



MarinTrust Standard V2

Whole fish Fishery Assessment

Iceland Norway pout

MarinTrust Programme

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Name(s): Ísfélag Vestmannaeyja			
Country: Iceland			
Email address:		Applicant Code	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification	
Assessor Name	CB Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Alex Caveen	Ivan Mateo	4	Initial
Assessment Period	To May 2023		
Scope Details			
Management Authority (Country/State)		Iceland Directorate of Fisheries	
Main Species		Norway pout, <i>Trisopterus esmarkii</i>	
Fishery Location		FAO 27 Northeast Atlantic Icelandic Economic Zone (EEZ)	
Gear Type(s)		Pelagic trawl	
Outcome of Assessment			
Overall Outcome		Pass	
Clauses Failed		None	
CB Peer Review Evaluation		Agree with assessor's determination	
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Group Evaluation		Approve – see peer review report	
Recommendation		Approval	

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination			
<p>Norway pout (<i>Trisopterus esmarkii</i>) in Iceland is targeted in a pelagic trawl fishery, and caught alongside the following type-two species that comprise the remaining <5% of the catch; horse mackerel (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>), argentine (<i>Argentina silus</i>), and silvery pout (<i>Gadiculus argenteus</i>).</p> <p><i>T. esmarkii</i> along with the other species mentioned above are benthopelagic, typically found at a depth range of 100 – 200m. <i>T. esmarkii</i> feeds mostly on planktonic crustaceans (copepods, euphausiids, shrimps, amphipods) but also on small fish and various eggs and larvae, and typically caught at a length of around 20cm.</p> <p>The <i>T. esmarkii</i> fishery in Iceland is relatively small, with landings for the 2020 – 21 fishing season at 1,054 tonnes (see Table below). The applicant sources Norway pout from four vessels (Sigurour, Heimaey, Sudurey, Alsey)</p>			
NORWAY POUT			
Reg. no.	Vessel	Class	Kg/Ungutted
1742	Kap VE 4	A	31,090
2388	Ísleifur VE 63	A	12,012
2407	Hákon EA 148	A	166,075
2618	Jóna Eðvalds SF 200	A	141,164
2780	Ásgrímur Halldórsson SF 250	A	42,480
2812	Heimaey VE 1	A	262,980
2865	Barði NK 120	A	25,327
2883	Sigurður VE 15	A	122,738
2885	Hoffell SU 80	A	208,179
2900	Beitir NK 123	A	42,598
Total			1,054,643
<p>Icelandic fisheries management is generally regarded to be world leading, with the main commercial stocks managed through catch shares underpinned by a comprehensive research programme. The Directorate of Fisheries collects fisheries dependent data on fishing and fish catches landed by the Icelandic fleet and monitors compliance with rules on weighing and recording of catches.</p> <p><i>T. esmarkii</i> is a relatively small fishery in Iceland, there is no stock assessment and no species-specific management regime in place, therefore <i>T.esmarkii</i> has been assessed as a Category B species, using the best available information from an ICES stock assessment for the greater North Sea area. According to the latest ICES assessment for <i>T. esmarkii</i> (ICES 2021) it is assumed that the biomass is above the long-term average (though fluctuating), and fishing pressure is below the long-term average, and just above the historic low in 2005. <i>T. esmarkii</i> therefore passes the Category B assessment.</p> <p>The three other species caught in the fishery; horse mackerel (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>), argentine (<i>Argentina silus</i>), and silvery pout (<i>Gadiculus argenteus</i>) pass the requirements of the Category D assessment.</p> <p>The further impacts of the pelagic fishery targeting Norway pout are assumed to be minimal for the following reasons. Pelagic gears are unlikely to significantly impact the seabed, only minor impacts on ETP species have been recorded, and the small catches of the fishery are unlikely to affect the wider marine ecosystem.</p> <p>Based on this information the assessor is confident that this fishery passes all of the MarinTrust fisheries assessment criteria.</p>			
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments			

The assessor correctly classified the Norway Pout stock as category B because there is no stock assessment and no species-specific management regime in place.

The assessor correctly classified ; horse mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*), argentine (*Argentina silus*), and silvery pout (*Gadiculus argenteus*) stocks as category D in conformity with the Species categorisation requirements

There is no evidence that the fishery impacts significantly habitats, ETP species and the ecosystem.

Therefore, all stocks should be awarded approval for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the IFFO-RS v 2.2 standard.

Notes for On-site Auditor

Check that the raw material is predominantly Norway pout (>95% of intake). Confirm the scale and season of the Icelandic fishery for Norway pout. Is Norway pout targeted or a bycatch from another fishery?

Ideally a record of landings data of the vessels sourced from should be verified before the raw material is approved.

Table 3 General Results

General Clause	Outcome (Pass/Fail)
M1 - Management Framework	PASS
M2 - Surveillance, Control and Enforcement	PASS
F1 - Impacts on ETP Species	PASS
F2 - Impacts on Habitats	PASS
F3 - Ecosystem Impacts	PASS

Table 4 Species- Specific Results

List all Category A and B species. List approximate total percentage (%) of landings which are Category C and D species; these do not need to be individually named here

Category	Species	% landings	Outcome (Pass/Fail)
Category A			
Category B	Norway pout (<i>Trisopterus esmarkii</i>)	>95%	PASS
Category C			
Category D	Horse mackerel (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>), Argentine (<i>Argentina silus</i>), Silvery pout (<i>Gadiculus argenteus</i>)	<5%	PASS

Table 5 Species Categorisation Table

Common name	Latin name	Stock	IUCN Redlist Category ¹	% of landings	Management	Category
Norway pout	<i>Trisopterus esmarkii</i>	Not defined for Iceland, nearest stock assessment for ICES Subarea 4 and Division 3.a	Least concern	>95%	No species-specific regime	B
Horse mackerel	<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>	Not defined	Vulnerable		As above	D
Greater argentine	<i>Argentina silus</i>	Not defined	Least concern		As above	D
Silvery pout	<i>Gadiculus argenteus</i>	Not defined	No categorisation		As above	D

Species categorisation rationale

No landings data has been provided by the applicant, though it is assumed that Norway pout makes up >95% of the landings. As there is no species-specific management regime in place for Norway pout in Iceland, it has been assessed as a Category B species.

The remaining species are assumed to comprise <5% of the landings, there is no species-specific management measures in place, and therefore are categorised as category D species.

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

MANAGEMENT

The two clauses in this section (M1, M2) relate to the general management regime applied to the fishery under assessment. The clauses should be completed by providing sufficient evidence to justify awarding each of the requirements a pass or fail rating. A fishery must meet all the minimum requirements in every clause before it can be recommended for approval.

M1	Management Framework – Minimum Requirements	
M1.1	There is an organisation responsible for managing the fishery.	Yes
M1.2	There is an organisation responsible for collecting data and assessing the fishery.	Yes
M1.3	Fishery management organisations are publicly committed to sustainability.	Yes
M1.4	Fishery management organisations are legally empowered to take management actions.	Yes
M1.5	There is a consultation process through which fishery stakeholders are engaged in decision-making.	Yes
M1.6	The decision-making process is transparent, with processes and results publicly available.	Yes
Clause outcome:		PASS

M1.1 There is an organisation responsible for managing the fishery.

Four public institutions are at the heart of Icelandic fisheries management: the Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (MFRI), the Directorate of Fisheries (DoF) and the Ministry of Industries and Innovation (MII) and the Coast Guard also has a role in monitoring fishing activities, gears, fishing locations and discarding.

The Directorate of Fisheries (DoF) is entrusted with the day-to-day administration of fisheries. The DoF is responsible for implementing legislation on fisheries management and it collects and publishes numerical data and other information on fisheries. The DoF issues fishing permits to vessels and licenses scales for weighing landings. It keeps records of quota shares and quotas, including all transfers of quotas and quota shares between vessels. It also checks that vessels do not fish in excess of their quotas.

M1.2 There is an organisation responsible for collecting data and assessing the fishery.

The MFRI is responsible for biological research and stock assessments and provides advice on Total Allowable Catches (TACs) for some species (note that *Trisopterus esmarkii* is not a TAC species) to the Ministry. Its stock assessments are based on data from extensive research fishing as well as data on catches, length and age composition and sexual maturity of the fish. The MFRI presents its advice at the end of May/beginning of June each year. The MFRI's stock assessments and advice for many important species are reviewed each year by ICES.

The DoF collects fisheries dependent data on fishing and fish catches landed by the Icelandic fleet and monitors compliance with rules on weighing and recording of catches.

It is important to note that *T. esmarkii* is a data-poor fishery, and no stock is defined for the Icelandic waters. Given that the annual catch of the pelagic fishery on *T. esmarkii* in Icelandic waters is around 1,000 tonnes (compare with 130,000 t landings for *T. esmarkii* in ICES subareas 4 and Division 3a) the impact of the fishery is assumed to be negligible.

M1.3 Fishery management organisations are publicly committed to sustainability.

The objectives of Icelandic fisheries management, as stated in their respective fisheries acts, are to ensure conservation and efficient utilisation of marine living resources.

M1.4 Fishery management organisations are legally empowered to take management actions.

Iceland has a well-established system for fisheries management in place, codified in the 1990 Act on Fisheries Management, amended in 2006 (Fisheries Management Act). The Act details procedures for the determination of TAC (Art. 3) and allocation of harvest rights, including permits and catch quotas (Art. 4–14). It also lays out the system for individual transferable quotas in some detail (Art. 15), as well as procedures for monitoring, control and surveillance (Art. 16–18) and the application of sanctions (Art. 24–27). Further provisions are provided in a number of other acts, such as the 1997 Act on Fishing in Iceland's Exclusive Fishing Zone and the 1996 Act concerning the Treatment of Commercial Marine Stocks, as well as in regulations at lower levels of the legal hierarchy, issued by the relevant management authorities.

The Ministry of Industries and Innovation (Atvinnuvega- og nýsköpunarráðuneytið) – which has two ministers: one for Tourism, Industry and Innovation and one for Fisheries and Agriculture – is the policy-making body in Icelandic fisheries

management and sets annual TAC based on scientific recommendations from the Marine Research Institute (Hafrannsóknastofnun). The Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture, in turn, is responsible for two departments: one for fisheries and aquaculture and one for food and agriculture. Management of marine mammals was formerly under the department of food and agriculture but was recently transferred to the department of fisheries and aquaculture. Birds management is under the Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources (Umhverfis- og auðlindaráðuneytið). The Directorate of Fisheries (Fiskistofa) is the implementing body within the management system, formally subordinate to the Ministry of Industries and Innovation as an agency. It issues fishing licenses, allocates annual vessel quotas and oversees the daily operation of the individual transferable quota system. The Directorate is also responsible for monitoring, control and surveillance, in cooperation with the Coast Guard (Landhelgisgæsla Íslands), which is a civilian law enforcement agency under the Ministry of the Interior.

Statutory protection of species and habitats is provided by the Nature Conservation Act (Government of Iceland, 1999). This Act applies to all of the territory of Iceland, the EEZ and the continental shelf. It enables the Minister for the Environment to protect species and their supporting habitats & ecosystems (at §53). The foundation of current legislation on wild animals in Iceland, including their protection and hunting, is Act 61/1994.

M1.5 There is a consultation process through which fishery stakeholders are engaged in decision-making.

There is a long tradition of continuous consultation and close cooperation between government agencies and user-group organisations in Iceland. Lines of communication are short in Iceland and much consultation takes place informally, in direct and often spontaneous contact between representatives of user groups and authorities. At a more formal level, all major interest organisations in the fishing industry are regularly invited to sit on committees established to review changes in legislation and management, and they meet for regular consultations with the Ministry, the Directorate and the Parliament's (Alþingi) Permanent Committee for Fisheries and Agriculture. These include, but are not restricted to, Fisheries Iceland (Samtök fyrirtækja í sjávarútvegi – SFS), which was established in 2014 as the result of a merger between two of the most influential user-groups in Icelandic fisheries: the Federation of Icelandic Fishing Vessel Owners and the Federation of Icelandic Fish Processing Plants. Other stakeholders include the National Association of Small Boat Owners and the Icelandic Seamen's Federation. Local authorities also engage actively in fisheries issues and have easy access to the management system.

All new legislation and major management initiatives are subject to public hearing, with drafts available online through the Government's consultation portal Samráðsgátt (<https://samradsgatt.island.is/oll-mal/?FilterDate=LatestChanged>). The object of the portal is to increase transparency and opportunities for the public and stakeholders to participate in policy formulation, establishing regulatory frameworks and the decision making of the authorities. The portal contains planned legislation, drafts of legislative bills and regulations, documents on policy formulation and more. There are no environmental NGOs in Iceland that target fisheries specifically at the moment. Major international NGOs that usually engage actively in discussions about fisheries management, such as Greenpeace and WWF, do not have offices in Iceland. Local NGOs tend to prioritise nature protection on land. One exception is BirdLife Iceland (Fuglavernd), which is, among other things, concerned with bird interaction in gillnet fisheries. Also, more generally oriented NGOs such as Icelandic Environmental Association (Landvernd) and Iceland Nature Conservation Association (Náttúruverndarsamtök Íslands) are engaged in marine issues more widely, such as marine protected areas and integrated and integrated ocean management.

Consultation processes cover policies and regulatory issues and include discussions of the annual scientific recommendations by the Marine Research Institute. Shortly after presenting the recommendations to the Ministry, representatives of the Institute enter into dialogue with the fishing industry regarding the status of the stocks and the nature of the recommendations. The Ministry also consults with the industry before setting the final TACs.

M1.6 The decision-making process is transparent, with processes and results publicly available.

There is legislation in Iceland ("Upplýsingalög" or Freedom of Information Act) which requires ministers and public institutions to reveal existing information. Members of the Althing can obtain detailed information from the Ministry and public institutions by putting questions to the appropriate minister in the Althing.

References

Act No. 61/1994 (in Icelandic): <http://www.althingi.is/lagas/nuna/1994064.html>

Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland: <https://www.fiskistofa.is/english/about-the-directorate/>

Icelandic consultation portal: <https://samradsgatt.island.is/oll-mal/?FilterDate=LatestChanged>

Marine & Freshwater Institute: https://www.hafogvatn.is/en	
Links	
MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.1.1, 1.3.1.2
FAO CCRF	7.2, 7.3.1, 7.4.4, 12.3
GSSI	D.1.01, D.4.01, D2.01, D1.07, D1.04,

M2	Surveillance, Control and Enforcement - Minimum Requirements		
	M2.1	There is an organisation responsible for monitoring compliance with fishery laws and regulations.	Yes
	M2.2	There is a framework of sanctions which are applied when laws and regulations are discovered to have been broken.	Yes
	M2.3	There is no substantial evidence of widespread non-compliance in the fishery, and no substantial evidence of IUU fishing.	Yes
	M2.4	Compliance with laws and regulations is actively monitored, through a regime which may include at-sea and portside inspections, observer programmes, and VMS.	Yes
		Clause outcome:	PASS

M2.1 There is an organisation responsible for monitoring compliance with fishery laws and regulations.

Monitoring, control and surveillance is taken care of by the Directorate of Fisheries, in collaboration with the Coast Guard, the Marine Research Institute and coastal municipalities. The enforcement system is based on reports from the vessels, physical inspections at sea and weighing in harbour, as well as information exchange with other states' enforcement authorities. The structure and procedures of the enforcement system are codified in the Fisheries Management Act (Art. 17–18), while requirements to the weighing system are laid out in the Act concerning the Treatment of Commercial Marine Stocks (Art. 5–12) and in the Regulation on Weighing and Recording of Catch.

M2.2 There is a framework of sanctions which are applied when laws and regulations are discovered to have been broken.

A vessel owner who is found to have acted in breach of regulations gets a warning and a fine. Repeated offenses lead to heavy fines, revocation of the vessel's license to fish and possibly to prison sentences. In 2020 the DoF meted out fines to the sum of 3 m.ISK (22,000 EUR).

M2.3 There is no substantial evidence of widespread non-compliance in the fishery, and no substantial evidence of IUU fishing.

The 2018 Icelandic National Audit Office Report identified a number of areas of weakness in the Icelandic enforcement system but no direct evidence of large-scale systemic violations. Available evidence (e.g. data from scientific cruises held up against information reported by the vessels) indicates that discards are low and re-weighing irregularities not significant. The management system in general has a high level of legitimacy among fishers, probably because the need to manage resources through restrictions on fishing access is well understood. The high level of transparency in the system also encourages compliance. Catch and landings are recorded and published on the Directorate of Fisheries website in almost real time. The performance of licensed weighers with and without an Inspector present when re-weighing after de-icing is also published and so too is vessel catch composition with and without an Inspector on board.

M2.4 Compliance with laws and regulations is actively monitored, through a regime which may include at-sea and portside inspections, observer programmes, and VMS.

All commercial Icelandic fishing vessels are required to keep an electronic logbook and report catches to the Directorate of Fisheries using an electronic recording and reporting system (ERS). AIS and VMS are obligatory for all vessels regardless of size, also inshore. Inspectors from the Directorate may accompany fishing vessels on trips or operate from Coast Guard vessels. The Coast Guard has three offshore patrol vessels, as well as a number of smaller boats, helicopters and a surveillance aircraft. At-sea inspections include control of the logbook, catch and gear.

Inspections are conducted using a risk-based framework ('business intelligence software') aimed at utilising resources to optimise compliance at any given moment. Most importantly, 100 % of the landed fish is weighed by an authorised 'weighmaster', employed by the municipality and hence independent of both buyer and seller. Landing data are immediately added to the Directorate's catch database, where the reported quantities of fish are deducted from the vessel's quota. The Directorate operates a dynamic and interactive website, where stakeholders at all times can monitor the precise quota status for each species and observe the performance of individual vessels, their catch from each fishing trip and vessel quota status. The fact that the vast majority of catch is exported provides a further control mechanism enabling a mass balance comparison of fish in (i.e. landing declarations) with fish out (i.e. production or export volumes). In 2019, the Directorate started to publish data on their website on individual vessels' catch composition on trips with and without inspectors on board. This gives an indication of discarding in the fishery and also provides deterrence in itself ('social shaming').

References

Directorate of Fisheries' Annual Report 2020 (https://www.fiskistofa.is/media/arsskyrslur/Arsskyrsla_Fiskistofu_2020.pdf) p. 15.

National Audit Office (2018) Surveillance of the Directorate of Fisheries (Ríkisendurskoðun: Eftirlit Fiskistofu), available at <https://rikisendurskodun.is/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Eftirlit-Fiskistofu-Stjornsysluutpekt.pdf>

Regulation No. 126/2014. <https://www.reglugerd.is/reglugerdir/eftir-raduneytum/sjavarutvegsraduneyti/nr/18967>

Links

MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.1.3
FAO CCRF	7.7.2
GSSI	D1.09

CATEGORY B SPECIES

Category B species are those which make up greater than 5% of landings in the applicant raw material, but which are not subject to a species-specific research and management regime sufficient to pass all Category A clauses. If there are no Category B species in the fishery under assessment, this section can be deleted.

Category B species are assessed using a risk-based approach. The following process should be completed once for each Category B species.

If there are estimates of biomass (B), fishing mortality (F), and reference points

It is possible for a Category B species to have some biomass and fishing mortality data available. When sufficient information is present, the assessment team should use the following risk matrix to determine whether the species should be recommended for approval.

TABLE B(A) - F, B AND REFERENCE POINTS ARE AVAILABLE

Biomass is above MSY / target reference point	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail
Biomass is below MSY / target reference point, but above limit reference point	Pass, but re-assess when fishery removals resume	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail
Biomass is below limit reference point (stock is overfished)	Pass, but re-assess when fishery removals resume	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail
Biomass is significantly below limit reference point (Recruitment impaired)	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail
	Fishery removals are prohibited	Fishing mortality is below MSY or target reference point	Fishing mortality is around MSY or target reference point, or below the long-term average	Fishing mortality is above the MSY or target reference point, or around the long-term average	Fishing mortality is above the limit reference point or above the long-term average (Stock is subject to overfishing)

If the biomass / fishing pressure risk assessment is not possible

Initially, the resilience of each Category B species to fishing pressure should be estimated using the American Fisheries Society procedure described in Musick, J.A. (1999). This approach is used as the resilience values for many species and stocks have been estimated by FishBase and are already available online. For details of the approach, please refer to Appendix A. Determining the resilience provides a basis for estimating the risk that fishing may pose to the long-term sustainability of the stock. Table B(b) should be used to determine whether the species should be recommended for approval.

TABLE B(B) - NO REFERENCE POINTS AVAILABLE. B = CURRENT BIOMASS; B_{AV} = LONG-TERM AVERAGE BIOMASS; F = CURRENT FISHING MORTALITY; F_{AV} = LONG-TERM AVERAGE FISHING MORTALITY.

B > B_{av} and F < F_{av}	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
B > B_{av} and F or F_{av} unknown	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail
B = B_{av} and F < F_{av}	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail
B = B_{av} and F or F_{av} unknown	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail
B > B_{av} and F > F_{av}	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail
B < B_{av}	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail
B unknown	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail
Resilience	High	Medium	Low	Very Low

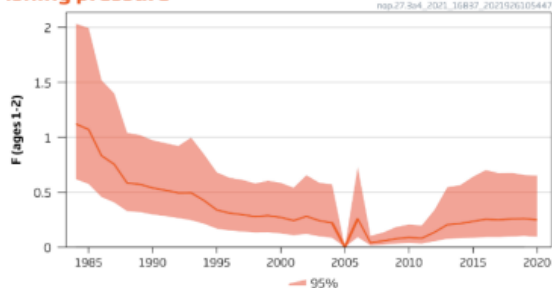
Assessment Results

Species Name		Norway Pout
B1	Species Name	<i>Trisopterus esmarkii</i>
	Table used (Ba, Bb)	Bb
	Outcome	PASS

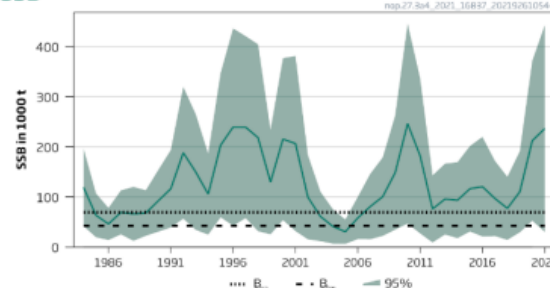
No stock is defined for *Trisopterus esmarkii* in Icelandic waters, and there are no species-specific management measures in place. *T. esmarkii* is found in the Northeast Atlantic ranging from Iceland to the Bay of Biscay.

The best available evidence for *T. esmarkii* comes from the ICES stock assessment for Subarea 4 and Division 3.a (North Sea, Skagerrak, and Kattegat) so this was used to provide estimates for B and F. Given the absence of target reference points, this evidence has been scored in relation to Table B(B). Resilience scores have been taken from FishBase.

Fishing pressure



SSB



According to the latest ICES assessment for *T. esmarkii* (ICES 2021) it is assumed that the biomass is above the long-term average (though note fluctuations), and fishing pressure is below the long-term average, and just above the historic low in 2005. Hence it is scored as $B > B_{av}$ and $F < F_{av}$ in Table B(B), and weighted by medium resilience according to FishBase (minimum population doubling time 1.4 - 4.4 years ($K=0.36$; $t_m=2.3$; $t_{max}=5$; $F_{ec}=27,000$)).

$B > B_{av}$ and $F < F_{av}$	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
$B > B_{av}$ and F or F_{av} unknown	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail
$B = B_{av}$ and $F < F_{av}$	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail
$B = B_{av}$ and F or F_{av} unknown	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail
$B > B_{av}$ and $F > F_{av}$	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail
$B < B_{av}$	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail
B unknown	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail
Resilience	High	Medium	Low	Very Low

References

FishBase – Norway Pout <https://www.fishbase.se/Summary/SpeciesSummary.php?ID=1023&AT=norway+pout>

ICES advice. 2021. Norway pout (*Trisopterus esmarkii*) in Subarea 4 and Division 3.a (North Sea, Skagerrak, and Kattegat). Published 8 October 2021. https://ices-library.figshare.com/articles/report/Norway_pout_Trисopterus_esmarkii_in_Subarea_4_and_Division_3_a_North_Sea_Skagerrak_and_Kattegat_/18639500?backTo=/collections/ICES_Advice_2021/5796932

Links

MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.2.2, 4.1.4
FAO CCRF	7.5.1
GSSI	D.5.01

CATEGORY D SPECIES

Category D species are those which make up less than 5% of landings and 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

D1	Species Name	<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>		
	Productivity Attribute	Value	Score	
	Average age at maturity (years)	< 5 years	1	
	Average maximum age (years)	< 10 years	1	
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	140,000 eggs	1	
	Average maximum size (cm)	70cm	1	
	Average size at maturity (cm)	24.3cm	1	
	Reproductive strategy	Broadcast spawner	1	
	Mean trophic level	3.7	3	
	Average Productivity Score		1.29	
	Susceptibility Attribute	Value	Score	
	Availability (area overlap)	<10% overlap	1	
	Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear)	High overlap with fishing gear	3	
	Selectivity of gear type	Individuals < size maturity are unlikely to be caught	1	
	Post-capture mortality	Retained species	3	
	Average Susceptibility Score		2	
	PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)		PASS	
	Compliance rating		PASS	
	Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant)			
	<i>Assumed area of overlap to be <10% as horse mackerel is found throughout the NE Atlantic. Assumed high encounterability with the fishing gear, though this might be medium / low depending on how targeted the fishery is on the main species (i.e. Norway pout). Assumed that fish < size maturity are unlikely to be caught, though ideally this would need to be further verified from landings data.</i>			
References				
FishBase https://www.fishbase.se/summary/Trachurus-trachurus.html				
<i>Standard clauses 1.3.2.2</i>				

landings. The comparative lack of scientific information on the status of the population of the species means that

D3	Average Susceptibility Score			
		1 - 1.75	1.76 - 2.24	2.25 - 3
	Average Productivity Score	1 - 1.75	PASS	PASS
		1.76 - 2.24	PASS	TABLE D4
	2.25 - 3	PASS	TABLE D4	

a risk-assessment style approach must be taken.

D1	Species Name	<i>Argentina silus</i>	
	Productivity Attribute	Value	Score
	Average age at maturity (years)	<5 years	1
	Average maximum age (years)	<10 years	1
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	>20,000 eggs per year	1
	Average maximum size (cm)	70cm	1
	Average size at maturity (cm)	26cm	1
	Reproductive strategy	Assuming broadcast spawner	1
	Mean trophic level	3.3	3
	Average Productivity Score		1.29
	Susceptibility Attribute	Value	Score
	Availability (area overlap)	<10% overlap	1
	Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear)	High overlap with fishing gear	3
	Selectivity of gear type	Individuals < size maturity are unlikely to be caught	1
	Post-capture mortality	Retained species	3
	Average Susceptibility Score		2
	PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)		PASS
	Compliance rating		PASS
	Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant)		
	<i>Similar assumptions made to those for horse mackerel.</i>		
<i>Also worth noting that FishBase states that Greater Argentine is slower growing and less resilient to fishing pressure than the other benthopelagic species covered in this assessment.</i>			

References

FishBase <https://www.fishbase.de/summary/Argentina-silus.html>

Standard clauses 1.3.2.2

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	

D1	Species Name	<i>Gadiculus argenteus</i>	
	Productivity Attribute	Value	Score
	Average age at maturity (years)	<5 years	1
	Average maximum age (years)	<10 years	1
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	>20,000 eggs per year	1
	Average maximum size (cm)	15.3cm	1
	Average size at maturity (cm)	Not available though <15.3cm	1
	Reproductive strategy	Assuming broadcast spawner	1
	Mean trophic level	3.6	3
	Average Productivity Score		1.29
	Susceptibility Attribute	Value	Score
	Availability (area overlap)	<10% overlap	1
	Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear)	High overlap with fishing gear	3
	Selectivity of gear type	Individuals < size maturity are unlikely to be caught	1
	Post-capture mortality	Retained species	3
	Average Susceptibility Score		2
	PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)		PASS
	Compliance rating		PASS
	Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant) <i>Similar assumptions made to those for horse mackerel, and Greater argentine.</i>		
	References		
FishBase https://www.fishbase.de/summary/Gadiculus-argenteus.html			
<i>Standard clauses 1.3.2.2</i>			

D3	Average Susceptibility Score			
		1 - 1.75	1.76 - 2.24	2.25 - 3
	Average Productivity Score	1 - 1.75	1.76 - 2.24	2.25 - 3
		PASS	PASS	PASS
		PASS	PASS	TABLE D4
		PASS	TABLE D4	TABLE D4

FURTHER IMPACTS

The three clauses in this section relate to impacts the fishery may have in other areas. A fishery must meet the minimum requirements of all three clauses before it can be recommended for approval.

F1	Impacts on ETP Species - Minimum Requirements		
	F1.1	Interactions with ETP species are recorded.	Yes
	F1.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative effect on ETP species.	Yes
	F1.3	If the fishery is known to interact with ETP species, measures are in place to minimise mortality.	Yes
		Clause outcome:	PASS

F1.1 Interactions with ETP species are recorded.

Measures have been taken in recent years to extend the inspector programme to cover by-catch such as elasmobranchs (SAI Global 2018) and records for by-catch species including skate (*Dipturus batis*), Atlantic halibut, dogfish, Greenland shark (*Somniosus microcephalus*) and porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) can be seen in the catch data available via the Directorate website (<http://www.fiskistofa.is/english/quotas-and-catches/>). These are seen to be either vulnerable or endangered, threatened or protected (ETP) species. However, these species are unlikely to interact significantly with pelagic gears.

The vessels catching *Trisopterus esmarkii* (see Table 1 in the assessment determination) were cross referenced with vessels that have caught ETP species using the tool at <https://www.fiskistofa.is/english/quotas-and-catches/catches-in-individual-species/>. In summary, the following ETP catches were recorded for the vessels in scope of this assessment:

- Reg no 2618 – 1kg skate
- Reg no 2883 – 90kg porbeagle
- Reg no 2885 – 26 kg porbeagle, 6kg dogfish (spurdog)

By-catch of marine mammals and seabirds in Icelandic waters has not been systematically investigated until very recently. Based on a study by Pálsson et al. (2015), most of the marine mammal by-catch is expected to come from the gill net fisheries for cod and lumpfish close to the coast but there is the potential for smaller numbers of marine mammals to be caught in the pelagic trawls and purse seines targeting herring, capelin, mackerel and blue whiting (NAMMCO 2017).

A smartphone app is in development by the Directorate of Fisheries, which is intended to make both the reporting and identification of bycatch easier for operators in the fishery. During the 2018 site visits the Directorate reported that this app prioritises the need for recording marine mammals and seabirds interactions/bycatch first before fish catches are submitted, to enable more consistent and reliable reporting. The app appears to be ready for implementation but there is a need to change current legislation to ensure it can be nested within the legal framework.

F1.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative effect on ETP species.

Taking into account that catches are so extremely low as to be negligible, the measures in place to return live-caught fish to the sea and evidence of high post-capture survival, and also the indications of an increasing trend in the stock for some species (e.g. spurdog [ICES 2020], and potentially skates [ICES 2019]), it is concluded that there is a high degree of confidence that there are no significant detrimental direct effects of the pelagic fishery on ETP species.

F1.3 If the fishery is known to interact with ETP species, measures are in place to minimise mortality.

Numerous management measures, enacted through specific Regulations, are in place to protect particular species including *inter alia*:

– Reg. 456/2017 which protects a number of shark species (porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*; ISL: Hámer), basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*; ISL: Beinhákarl) and spurdog (*Squalus acanthias*; ISL: Háfur)) and prohibits directed fishing for these species with the Icelandic EEZ. It further specifies that incidentally caught individuals be released alive if viable and that unviable individuals be landed and sold with the majority of proceeds going to research.

– Reg. 298/2020 (replaced Reg. 746/2016 which in turn replaced Reg. 557/2007) which requires catch information to be reported electronically via e-logbooks or a specific smartphone app. o Article 3 requires masters to record *inter alia* catch by quantity and species (§4), seabirds (§7) and marine mammals by number and species (§8) and information on catches caught but released (§9).

– Regulation 959/2019 on protected areas around Iceland (amended by Reg. 1102/2020) designates marine protected areas in the Icelandic EEZ to promote the efficient utilization of exploitable stocks and the protection of sensitive sea areas.

References

ICES (2019). Common skate complex (Blue skate [*Dipturus batis*] and flapper skate [*Dipturus intermedius*]) in Subarea 4 and Division 3.a (North Sea, Skagerrak, and Kattegat). October 2019

ICES (2020). Spurdog (*Squalus acanthias*) in subareas 1–10, 12, and 14 (the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters). October 2020

NAMMCO (2017). North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission. Report of the 24th Scientific Committee meeting, 14-17 November 2017. <https://nammco.no/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/08-nammco-26-scientific-committee-report.pdf>

Pálsson, O. K., Gunnlaugsson, P. and Ólafsdóttir, D. (2015). By-catch of sea birds and marine mammals in Icelandic fisheries. MRI, 2015. <https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/research/files/fjolrit-178pdf>

SAI Global 2018. Icelandic Summer Spawning Herring Commercial Fisheries. Assessment Report and Determination for Iceland Responsible Fisheries program. <https://www.responsiblefisheries.is/media/1/form-11.2-iceher-initial-assessment-final-report-and-determination.pdf>

Links

MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.3.1
FAO CCRF	7.2.2 (d)
GSSI	D4.04, D.3.08

F2	Impacts on Habitats - Minimum Requirements	
F2.1	Potential habitat interactions are considered in the management decision-making process.	Yes
F2.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on physical habitats.	Yes
F2.3	If the fishery is known to interact with physical habitats, there are measures in place to minimise and mitigate negative impacts.	Yes
Clause outcome:		PASS

F2.1 Potential habitat interactions are considered in the management decision-making process.

Seabed mapping is an ongoing priority of the MFRI with a campaign commencing in 2017, when approx. 12.3% of the seabed within the Icelandic EEZ had been mapped, with the aim of mapping the entirety of the EEZ below a depth of 100 m by 2030. The main emphasis of the programme is to gather information as a prerequisite for a scientific approach to sustainable utilisation, protection and research of marine, benthic and sub-benthic resources with mapping fishing grounds and vulnerable benthic communities and habitats playing a significant role. At present circa. 29% of the Icelandic EEZ economic area has been mapped, or in excess of 216,000 km² out of a total of 754,000 km².

Information continues to be collected to ensure vulnerable areas that overlap with fishing effort are identified including during MFRI research programmes, ground fish surveys, fishing industry and observers.

F2.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on physical habitats.

The Icelandic pelagic fleet use mainly pelagic trawls and occasionally purse seine nets. Norway pout are a benthopelagic fish (depth range 50 – 300m) which live over muddy bottoms (FishBase). The nets used in the fishery are designed only for use in the water column, and rarely come into contact with the seabed.

F2.3 If the fishery is known to interact with physical habitats, there are measures in place to minimise and mitigate negative impacts.

Statutory protection of species and habitats is provided by the Nature Conservation Act (Government of Iceland 1999). The location of benthic habitats is known within the Icelandic EEZ and Marine Protected Areas have been designated to protect rare or vulnerable habitats in Icelandic, Faroese and International waters.

The impacts of fishing on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem (VME) habitats in the NE Atlantic has recently been reviewed by ICES. This review considered that only benthic fishing gear was likely to cause significant harm to VMEs (ICES 2018). This view is consistent with other reviews of the impacts of fishing gear on marine habitats (Jennings and Kaiser 1998, ICES 2017, Hiddink et al. 2017).

References

Government of Iceland, 1999. The Nature Conservation Act. Page 20.
https://www.ust.is/library/Skrar/Atvinnulif/Log/Enska/The_Nature_Conservation_Act.pdf

Hiddink, J. G., S. Jennings, M. Sciberras, C. L. Szostek, K. M. Hughes, N. Ellis, A. D. Rijnsdorp, R. A. McConnaughey, T. Mazon, R. Hilborn, J. S. Collie, C. R. Pitcher, R. O. Amoroso, A. M. Parma, P. Suuronen, and M. J. Kaiser. 2017. Global analysis of depletion and recovery of seabed biota after bottom trawling disturbance. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences:201618858. <http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2017/07/11/1618858114>

Jennings, S., and M. J. Kaiser, 1998a. The Effects of Fishing on Marine Ecosystems. Advances in Marine Biology 34:201–352. <http://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S0065288108602126>

ICES, 2017. New information regarding the impact of fisheries on other components of the ecosystem. Pages 1–12 North Atlantic Ecoregion. ICES, Copenhagen. <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2017/2017/vme.eu.pdf>

ICES, 2018. New information regarding the impact of fisheries on other components of the ecosystem:13. <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Forms/DispForm.aspx?ID=34432>

Links

MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.3.2
FAO CCRF	6.8
GSSI	D.2.07, D.6.07, D3.09

F3 Ecosystem Impacts - Minimum Requirements		
F3.1	The broader ecosystem within which the fishery occurs is considered during the management decision-making process.	Yes
F3.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the marine ecosystem.	Yes
F3.3	If one or more of the species identified during species categorisation plays a key role in the marine ecosystem, additional precaution is included in recommendations relating to the total permissible fishery removals.	Yes
Clause outcome:		PASS

F3.1 The broader ecosystem within which the fishery occurs is considered during the management decision-making process.

Iceland is involved in work to progress implementation of an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management (EBFM) through its involvement in the EC-funded MAREFRAME project. MAREFRAME seeks to remove the barriers preventing more widespread use of EBFM by improving the evidence base and developing new tools and technologies - in collaboration with stakeholders so as to ensure ownership, acceptance and uptake of project outcomes. Part of the project has involved developing an 'end-to-end' dynamic ecosystem model of Icelandic waters using the Atlantis framework. Fisheries advice is currently largely based on single-species stock assessment models, whereas ecosystem models provide an opportunity to consider species interactions and environmental factors - important considerations in EBFM. Testing showed the sensitivity of the model to key parameters including recruitment relationships used and the effect of environmental conditions and the reliability of the model for non-commercial groups could not be tested due to a lack of data. However, the model was able to replicate the time-series of biomass and landings for the most important commercial groups and it is considered to provide a solid basis for evaluating alternative ecosystem and fisheries management scenarios and should produce reliable results for the most important commercial groups to support EBFM in Iceland (Sturludottir et al 2018).

As shown in Figure 1 below, *Trisopterus esmarkii* is one of many small pelagic species found in Icelandic waters.

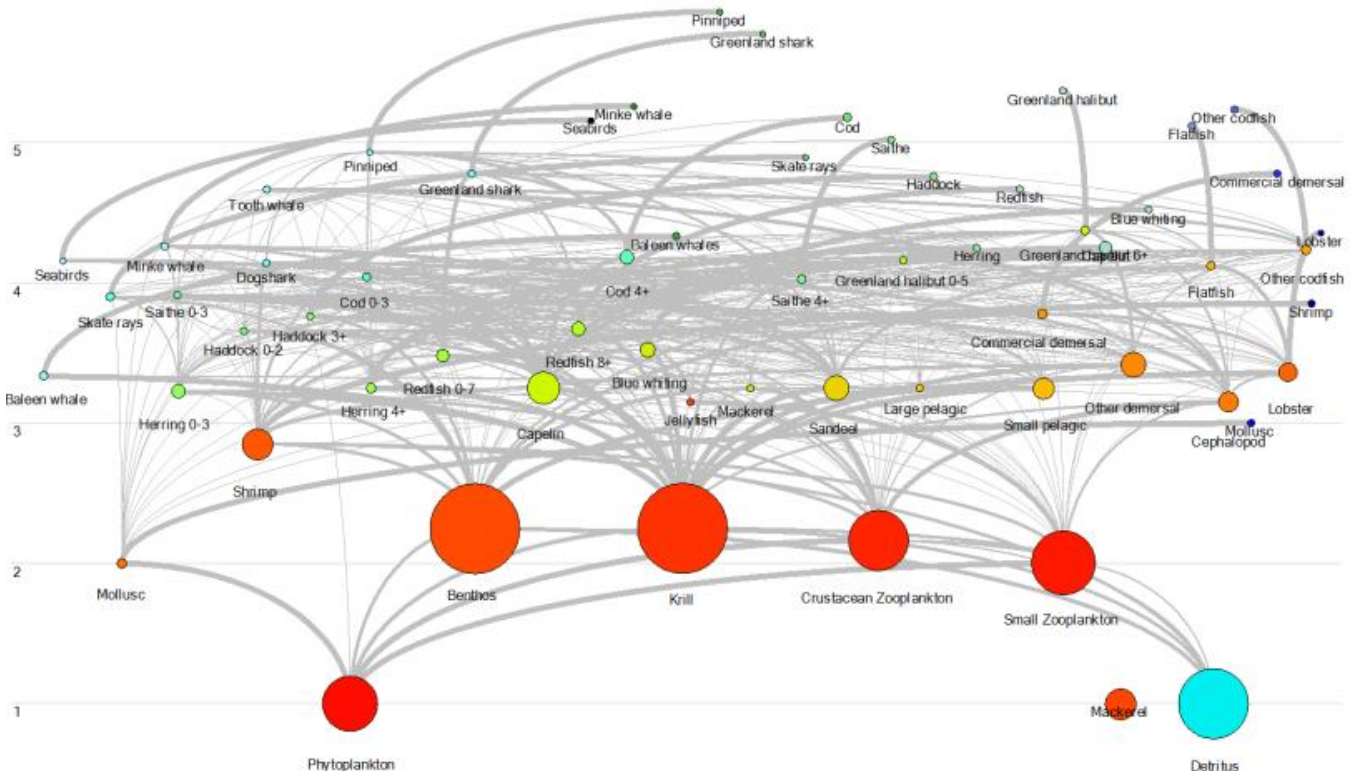


Figure 1 Ecopath model of Icelandic waters showing the distribution of functional groups by trophic level (scale at left of diagram). Larger nodes indicate bigger stock size. [Note that this diagram shows the state of the ecosystem in 1984 based on historical information and that the relative size of nodes may have changed subsequently.] (Source: Ribeiro et al. 2018).

F3.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the marine ecosystem.

Given the relatively small catch of Norway pout (and associated small pelagics) in Iceland, this fishery is very unlikely to be having a significant impact on the marine ecosystem.

F3.3 If one or more of the species identified during species categorisation plays a key role in the marine ecosystem, additional precaution is included in recommendations relating to the total permissible fishery removals.

None of the species in this assessment are managed through catch or effort controls, though given the relatively small catches, this removal is unlikely to have a significant impact on the marine ecosystem.

References

Ribeiro, J. P. C., B. P. Elvarsson, E. Sturludóttir, and G. Stefánsson, 2018. An overview of the marine food web in Icelandic waters using Ecopath with Ecosim. arXiv:1810.00613 [q-bio]. <http://arxiv.org/abs/1810.00613>

Sturludottir, E., Desjardins, C., Elvarsson, B., Fulton, E. A., Gorton, R., Logemann, K. and Stefannson, G (2018). End-to-end model of Icelandic waters using the Atlantis framework: exploring system dynamics and model reliability. Fisheries Research, 207, pp9-24. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fishres.2018.05.026>

Links

MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.3.3
FAO CCRF	7.2.2 (d)
GSSI	D.2.09, D3.10, D.6.09

SOCIAL CRITERION

In addition to the scored criteria listed above, applicants must commit to ensuring that vessels operating in the fishery adhere to internationally recognised guidance on human rights. They must also commit to ensuring there is no use of enforced or unpaid labour in the fleet(s) operating upon the resource.

Appendix A - Determining Resilience Ratings

The assessment of Category B species described in this assessment report template utilises a resilience rating system suggested by the American Fisheries Society. This approach was chosen because it is also used by FishBase, and so the resilience ratings for many thousands of species are freely available online. As described by FishBase, the following is the process used to arrive at the resilience ratings:

“The American Fisheries Society (AFS) has suggested values for several biological parameters that allow classification of a fish population or species into categories of high, medium, low and very low resilience or productivity (Musick 1999). If no reliable estimate of r_m (see below) is available, the assignment is to the lowest category for which any of the available parameters fits. For each of these categories, AFS has suggested thresholds for decline over the longer of 10 years or three generations. If an observed decline measured in biomass or numbers of mature individuals exceeds the indicated threshold value, the population or species is considered vulnerable to extinction unless explicitly shown otherwise. If one sex strongly limits the reproductive capacity of the species or population, then only the decline in the limiting sex should be considered. We decided to restrict the automatic assignment of resilience categories in the Key Facts page to values of K , t_m and t_{max} and those records of fecundity estimates that referred to minimum number of eggs or pups per female per year, assuming that these were equivalent to average fecundity at first maturity (Musick 1999). Note that many small fishes may spawn several times per year (we exclude these for the time being) and large live bearers such as the coelacanth may have gestation periods of more than one year (we corrected fecundity estimates for those cases reported in the literature). Also, we excluded resilience estimates based on r_m (see below) as we are not yet confident with the reliability of the current method for estimating r_m . If users have independent r_m or fecundity estimates, they can refer to Table 1 for using this information.”

Parameter	High	Medium	Low	Very low
Threshold	0.99	0.95	0.85	0.70
r_{max} (1/year)	> 0.5	0.16 - 0.50	0.05 - 0.15	< 0.05
K (1/year)	> 0.3	0.16 - 0.30	0.05 - 0.15	< 0.05
Fecundity (1/year)	> 10,000	100 - 1000	10 - 100	< 10
t_m (years)	< 1	2 - 4	5 - 10	> 10
t_{max} (years)	1 - 3	4 - 10	11 - 30	> 30

[Taken from the FishBase manual, “Estimation of Life-History Key Facts”, <http://www.fishbase.us/manual/English/key%20facts.htm#resilience>]

Glossary

Non-target: Species for which the gear is not specifically set, although they may have immediate commercial value and be a desirable component of the catch. OECD (1996), Synthesis report for the study on the economic aspects of the management of marine living resources. AGR/FI(96)12

Target: In the context of fishery certification, the target catch is the catch of stock under consideration by the unit of certification – i.e. the fish that are being assessed for certification and ecolabelling. (GSSI)

Appendix B Peer review report

MarinTrust Fishery Assessment Peer Review Template

This section comprises a summary of the fishery being assessed against version 2 of the MarinTrust Standard.

Fishery under assessment	Whole fishery assessment – Iceland Norway Pout	
Management authority (Country/State)	Iceland Directorate of Fisheries	
Main species	Norwegian Icelandic Pout (<i>Trisopterus esmarkii</i>)	
Fishery location	FAO 27 Northeast Atlantic, Icelandic Economic Exclusion Zone	
Gear type(s)	Pelagic Trawl	
Overall recommendation. (Approve/ Fail)	CAB	Approve
	Peer Review	Approve

Summary: in this section, provide any additional information about the fishery that the reviewers feel is significant to their decision.

The peer reviewer agrees with all scoring however for a few (B1, F2.2), where additional evidence or clarification could be provided, however, it shouldn't affect the scoring outcome. Please refer to the comment boxes below for more details.

General Comments on the Draft Report provided to the peer reviewer

Summary of Peer Review Outcomes

Peer reviewers should review the fishery assessment report with the primary objective of answering the key questions listed in the table below. Where the situation is more complicated, reviewers may instead answer “See Notes”.

	YES	NO	See Notes
A – Fishery Assessment			
1. Has the fishery assessment been fully completed, using the recognised MarinTrust fishery assessment methodology and associated guidance?	X		
2. Does the Species Categorisation section of the report reflect the best current understanding of the catch composition of the fishery?	X		
3. Are the scores in the following sections accurate (i.e. do the scores reflect the evidence provided)?	X		
Section M - Management	X		
Category A Species	n.a	n.a	n.a
Category B Species	X		X
Category C Species	n.a	n.a	n.a
Category D Species	X		
Section F – Further Impacts	X		X

Detailed Peer Review Justification

Peer reviewers should provide support for their answers in the boxes provided, by referring to specific scoring issues and any relevant documentation as appropriate.

Detailed justifications are only required where answers given are one of the ‘No’ options. In other (Yes) cases, either confirm ‘scoring agreed’ or identify any places where weak rationales could be strengthened (without any implications for the scores).

Boxes may be extended if more space is required.

1. Is the scoring of the fishery consistent with the MarinTrust standard, and clearly based on the evidence presented in the assessment report?
Yes, scoring is well justified by supporting evidence. Some minor recommendations are made below to strengthen rationale but shouldn’t affect the scoring outcome.
Certification body response

2. Has the fishery assessment been fully completed, using the recognised MARINTRUST fishery assessment methodology and associated guidance?
Yes, the report has been completed to MT requirements and follows the guidance. Some minor recommendations are made below to strengthen rationale but shouldn’t affect the scoring outcome.

Certification body response

3. Does the Species Categorisation section of the report reflect the best current understanding of the catch composition of the fishery?

There is a species-specific management plan in place for the target species, Norwegian Icelandic Pout (*Trisopterus esmarkii*), the auditor has correctly designated it as a Category B species under the scoring evaluation.

The other species identified in the catch and scored are Horse mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*), Greater Argentine (*Argentina silus*), and Silvery pout (*Gadiculus argenteus*). These species typically comprise <5% of the overall landings. As non-target species with no species-specific management regimes in place, the auditor has correctly identified them as category D species.

Recommendation: pg. 6 species categorisation rationale the auditor states - “No landings data has been provided by the applicant, though it is assumed...” Marin Trust should provide guidance on this as the assessment is inherently inaccurate without any catch data. Unless (as with ETP scoring) the auditor has cross-referenced public data with the vessel codes if so, this should be made clear in the report. Additionally, a note should also be made to highlight this to the onsite auditor. The catch composition should be verified to ensure scoring accuracy of both target and non-target species.

Certification body response

We agree with the peer-reviewers concerns here. We sent an email to the client contact on 27.04.2022 requesting information on the following (*no response to-date*):

- Could you confirm whether the Norway pout is being targeted by the vessels you source from (i.e. it is the main species in their catch) or bycatch from another pelagic fishery (e.g. Herring fishery)?
- What percentage of the landings going to your factory would be Norway pout? And approx. percentage for the other species listed in your application (i.e. horse mackerel, argentine, and silvery cod/pout)?
- Could you also confirm the fishing season please (i.e. the months your factory is sourcing Norway pout), and any other contextual information on the fishery you'd be happy to share

Unfortunately, there doesn't appear to be any publicly available information that can be cross-referenced that would be relevant to the context of this fishery. Catch composition data from MSC / RFM reports referring to pelagic fisheries targeting herring would unlikely be suitable to use.

We've put the following notes in the assessment for the onsite auditor “Check that the raw material is predominantly Norway pout (>95% of intake). Confirm the scale and season of the Icelandic fishery for Norway pout. Is Norway pout targeted or a bycatch from another fishery? Ideally a record of landings data of the vessels sourced from should be verified before the raw material is approved.”

3M. Are the scores in “Section M – Management” clearly justified? YES	
M1.1 There is an organisation responsible for managing the fishery.	YES
M1.2 There is an organisation responsible for collecting data and assessing the fishery.	YES
M1.3 Fishery management organisations are publicly committed to sustainability.	YES
M1.4 Fishery management organisations are legally empowered to take management actions.	YES
M1.5 There is a consultation process through which fishery stakeholders are engaged in decision-making.	YES
M1.6 The decision-making process is transparent, with processes and results publicly available.	YES
M2.1 There is an organisation responsible for monitoring compliance with fishery laws and regulations.	YES
M2.2 There is a framework of sanctions which are applied when laws and regulations are discovered to have been broken.	YES
M2.3 There is no substantial evidence of widespread non-compliance in the fishery, and no substantial evidence of IUU fishing.	YES
M2.4 Compliance with laws and regulations is actively monitored, through a regime which may include at-sea and portside inspections, observer programmes, and VMS.	YES
Peer reviewer agrees with scoring and rationale provided.	
Certification body response	

3A. Are the “Category A Species” scores clearly justified? YES
I agree with not scoring species at Category A.
Certification body response

3B. Are the “Category B Species” scores clearly justified?
There is very little data available for Norway pout, and no biomass indicators for a defined Icelandic stock. The auditor correctly scores this species using Fishbase parameters, however, it should be made clear in the report which parameters are used to justify the medium resilience rating assigned. Additionally, it would be helpful to state in the rationale the species range to support using information from a North Sea stock assessment.
Certification body response
We’ve stated that that the range of <i>T.esmarkki</i> is the NE Atlantic region, and found in Icelandic waters to the Bay of Biscay.

Resilience parameters are now stated (minimum population doubling time 1.4 - 4.4 years ($K=0.36$; $t_m=2.3$; $t_{max}=5$; $Fec=27,000$).

3C. Are the “Category C Species” scores clearly justified? YES

I agree with not scoring species at Category C.

Certification body response

3D. Are the “Category D Species” scores clearly justified? YES

Agree with scoring outcome and rationale clearly justified (all species).

Certification body response

3F. Are the scores in “Section F – Further Impacts” clearly justified? YES

- F1.1 _ I agree with the scoring outcome and the rationale is clearly justified.
- F1.2 _ Are there any limits in place for recorded ETPs? References should be provided for post-capture mortality of each species and increasing stock trends *if available OR made clear which species the scoring rationale applies to.
- F1.3 _ I agree with the scoring outcome and the rationale is clearly justified.
- F2.1 _ I agree with the scoring outcome and the rationale is clearly justified.
- F2.2 _ The catch data for the fishery would be able to confirm if the fishery is regularly coming into the contact with the seabed. In the report, it states – “*The nets used in the fishery are designed only for use in the water column, and rarely come into contact with the seabed.*” – is this recorded by the fishery?
- F2.3 _ I agree with the scoring outcome and the rationale is clearly justified.
- F3.1 _ I agree with the scoring outcome and the rationale is clearly justified.
- F3.2 _ I agree with the scoring outcome and the rationale is clearly justified.
- F3.3 _ I agree with the scoring outcome and the rationale is clearly justified.

Recommendation: Minor clarification, and evidence needed. Doesn't affect the scoring outcome.

Certification body response

- F1.2 – Added the following supporting references:
- ICES (2019). Common skate complex (Blue skate [*Dipturus batis*] and flapper skate [*Dipturus intermedius*]) in Subarea 4 and Division 3.a (North Sea, Skagerrak, and Kattegat). October 2019
 - ICES (2020). Spurdog (*Squalus acanthias*) in subareas 1–10, 12, and 14 (the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters). October 2020

F2.2 – Assuming that given this is a pelagic trawl fishery, seafloor habitat impact will be minimal, though agree that this is something that needs to be explored further when more accurate landings data is provided

Optional: General comments on the Peer Review Draft Report

Latin and common names should be provided in the opening summary tables, and species category tables.

Certification body response

Sorted