MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

GBR49: Norway pout (Trisopterus esmarkii) in ICES Divisions 4a&b and 6a&b

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Norway pout (*Trisopterus esmarkii*)
	Geographical area:	FAO 27
	Country of origin of the product:	UK
	Stock:	ICES Subarea 4 and Division 3a; ICES Division 6a
Date	August 2024	
Report Code	GBR49	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	UK	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	n/a	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s):			
Country:			
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	Initial
Assessment Period	August 2024 – August 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Norway pout (*Trisopterus esmarkii*)
Stock	ICES Subarea 4 and Division 3a; ICES Division 6a
Fishery Location	FAO 27
Management Authority (Country/ State)	UK & EU
Gear Type(s)	Small-meshed trawls
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Pass
Recommendation	Approve

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
Norway pout has been categorised by the IUCN as a species of Least Concern, and does not appear in the CITES appendices. Norway pout in ICES Divisions 4a, 4b, 6a and 6b includes individuals from two separate stocks: Norway pout in ICES Subarea 4 and Division 3a; and Norway pout in ICES Division 6a. Norway pout in ICES Subarea 4 and Division 3a is managed relative to established reference points and was assessed under Category C. The stock is subject to regular stock assessment by the ICES Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak (WGNSSK), most recently in 2023, and thus meets the requirements of C1.1. The 2023 stock assessment concluded that SSB was above the target reference point level, and thus the stock also meets the requirements of C1.2. No reference points are established for Norway pout in ICES Division 6a, and so it was assessed under Category D. The stock was awarded a Productivity score of 1.14 and a Susceptibility score of 2.5, leading to an outcome of PASS on Table D3. As both stocks meet the byproduct assessment requirements, all Norway pout material originating from ICES Divisions 4a, 4b, 6a and 6b should be approved for use as a raw material in MT-certified facilities.
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The by-product fishery under assessment is the Norway pout (*Trisopterus esmarkii*) caught with small-meshed trawls gillnets and longlines in ICES Subarea 4 and Division 3a; and then ICES Division 6a, FAO area 27. The species is classified as LC by the IUCN. The stock in ICES Subarea 4 and Division 3a is managed relative to biomass-based reference points and therefore it is assessed under category C. The most recent stock assessment conducted for ling by the ICES Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak (WGNSSK) in 2023 indicated that SSB was above the target and limit reference point levels (B_{pa} and B_{lim}). Therefore, it passes category C. Instead, the stock of Norway pout in ICES Division 6a is not managed relative to reference points and it is assessed under category D. A PSA was conducted for the species getting an average productivity score of 1.14 and an average susceptibility score of 2.5, passing category D (table D3). The peer review supports the auditor's recommendation to pass the Norway pout caught with small-meshed trawls in ICES Subarea 4 and Division 3a; and ICES Division 6a 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 pout	*Trisopterus esmarkii*	ICES Subarea 4 and Division 3a	Yes	C	Least Concern[3]	No
		ICES Division 6a	No	D		

[1] https://www.iucnredlist.org/
[2] https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php
[3] https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/18125208/45098689

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 pout (*Trisopterus esmarkii*) in ICES Subarea 4 and Division 3a**	
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.

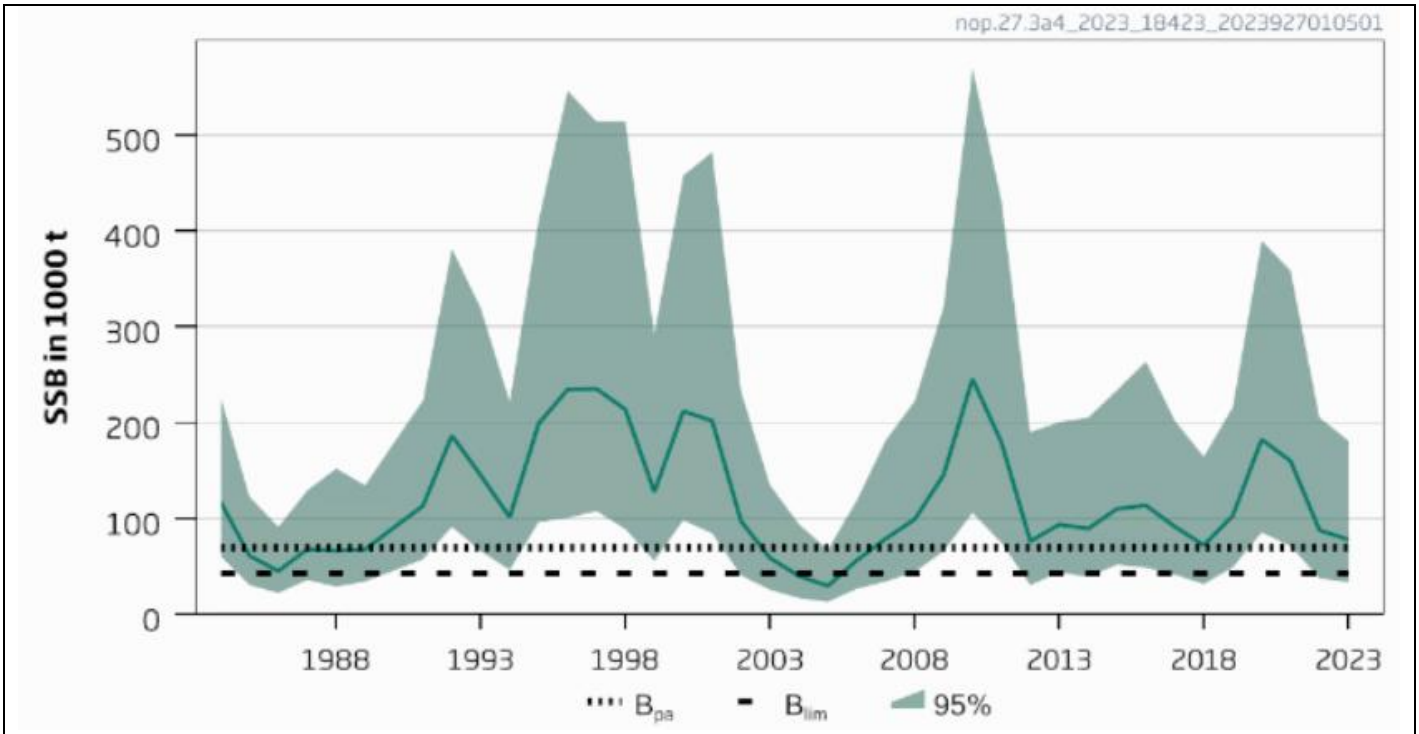
Norway pout in ICES Subarea 4 and Division 3a is subject to regular stock assessment by the ICES Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak (WGNSSK). The most recent assessment was conducted in 2023 using an age-based analytical assessment which incorporated commercial catches; catch-at-age and weight-at-age estimates from catch sampling; four survey indices; maturity data and mortality rates from survey estimates; and mean weight-at-age in the stock from long-term commercial catch estimates. Discarding and bycatch is considered negligible (ICES 2023).

The stock is subjected to a regular, robust stock assessment, and 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 regular catch advice published by ICES provides an indication of the status of the stock relative to established reference points. The target reference point B_{pa} has been set at 69,736t. The limit reference point B_{lim} has been set at 42,573t. The 2023 stock assessment produced an estimate for SSB in late 2023 of 78,191t, above the target reference point level. The 2023 catch advice states that "spawning stock size is above B_{pa} and B_{lim}" (ICES 2023).

The stock is considered to be above the target and limit reference point levels, and C1.2 is met.



Norway pout in ICES Subarea 4 and Division 3a, estimated SSB relative to current reference points (ICES 2023)

References

ICES (2023). Norway pout (*Trisopterus esmarkii*) in Subarea 4 and Division 3.a (North Sea, Skagerrak, and Kattegat). ICES Advice: Recurrent Advice. Report. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21907857.v1

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

CATEGORY D SPECIES

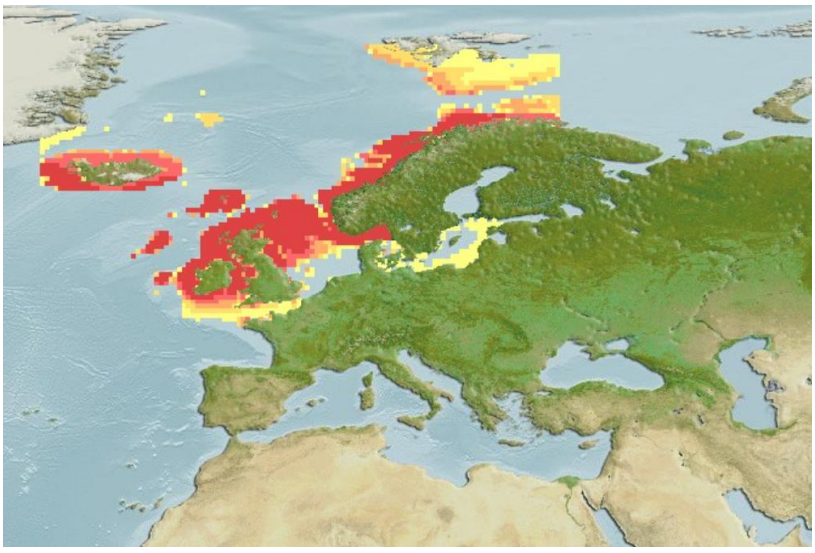
Category D species are those which are not subject to a species-specific management regime. In the case of mixed trawl fisheries, Category D species may make up the majority of landings. The comparative lack of scientific information on the status of the population of the species means that a risk-assessment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

D1 Species Name — **Norway pout (*Trisopterus esmarkii*) in ICES Division 6a**

Productivity Attribute	Value	Score
Average age at maturity (years)	2 years	1
Average maximum age (years)	7.9 years	1
Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	101,849	1
Average maximum size (cm)	35cm	1
Average size at maturity (cm)	16.2cm	1
Reproductive strategy	Broadcast spawner	1
Mean trophic level	3.2	2
	Average Productivity Score	**1.14**
Susceptibility Attribute	**Value**	**Score**
Availability (area overlap)	<10%	1
Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear)	Targeted	3
Selectivity of gear type	Retained	3
Post-capture mortality	Retained	3
	Average Susceptibility Score	**2.5**
	PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)	**PASS**
	Compliance rating	**PASS**

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



Computer-generated map of Norway pout native range. From FishBase, https://www.fishbase.se/summary/Trisopterus-esmarkii

References

FishBase, Norway pout: https://www.fishbase.se/summary/Trisopterus-esmarkii
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