



Fisheries Verification Report

MSCV28

*Norway - Sandeel (Ammodytes spp.) -
FAO 27, ICES 3.a.20, 4.a, b, Sandeel Area 3r
(Skagerrak, northern and central North Sea)*

Issued May 2026 – Effective June 2026

Report code	MSCV28	Date of issue	October 2026
--------------------	--------	----------------------	--------------

1. Application details		
Applicant name(s)	Prima Protein AS, Pelagia AS - Egersund Sildoljefabrikk, Lovund, Karlsund, Måløy Sildoljefabrikk, TripleNine Vedde AS	
Applicant country	Norway	
2. Certification Body details		
Name of Certification Body (CB)	LRQA	
Contact information for CB	fisheries-ca@lrqa.com LRQA, 3 Lochside Way, Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9DT	
Assessor name	Jim Missen	
CB internal peer reviewer name	Phoebe Schouten	
Internal peer review evaluation	Agree with evaluation	
Number of Assessment days	0.25	
Comments on the assessment	The species, geographic area, stock definition and gear type listed by the applicant match those on a valid MSC certificate (MSC-F-30034). All vessels flagged and licensed in Norway operating in the UoC are eligible to access the certificate. The most recent PCR states no specific traceability risks.	
3. Approval validity	Valid from 09/2026	Valid until 12/2028
4. Assessment cycle	Initial	

5. Fishery for verification	
Recognised Fishery Standard for verification	Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)

Recognised fishery certificate details:	- Fishery name: Norway sandeel and North Sea sprat - Certificate code: MSC-F-30034 - Website reference: https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/norway-sandeel-and-north-sea-sprat/
Validity date(s) of the fishery certification	- Certificate date of issue: 23 Feb 2018 - Certificate expiry date: 23 Dec 2028

Verification scope

6. Verification scope comparison		
Fishery details	MarinTrust unit of approval <i>Received from applicant/certificate holder</i>	Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) unit of certification <i>Listed on the certificate/ additional information from Fishery Assessor</i>
Species	Sandeel (<i>Ammodytes spp.</i>)	Sandeel (<i>Ammodytes marinus</i>) Of the North Sea sandeels, the lesser sandeel (<i>Ammodytes marinus</i>) is by far the dominate species with small quantities of other <i>Ammodytoidei spp.</i> being caught ¹ . Based on the major surveys and data from the fisheries, <i>A. marinus</i> accounts for more than 99% of total catches ¹ .
Geographic area	FAO 27 ICES 3a20 and 4.a–b, Area 3r (northern and central North Sea, Skagerrak)	- FAO area: 27 - Common names of the body of water: North East Atlantic Ocean - Local fisheries management area: Sandeel management area 3r, within ICES 3.a, 4.a and 4.b - Stock region: North East Atlantic Ocean. ICES 3 and 4

¹ DNV. (2023). Public certification report: Norway sandeel and North Sea sprat. Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Assessments. <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/norway-sandeel-and-north-sea-sprat/@assessments>

Stock definition	Sandeel (<i>Ammodytes spp.</i>) in divisions 4.a–b and Subdivision 20, Sandeel Area 3r (northern and central North Sea, Skagerrak)	Sandeel (<i>Ammodytes marinus</i>) in FAO 27, Sandeel management area 3r, within ICES 3.a, 4.a and 4.b, North East Atlantic Ocean. ICES 3 and 4
Gear type / Harvest method	Trawl	Trawl (bottom and midwater)
Parties currently eligible to access this certificate Fleets, individual vessels	n/a	All Norwegian vessels flagged and licensed by the Norwegian authorities operating in the Unit of Certification (UoC) as defined in the certificate. Norwegian vessels (bottom trawlers, midwater trawlers and purse seines), with valid licenses to fish sandeel in the waters of the North Sea. The list of eligible vessels is updated at every assessment with the latest vessel list published on the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries^{2,3}.

² Directorate of Fisheries. (n.d.). Vessel quota and catch.

<https://www.fiskeridir.no/registre/fartoyregisteret/fartoy-kvote-og-fangst>

³ DNV. (2026). Surveillance Audit Report: Norway sandeel and North Sea sprat. Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Assessments. <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/norway-sandeel-and-north-sea-sprat/@assessments>

Traceability factors	n/a	The 2023 Public Certification Report made the following comments in regard to traceability within the fishery: • The UoC covers all the fishing grounds where the fishery takes place. • There is no transshipment in this fishery. • There is no processing at sea on board the vessels and therefore no risk of substitution with other species¹. The 2025 surveillance report notes that systems allow the fishery client to trace any fish or fish products sold as MSC certified back to the individual UoC⁴. The 2026 surveillance report stated that “there are no new developments or changes within the fishery that can affect negatively the traceability and the ability to segregate MSC from non-MSC products. There are no other scope restrictions impacting traceability.”^{3”}
----------------------	-----	---

⁴ DNV. (2025). Surveillance Audit Report: Norway sandeel and North Sea sprat. Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Assessments. <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/norway-sandeel-and-north-sea-sprat/@assessments>