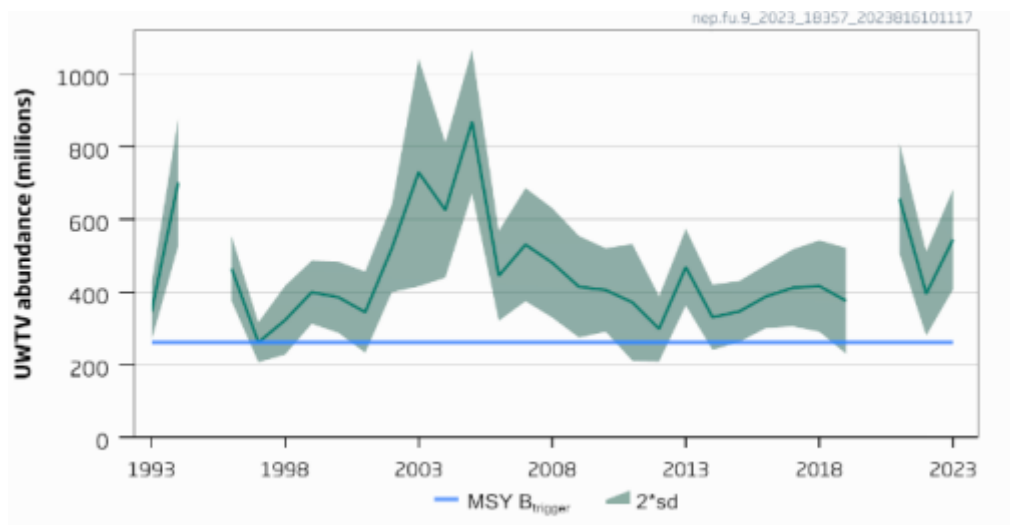


Figure 2. Norway lobster in ICES Division 4a. Estimated abundance relative to current target reference point (ICES 2023)

Therefore, the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy) and it PASSES clause C1.2.

References

ICES (2023). Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) in Division 4.a, Functional Unit 9 (central North Sea, Moray Firth). ICES Advice: Recurrent Advice. Report. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21975197.v1>

Links

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