



# FISHERY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



<b>FISHERY:</b>	Norway Pout ( <i>Trisopterus esmarkii</i> )
<b>LOCATION:</b>	North Sea & Skagerrak-Kattegat (ICES Sub Area IV & IIIa)
<b>DATE OF REPORT:</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> March 2013
<b>ASSESSOR:</b>	Sam Peacock

Global Trust Certification Ltd, Quayside Business Park, Mill Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland Tel: 042 932 0912 Fax 042 938 6864

Issue No; 2; Issue Date; Nov 09

Report Ref:

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1. Application Details and Summary of the Assessment Outcome			
Name:			
Address:			
Country:		Zip:	
Tel. No.		Fax. No.	
Email address:		Applicant Code	
Key Contact:		Title:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:			
Assessor Name:	Peer Reviewer:	Assessment Days:	Initial/Surveillance/Re-certification:
Sam Peacock	Dave Garforth	5	Re-certification
Assessment Period	Feb/March 2013		
Scope Details			
1. Scope of Assessment:		IFFO RS approval	
2. Fishery		Norway & Denmark - Norway Pout ( <i>Trisopterus esmarkii</i> )	
3. Fishery Location		North Sea & Skagerrak-Kattegat (ICES Sub Area IV & IIIa)	
4. Fishery Method		Pelagic trawl	
Outcome of Assessment			
5. Overall Fishery Compliance Rating		High/medium	
6. Sub Components of Low Compliance		None	
7. Information deficiency		None	
8. Peer Review Evaluation		The reviewer agrees with the findings of the assessment and recommends the re-approval of this fishery for a further three years subject to annual review	
9. Recommendation		Approve fishery	

<b>2. Quality of Information</b>
Good; primarily governmental and ICES websites.

<b>3. Compliance Level Achieved</b>
High/medium
<b>Recommendation</b>

<b>4. Guidance for On-site Assessment</b>
<b>Based on High Compliance Findings</b>
<b>Based on Medium Compliance Findings</b>
<b>Key Stakeholders of the Fishery</b>

<b>5. Assessment Determination</b>
<p>The Norway pout stock in ICES Subarea IV and Division IIIa is fished almost exclusively by Danish and Norwegian vessels. The fishery is managed by robust administrative and legal frameworks in Norway, Denmark and the EU. The management process is supported by the collection of substantial amounts of fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data, and by two ICES stock assessments per year. ICES considers the current management approach to be precautionary. The legal and administrative side of fishery management is suitably enforced, and sanctions are applied to transgressors.</p> <p>There are some minor discrepancies between the best scientific understanding of the biological stock and the management unit, but the assessment team does not consider them to be significant enough to warrant anything less than high compliance. However, there are two sections which have been awarded medium compliance: firstly, although several have been proposed, the fishery is not currently subject to a long-term management strategy. Secondly, there is limited information available to managers on the effects of the fishery on PET species and predators of Norway pout.</p>
<b>HIGH COMPLIANCE</b>
A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, D1, D2, E1, E2
<b>MEDIUM COMPLIANCE</b>
A3, D3

**Background**

Norway pout is a small gadoid species which rarely lives longer than 5 years. Norway Pout can reach a length of 25cm and are sexually mature at ages 1 to 2. They feed upon planktonic crustaceans and small fishes, and are an important fish in the diets of Whiting, Haddock and Saithe. Norway pout are distributed from the west of Ireland to Kattegat, and from the North Sea to the Barents Sea. The distribution for the stock under assessment is in the northern North Sea (>57°N) and in Skagerrak at depths between 50 and 250 m – ICES Subarea IV and Division IIIa.

The fishery is nearly exclusively performed by Danish and Norwegian vessels using small mesh trawls in the north-western North Sea. The stock was first exploited during the 1960s, when a significant small meshed Norway Pout fishery developed in the northern North Sea, with peak landings of 740,000 tonnes in 1974. Landings have been low since 2001, and the 2003-2004 landings were the lowest on record at 13,500t. Efforts in 2003 and 2004 were historically low and well below the average of the 5 previous years. The targeted Norway pout fishery was closed in 2005, in the first half year of 2006, all of 2007, and during the first half year 2011 and 2012. The most recent ICES in-year advice, published in October 2012, recommended maximum landings of around 400,000t in 2013.

Ref: A, B

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SUMMARY OF LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE					
	The Management Framework and Procedures	Stock assessment procedures and management advice	Precautionary approach	Management measures	Implementation
legal and administrative basis	High Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance
Fisheries management should be concerned with the whole stock unit	High Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance
Management actions should be scientifically based	Medium Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance
Research in support of fisheries conservation and management should exist	Low Compliance	High Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance
Best scientific evidence available should be taken into account when designing conservation and management measures	Low Compliance	High Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance
The precautionary approach is applied in the formulation of management plans	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	High Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance
The level of fishing permitted should be set according to management advice given by research organisations	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	High Compliance	Low Compliance
Where excess fishing capacity exist, mechanisms should be in established to reduced capacity	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	High Compliance	Low Compliance
Management measures should ensure that fishing gear and fishing practices do not have a significant impact on non-target species and the physical environment	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Medium Compliance	Low Compliance
A management system for fisheries control and enforcement should be established	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	High Compliance
A framework for sanctions of violation of laws and regulations should be efficiently exists	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	High Compliance

**KEY:**                      Low Compliance                                Medium Compliance                                High Compliance:                          

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**6. Rationale of the Assessment Outcome**

**a. The Management Framework and Procedure**

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	a.i. The management of the fishery must include a legal and administrative basis for the implementation of measures and controls to support the conservation of the fishery.	References	Rating	
LOW	<p><b>Determination: There are robust legal and administrative frameworks in place at the EU, Danish and Norwegian levels. The upcoming CFP reform may result in a substantially altered management process in future assessments.</b></p> <p><b>Europe:</b></p> <p>Denmark is a Member State of the European Union, and therefore in Community waters implements the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). In force since 1983, the CFP aims to reconcile resource conservation with the preservation of income and jobs in coastal zones that offer few alternatives in terms of production or employment. It therefore covers not just resources but also markets and structures.</p> <p>With regard to resource management, the CFP regulations comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A traditional management tool based on TACs and quotas;</li> <li>• Technical measures relating to gear or catch;</li> <li>• Effort-related management, based on vessel engine power and the number of days at sea.</li> </ul> <p>The CFP also provides for the introduction of measures to rebuild, over a period of several years, stocks that are threatened in terms of sustainable harvesting, and for recourse to effort-related management rules to supplement TACs and quotas.</p> <p>Substantial changes have been proposed for the CFP, potentially including a ban on discards; an increased</p>	C – K	HIGH	
MEDIUM			HIGH	

	<p>focus on a Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) based approach; more widespread regionalisation as a method of improving management of internationally-fished and widespread stocks; more explicit recognition of the social dimension of fishery management; and Transferable Fishing Concessions (TFCs). These key proposals along with other aspects of CFP reform are being discussed and voted upon in the European parliament, and changes are likely to begin to come into force in 2013/14.</p> <p><b>Denmark:</b></p> <p>The responsible authority for monitoring and enforcing EU and national conservation policies is the Danish Directorate of Fisheries, which is a part of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, under the 1999 Fisheries Act. The Directorate carries out inspection at sea and landings, as well as verification of EU marketing standards. The Ministry also works for Danish fisheries and aquaculture through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulation and inspections of the fishing industry</li> <li>• Support for research in fisheries and aquaculture production</li> <li>• Support for the development of fisheries, the fish industry, fishery harbours and aquaculture</li> <li>• Fish management and fishing license arrangements for recreational fisheries</li> </ul> <p>The primary provider of scientific information and advice at the national level within Denmark is the National Institute of Aquatic Resources at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU Aqua). DTU Aqua’s stated mission is to conduct research, provide advice, educate at university level and contribute to innovation in sustainable exploitation and management of aquatic resources. DTU Aqua directly advises the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and other public authorities.</p> <p><b>Norway:</b></p> <p>The Norwegian Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs is responsible for, amongst other activities, ensuring long-term, optimal exploitation of living marine resources; ensuring sound management of the marine environment; and progressing towards a profitable, self-sustained fisheries industry.</p>	
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	<p>The regulatory system for fisheries management in Norway is an interactive and iterative process based on incremental changes, and is sometimes referred to as the regulatory chain. The chain has no set start or finish, but can rather be seen as a continuous process. The timeframe of the regulatory chain is approximately one calendar year.</p> <p>First, scientific research of the fish stocks is crucial in order to ensure that the quota allocation complies with the overarching principles of the Norwegian resource management regime. The International Council of the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the Institute of Marine Research (IMR) and others research institutions provide such scientific advice.</p> <p>About 90 per cent of Norway’s fish stocks are shared with other states (Capelin is shared with Russia (for the Barents &amp; Norwegian Sea stock), and Greenland and Iceland (for the Iceland and East Greenland Stock)), and bilateral or multilateral negotiations therefore takes place in order to set quotas. After the quotas have been negotiated with the relevant states, the Directorate of Fisheries makes a proposal regarding the regulations for the upcoming year. This proposal includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• when to start and stop the fishing</li> <li>• technical regulations</li> <li>• size of by-catch</li> <li>• criteria for participating in various fisheries</li> </ul> <p>This is then presented to stakeholders in an open meeting held in late November or early December. A broad range of participants attend this open meeting – including representatives from the Norwegian Fishermen’s Association, Federation of Norwegian Fishing Industries, the Norwegian Seamen’s Union, The Norwegian Food and Allied Workers’ Union, The Sami Parliament, environmental NGOs, the regional counties, as well as recreational fishermen.</p> <p>After this meeting, the Directorate of Fisheries recommends next year’s fisheries regulations to the Ministry</p>		
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	<p>of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs. The Ministry bases its final decision on outcomes from the quota negotiations with other states, discussions from the open meeting, the recommendation from the Directorate of Fisheries, as well as input from various fisheries industry organisations.</p> <p>The regulations are normally valid for one calendar year at a time. It is common, however, that some adjustments to the regulations take place during the year. One such adjustment could be changes in by-catch regulations. It is important to note that the experiences from previous year’s fishing are of great importance in the decision process for the following year. One reason for this is to ensure predictability and stability for the fishing fleet. In order to exchange views on and evaluate the current fishing year, another open meeting is held in early summer.</p> <p><b>International science</b></p> <p>Science-based fishery management advice at the international level is provided by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). ICES is a network of more than 1,600 scientists from 200 institutes linked by an intergovernmental agreement (the ICES Convention) to add value to national research efforts. Scientists working through ICES gather information about the marine ecosystem. Besides filling gaps in existing knowledge, this information is developed into unbiased, non-political fishery management advice. The 20 member countries that fund and support ICES use this advice to help them manage the North Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas.</p>	
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	a.ii. Fisheries management should be concerned with the whole stock unit over its entire area of distribution and take into account fishery removals and the biology of the species	References	Rating
LOW	<p><b><i>Determination: There is some discrepancy between the fishery management unit and the probably biological stock; however there are very limited removals from the areas not covered by main ICES advice, and no removals from the area covered by the secondary advice. On balance, the assessment team considers a rating of high compliance to be appropriate at this time.</i></b></p> <p>ICES provides advice for two Norway pout stocks: Norway pout in Subarea IV (North Sea) and Division IIIa (Skagerrak–Kattegat); and Norway pout in Division VIa. This assessment is only concerned with the Norway pout stock in the North Sea and Skagerrak-Kattegat. Fishery management decisions are applied to an area larger than that for which the advice is provided, with the annual TAC covering Subarea IV, and Divisions IIa and IIIa; however, there are very few fishery removals from Division IIa and the fishery in Division VIa has been closed (with no landings) since 2007.</p> <p>ICES states that at present there is no evidence for separating the North Sea component into smaller stock units. Norway pout in the eastern Skagerrak is only to a very small degree a self-contained stock; the main bulk drifts as larvae from more western areas to which they return mainly during the latter part of their second year of life before becoming mature. ICES also attempted to verify the justification of treating ICES Division VIa as a management area for Norway pout (and sandeel) separately from ICES areas IV and IIIa. Preliminary results from an analysis of regionalized survey data on Norway pout maturity gave no evidence for a stock separation in the whole northern area. This conclusion is supported by previous results.</p> <p>The ICES assessment considers all targeted fishery removals, but does not consider discards, although these are considered by ICES to be insignificant.</p>	A, L, M	HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

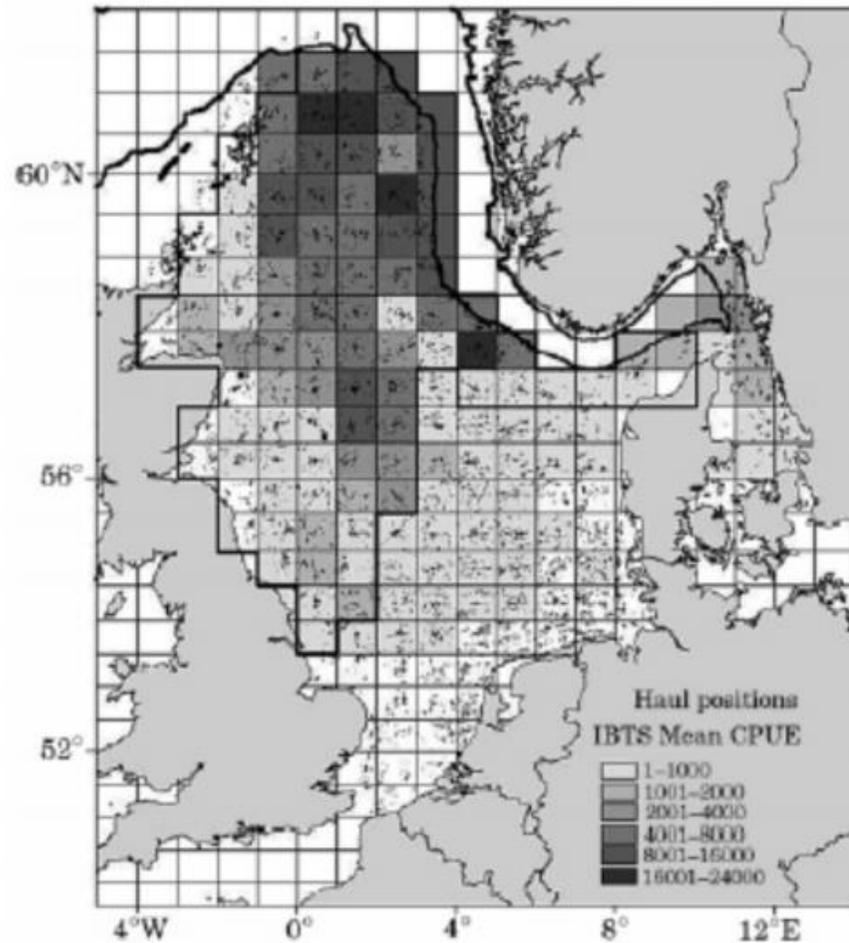
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Positions fished at the International Bottom Trawl Survey (IBTS) first quarter and mean CPUE (numbers) of Norway pout by rectangle, 1981–1999. The standard area used to calculate abundance indices and the 200 m depth contour is also shown. From the NWWG report, 2012 (Ref: A).

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	a.iii .Management actions should be based on long-term conservation objectives	References	Rating
LOW	<p><b>Determination: ICES has evaluated a range of long-term management strategies for the Norway pout stock and found all to be precautionary; however, at the time of this assessment none has been formally adopted. Although ICES advice is based on one of the proposed management strategies and largely followed by managers, the lack of a firm internationally-agreed management plan leads the assessment team to consider a medium compliance rating appropriate.</b></p> <p>The stock is currently not managed according to an internationally-agreed management plan, but there have been substantial efforts towards agreeing one. ICES evaluated and commented on three management strategies in 2007, following requests from managers: fixed fishing mortality (0.35), fixed TAC (50,000 t) and a variable TAC escapement strategy. The evaluation showed that all three management strategies are capable of generating stock trends that keep the stock at or above <math>B_{pa}</math> and avoid falling below <math>B_{lim}</math> with a high probability in the long term and they were, therefore, considered by ICES to be in accordance with the precautionary approach. In recent years the escapement strategy has been used, albeit not as the result of a binding management agreement.</p> <p>A further joint request by the EU and Norway in 2012 lead to ICES evaluating a further three long-term management strategies. The evaluation showed that a minimum fixed TAC of around 25-50 kt is possible only if future fishing mortality does not exceed a value of 0.6. Fishing mortality in the last decade is estimated to have been lower than 0.6. ICES concluded that all three strategies followed the precautionary approach within certain constraints. At the time of this assessment it is not clear whether there is any intention to implement one of these strategies.</p> <p>Although there is still currently no agreed management plan for the stock, ICES states that with the present fishing mortality levels the status of the stock is more determined by natural processes than by the fishery.</p>	A, B, L, M	MEDIUM
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

**b. Stock Assessment Procedures and Management Advice**

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	bi. Research in support of fisheries conservation and management should exist.	References	Rating
LOW	<p><b>Determination: Management of the Norway pout fishery is supported by bi-annual stock assessment and scientific advice, which in turn is fully supported by fishery-dependent data and multiple scientific surveys of the stock.</b></p> <p>The ICES Working Group for the North Sea and the Skagerrak carries out stock assessments of the demersal stocks of the North Sea and the Skagerrak. The Norway pout stock is assessed twice a year; the spring assessment provides stock status up to 1st of April of the current year, and the autumn assessment provides stock status for the current year and a forecast of fishing possibilities in the year ahead. Both fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data are available to stock assessors as follows:</p> <p><i>Landings data</i> – All international landings, categorised by geographical location and quarter of year.</p> <p><i>Landings age composition data</i> – Catch-at-age data for the Norwegian and Danish fisheries in most, but not all, years.</p> <p><i>Catch weight-at-age data</i> – calculated as a weighted average of Danish and Norwegian data.</p> <p><i>Estimates of maturity and natural mortality</i> – Revised and updated in the light of the Inter-benchmark assessment in May 2012.</p> <p><i>Catch per unit effort (CPUE) data</i> – from three quarterly commercial fleet CPUE indices.</p> <p><i>Research survey data</i> – from four research survey indices: International Bottom Trawl Survey (IBTS) Q1 &amp; Q3; the North Sea English Groundfish Survey (EGFS); and the Scottish Groundfish Survey (SGFS).</p>	A, L, M	HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

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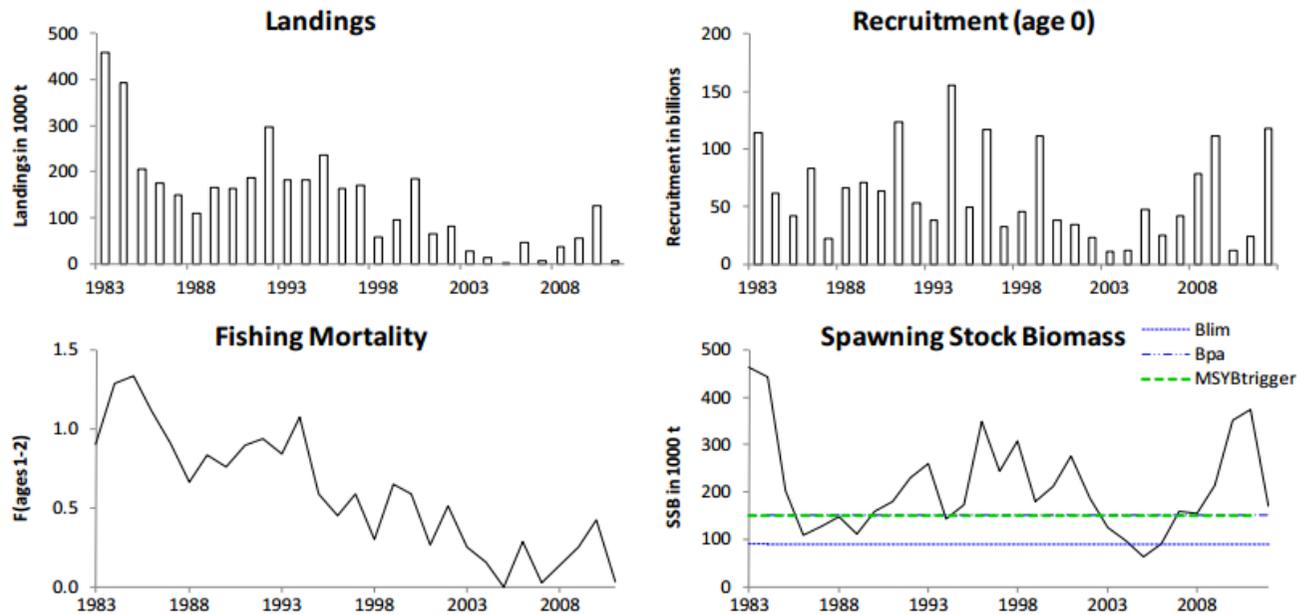
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An analytical seasonal XSA age based assessment model utilises these data to generate estimates of biomass and recommendations for annual quota and other management measures for the stock.



Norway pout in Subarea IV (North Sea) and Division IIIa (Skagerrak–Kattegat). Summary of stock assessment (weights in '000 tonnes).  $MSY B_{trigger}$  should be read as  $MSY B_{escapement}$ . Top right: SSB and F over the years.

(From the ICES advice, October 2012, Ref: M)

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	b.ii Best scientific evidence available should be taken into account when designing conservation and management measures	References	Rating
LOW	<p><b>Determination: The advice of ICES and national scientific organisations is fully taken into account in the management of the fishery. Furthermore additional, ad-hoc advice is provided by ICES on request in support of fishery management.</b></p> <p>The scientific advice provided twice per year by ICES forms the basis for the majority of management decisions by Norway pout fishery managers. TACs have been set at or below ICES advice since quantitative TAC advice was first provided in 2008, and have been broadly in line with advice since ICES recommendations for the stock began in 1995. The nature of the TAC-setting process, with an initial quota being set at the start of the year and subsequently updated, is in line with the biology of the stock and is the process recommended by ICES. ICES quota advice has been followed to the extent of fishery closure, either until the mid-season advice or for the entire year.</p> <p>As described in section A3, ICES has also provided scientific analysis of several proposed long-term management approaches, and will provide additional advice on any fisheries subject on request.</p> <p>National fisheries management decisions are informed by information provided by national scientific organisations, which in Norway is the Institute of Marine Research and in Denmark is the Technical University of Denmark National Institute of Aquatic Resources (DTU-Aqua).</p> <p>There are a number of technical measures in place, including minimum mesh size in the trawls, fishing area closures such as the Norway pout box in the north-western part of the North Sea with the objective of protecting juvenile fishing grounds for important demersal species, and by-catch regulations in the fishery to protect other species. Sorting grids, which have been demonstrated to reduce non-target bycatch, are now legally required in both the Norwegian and Danish fisheries. All of these measures have been implemented either on the advice of ICES and the national scientific organisations, or on the basis of data generated by those organisations.</p>	A, L, M, N	HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

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**c. The Precautionary Approach**

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	c.i The precautionary approach is applied in the formulation of management plans.	References	Rating
LOW	<p><b><i>Determination: The current approach to quota setting in the Norway pout fishery has been evaluated by ICES as following the precautionary approach. Both EU and Norwegian fisheries management policies commit to adherence to the precautionary approach in general terms.</i></b></p>	A, B, L, M	HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

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	<i>Type</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Technical basis</i>
MSY Approach	MSY $B_{\text{escapement}}$	150 000 t	= $B_{\text{pa}}$
	$F_{\text{MSY}}$	Undefined.	None advised.
Precautionary Approach	$B_{\text{lim}}$	90 000 t	$B_{\text{lim}} = B_{\text{loss}}$ , the lowest observed biomass in the 1980s.
	$B_{\text{pa}}$	150 000 t	= $B_{\text{lim}} e^{0.3 * 1.65}$
	$F_{\text{lim}}$	Undefined.	None advised.
	$F_{\text{pa}}$	Undefined.	None advised.

*(unchanged since: 2010)*

**Biological reference points for Norway pout in ICES Subarea IV and Division IIIa. From the October 2012 ICES advice (Ref: B).**

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**d. Management Measures**

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	d.i The level of fishing permitted should be set according to management advice given by research organisations.	References	Rating
LOW	<p><b><i>Determination: The annual TAC for Norway pout has been consistently set in line with ICES advice since that advice first became available. Additionally, the two-tier nature of the quota setting process accurately reflects the biology of the species and the scientific advice.</i></b></p>	A, B, L, M, O, P, Q	HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			
<p>The Norway Pout has a relatively short life-span, and the stock is rapidly impacted by the highly variable recruitment and by variation in predation mortality. At the present fishing mortality levels, the stock status is more strongly affected by natural processes (e.g. predation) than by the fishery, but due to the important role of Norway pout as a low trophic level species, it is important to maintain biomass to avoid ecosystem impacts.</p> <p>Historically, the combined Norway Pout TAC has never exceeded the ICES advice. The table below lists advice and quotas up to October 2012, although the TACs listed include Division IIa in addition to the area covered by this assessment. Although the combined TAC in 2011 is 7,500t (compared to the recommendation of 6,000t) this was subdivided between the ICES areas, and the TAC in Subarea IV and Division IIIa (the area covered by the advice and this report) was 6,000t.</p> <p>The initial advice for 2012 was for the fishery to remain closed, and this advice was followed by fishery managers. The October ICES advice subsequently updated this recommendation to 101,000t to reflect new survey data. An EU amendment updated the TAC from 0t to 75,750t, and while 5,000t of this was allocated to Norwegian vessels fishing in EU waters, Norway appears to have left the fishery closed in its own waters.</p> <p>The October advice also made recommendations for the TAC in 2013: 393,000t if the 2012 TAC of 101,000t is filled, up to 458,000t if there are no fishery removals in 2012. The current TACs for 2013 are 187,500t in the EU and 137,000t in Norway, resulting in a total quota of 324,500t, which is below the lower ICES recommendation.</p>			

Year	ICES Advice	Predicted catch corresp. to advice	Agreed TAC <sup>1</sup>	Official landings	ICES landings
1987	No advice	-	200	215	147
1988	No advice	-	200	187	102
1989	No advice	-	200	276	167
1990	No advice	-	200	212	140
1991	No advice	-	200	223	155
1992	No advice	-	200	335	255
1993	No advice	-	220	241	176
1994	No advice	-	220	214	176
1995	Can sustain current F	-	180	289	181
1996	Can sustain current F; take bycatches into consid.	-	220	197	122
1997	Can sustain current F; take bycatches into consid.	-	220	155	133
1998	Can sustain current F; take bycatches into consid.	-	220	72	62
1999	Can sustain current F; take bycatches into consid.	-	220	93	85
2000	Can sustain current F; take bycatches into consid.	-	220	182	175
2001	Can sustain current F; take bycatches into consid.	-	211	63	57
2002	Can sustain current F; take bycatches into consid.	-	198	93	74
2003	Can sustain current F; take bycatches into consid.	-	198	24	21
2004	The stock is in risk of decreasing below $B_{lim}$	-	198	16	14
2005	Fishery should be closed	-	5	1	2
2006	Fishery closed until 4th August where a TAC of 95 000 t was set.	-	95	54	47
2007	Fishery closed because $SSB < B_{pa}$ in 2008.	0	5	6	6
2008	$F=0.35$ or 50 000 t for first half of 2008	<50 in 1st 6 months	41		
In year <sup>2</sup> :	Maintain $SSB > B_{pa}$	< 148	115	39	36
2009	Reduce F to increase $SSB > B_{pa}$	< 35	28.3 (EU)		
In year <sup>2</sup> :	Maintain $SSB > B_{pa}$	< 157	116 (EU)	55	56
2010	Maintain $SSB > B_{pa}$	< 307	76 (EU)		
In year <sup>2</sup> :	Maintain $SSB > MSY B_{recapment}$	< 434	162	137	126
2011	No directed fisheries	0			
In year <sup>2</sup> :	Maintain $SSB > MSY B_{recapment}$	< 6	3 + 4.5 <sup>3</sup>		
2012	No fisheries	0	0		
In year <sup>4</sup> :	Maintain $SSB > MSY B_{recapment}$	< 101			
2013	Maintain $SSB > MSY B_{recapment}$	< 458 (Catch <sub>2012</sub> =0) < 393 (Catch <sub>2012</sub> =101)			

Weights in '000 t.  
<sup>1</sup> Divisions IIa(EU) and IIIa, and Subarea IV(EU).  
<sup>2</sup> For Norway pout preliminary advice is given in autumn, while the in-year advice is given on the basis of the first surveys and catches in the TAC year.  
<sup>3</sup> TACs set by Norway and EU, respectively.  
<sup>4</sup> In year advice was updated in autumn 2012.

**Norway pout in Subarea IV and Division IIIa. ICES advice, management, and landings. Note that the 'agreed TAC' includes**

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		Division IIa as well as the areas covered by this assessment. From the ICES advice, October 2012 (Ref: B).		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		d.ii Where excess fishing capacity exist, mechanisms should be in established to reduced capacity to allow for the recovery of the stock to sustainable levels.	References	Rating
LOW		<p><b>Determination: Annual quotas limit the total amount of fishing effort applied to the stock each year. In the EU (and therefore Denmark) there is a well-established mechanism for restricting and reducing capacity across all fisheries. In Norway annual quotas are the primary mechanism for limiting fishing effort, although capacity-reducing processes are also in place.</b></p> <p><b>EU/Denmark:</b></p> <p>The entry-exit regime, which applies to the majority of EU Member State vessels, is one of the main pillars of the European-wide fishing capacity management system. The entry-exit regime applies separately to the capacity measured in terms of tonnage and power. Any entry of capacity into the fleet of a Member State has to be compensated by the previous exit of at least the same amount of capacity. As a general rule, the capacity of the national fleets cannot increase with respect to its levels on 1 January 2003, for 'EU 15' Member States and on the accession date for Member States which acceded to the Community after 2003. The second pillar of the fishing capacity management system is the rule that capacity leaving the fleet with public aid cannot be replaced. Such capacity, expressed both in tonnage and power, is subtracted directly from the maximum fleet capacity of each Member State. Capacity reductions supported with public aid are therefore permanent.</p> <p>In 2007 a new quota regulation for the Danish vessels was implemented and realized from 2008 onwards. The regulation gives quotas to the vessel, but these can be traded or sold. A large number of small vessels have been taken out of the fishery and their quotas sold to larger vessels. Today the Danish fleet is therefore dominated by large vessels.</p> <p><b>Norway:</b></p>	R, S	HIGH
MEDIUM				
HIGH				

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	<p><i>Licenses</i></p> <p>The law on trawling, which dates back to 1951, prohibits all use of trawls without a license issued by the fisheries authorities. Since then the license has been transformed from a kind of general rights document into several sub-categories where each sub-category grants the right to trawl for identified species only. However, the most important reform to license regulation was the introduction of vessel quotas for the coastal fleet in the fishery for Northeast Arctic cod, in the late 1980s. The cod stock was at a serious state and in 1989, the coastal fishery was closed after only three and a half months. Because of this, an individual vessel quota system was established in the costal fleet. This represented exclusive rights to fish distributed to a limited number of fishermen based on tradition. More than 3000 vessels were excluded from the vessel quota arrangement. This caused upheaval in fishing communities and provoked public debate on fisheries management. Today all fisheries of importance require every vessel to hold a license that allows it to participate in the fishery. Limitations on access to fisheries are critical to management as well as to the economics of the fleet.</p> <p><i>Registration requirements</i></p> <p>Other measures of access limitation are certain registration requirements set out in the annual regulation for each fishery. The most common requirements relate to the vessel and/or the owner/master of the vessel. The annual regulation requires the vessel to be listed in the official register of fishing vessels, and similarly require the master of the vessel to be officially registered as a fisherman. These mandatory registrations were introduced in order to reserve fishing rights for professional fishermen and thereby reduce effort.</p>		
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LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	d.iii Management measures should ensure that fishing gear and fishing practices do not have a significant impact on non-target species and the physical environment.	References	Rating
LOW	<p><b><i>Determination: The Norway pout fishery is subject to a range of technical measures aimed at reducing bycatch, and these appear to have had an effect. Potential risk of the pelagic fishery to the physical environment is considered low. However, there is limited information available on the effects of the fishery on PET species, and ICES recommends further research into the potential effects of the fishery on predators of Norway pout. The assessment team considers a rating of medium compliance to be appropriate under this clause.</i></b></p> <p><b>Non-target species</b></p> <p>In order to protect other species (cod, haddock, saithe, whiting, and herring as well as mackerel, monkfish, squids, flatfish, gurnards, Nephrops) there is a row of technical management measures in force for the small meshed fishery in the North Sea such as the closed Norway pout box, by-catch regulations, minimum mesh size, and minimum landing size (Stock Quality Handbook. Bycatches of saithe, cod, haddock, whiting, and other species at various levels in the small meshed fishery in the North Sea and Skagerrak have been low in the recent decade, and in general, the by-catch levels of these gadoids have decreased in the Norway pout fishery over the years.</p> <p>In order to reduce by-catches of immature round fish, the “Norway Pout Box” north-east of Scotland was introduced in 1977 where fisheries with small-meshed trawls were banned. In the Norwegian economic zone, the Patch Bank was closed permanently in 2002, and in 2008 the fishing season was restricted to the period 1 May – 31 August. In the Norwegian fishery, mesh size limitations are 16 to 80 mm, and individual landings must contain less than 20% by-catch of cod, haddock and saithe. During the last 10 years, by-catches of cod, haddock and saithe in the combined Norwegian fishery for Norway pout and blue whiting have been 0.1 %,</p>	A, L, M	MEDIUM
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

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	<p>1.5 % and 3.5%, respectively.</p> <p>Sorting grids and square mesh panels have been implemented to reduce the by-catch of non- target species like haddock, saithe etc, and sorting grids are now a legal requirement in both the Danish and Norwegian fisheries. Sorting grids and square mesh panels combined have been shown to reduce by-catches of whiting and haddock by 57% and 37%, respectively.</p> <p><b>PET species</b></p> <p>Harbour seals (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) and grey seals (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>), minke whales (<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>), harbour porpoises (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>), and white-beaked dolphins (<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>) are the dominant marine mammals in the region and all are presently classified as of least concern on the IUCN Red List. Specific impacts of the fishery on marine mammals, seabirds and turtles are unknown.</p> <p><b>Ecosystems</b></p> <p>Although the impact of the Norway pout fishery on predator species (such as seabirds) is not fully known, ICES and fishery managers recognise that there is a need to ensure that the stock remains high enough to provide food for a variety of predator species. Norway pout is important as a food source for other species (e.g. saithe, whiting, haddock, cod and mackerel) and predation mortality is significant. ICES has recommended that the consumption amount of Norway pout by its main predators should be evaluated in relation to production amount in the Norway pout stock under consideration of consumption and production of other prey species for those predators in the ecosystem.</p> <p><b>Physical environment</b></p> <p>The potential risk of pelagic trawls for the physical environment is generally considered low, although occasional contact is known to occur and, in these cases, can cause damage to fragile ecosystems (e.g. corals), particularly when targeting benthopelagic schooling species. The risk of ghost fishing by lost gear is also considered very low for pelagic trawling.</p>	
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**e. Implementation**

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	e.i There should be a framework for sanctions of violation of Laws and regulations.	References	Rating
LOW	<p><b><i>Determination: Denmark, as an EU member state, has a framework for sanctions in place at the national and European levels. Norway has an effective framework for sanctions in place.</i></b></p> <p><b>EU/Denmark:</b></p> <p>To ensure that fishing rules are applied in the same way in all member countries, and to harmonise the way infringements are sanctioned, the EU has established a list of serious infringements of the rules of the common fisheries policy. EU countries must include in their legislation effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions, and ensure that the rules are respected.</p> <p>As from 1 January 2012, EU countries should have introduced a point system for serious infringements. Under the scheme, national authorities will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• assess alleged infringements involving vessels registered under its flag, using standard EU definitions</li> <li>• impose a pre-set number of penalty points on vessels involved in serious infringements (points are recorded in the national registry of fisheries offences)</li> <li>• suspend the vessel’s licence for 2, 4, 8 or 12 months when a pre-set number of points have been accumulated in a 3-year period.</li> </ul> <p>Points are attributed to the fishing licence that is linked to a vessel, so they will stay with the vessel even when it is sold on to a new owner. Monitoring the number of cases detected and the nature and the level of the sanctions imposed is a key part of the Commission's task of ensuring a level playing field for all EU fishers. 2008 Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 established a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Through EU Fishery Policy and Regulations, Member States must apply</p>	T, U, V	HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

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	<p>effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions against natural or legal persons engaged in IUU activities. A maximum sanction of at least five times the value of the fishery products obtained is provided for with regard to the committing of the said infringement.</p> <p>In the event of a repeated infringement within a five-year period, the Member States shall impose a maximum sanction of at least eight times the value of the fishery products obtained by committing the serious infringement.</p> <p>Infringements of CFP rules are dealt with by the Member State concerned, and the Danish Directorate of Fisheries is the competent authority with responsibility of enforcement of sanctions and penalties with respect to the prosecution of fishery rules.</p> <p><b>Norway:</b></p> <p>Norway constantly seeks to regulate its own fisheries sustainably and ensure efficient control of resources both on landing and at sea through the Coast Guard. Moreover, a number of measures have been implemented to deter Norwegian vessels from participating in IUU fishing and to prevent illegally caught fish from entering the Norwegian market. The Norwegian Government’s Plan of Action on Economic Crime has been used in order to enforce measures against Norwegian actors in IUU activities.</p> <p><i>Black list of vessels</i></p> <p>Norway adopted a black list of vessels that had been engaged in IUU activities in Northeast Atlantic waters in 1994, and banned such vessels from fishing in Norwegian waters. The concept of a black list has later been adopted by several regional fisheries management organizations where Norway is a member. Vessels that have taken part in fishing outside quota arrangements in international waters for a stock which is subject to regulations in waters under Norwegian fisheries jurisdiction or take part in fishing operations that contravene regulatory measures laid down by regional or sub regional fisheries management organisations or arrangements are blacklisted. The consequences of being listed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refusal of a license to fish/ tranship in the Norwegian Economic Zone and the Fishery Zone around Jan</li> </ul>		
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	<p>Mayen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refusal of being registered as a fishing vessel under Norwegian flag.</li> </ul>		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	e.ii A management system for fisheries control and enforcement should be established.	References	Rating
LOW	<p><b><i>Determination: Both Denmark, in complying with the requirements of the CFP, and Norway have in place a robust management system for fisheries control and enforcement.</i></b></p> <p><b>EU/Denmark:</b></p> <p>Fisheries rules and control systems are agreed on at EU level, but implemented by the member states through their national authorities and inspectors.</p> <p><i>Control systems</i></p> <p>To ensure that the rules of the CFP are followed in practice, the policy also includes a control system with the necessary tools to enforce them. This system is designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensure that only the allowed quantities of fish are caught</li> <li>• collect the necessary data for managing fishing opportunities</li> <li>• clarify the roles of EU countries and the Commission</li> <li>• ensure the rules are applied to all fishers in the same way, with harmonised sanctions across the EU</li> <li>• ensure that fisheries products can be traced back and checked throughout the supply chain, from net to plate</li> </ul> <p>The system is laid down in the Control Regulation, available at reference 23, which entered into force on 1 January 2010 and which thoroughly modernised the EU's approach to fisheries control.</p> <p><i>Implementation</i></p> <p>The Danish Directorate of Fisheries, part of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, was established in</p>	U, W	HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

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	<p>its present form in 1995 and is the competent authority with responsibility of enforcement of the CFP and fishery management measures in Danish waters. The Directorate examines vessels at sea and in port, and considers both fishery management requirements (such as gear restrictions and quotas) and hygiene requirements. This is achieved by examining papers, licenses and logbooks, a physical inspection of fishing gear (mesh size, sorting panels and the like), and catch composition.</p> <p>The Danish fishing control system applies EU access regulations in combination with regulations of the total fleet capacity measured by tonnage and engine power. Vessels must be registered and authorised through individual licensing. Legal instruments are brought into force through Ministerial Orders and largely reflect EU Regulations within the CFP framework.</p> <p><b>Norway:</b></p> <p>Norwegian fisheries regulations are enforced at sea, when the fish is landed and when it is exported. At sea, the Coast Guard is responsible for inspecting fishing vessels and checking their catch against their log books. Both Norwegian and foreign fishing vessels are subject to stringent controls in all Norwegian fishing waters. The activity of the Coast Guard is generally considered vital for the functioning of the management regime as a whole. The Coast Guard performs more than 1800 inspections of Norwegian and the foreign vessels that fish in Norwegian waters annually. Vessels over 24 meters (15 meters for vessels from EU) are required to carry satellite transponders that makes it possible to track their activity 24 hours a day all around the year. The Directorate of Fisheries also inspects activities on the fishing grounds. When catches are landed, the landing data are checked against the fishing rights of the vessel. This task is performed by the fish sales organisations and the Directorate of Fisheries. The Directorate also performs physical inspections of landings. When irregularities are detected, at sea or on landing or through later controls, serious cases are referred to the courts.</p> <p>Controlling the fishing on shared fish stocks requires close cooperation between the relevant states. Norway currently has co-operative agreements with Russia, Iceland, England, Ireland, Scotland, Sweden, Denmark, Faroe Islands, Netherlands, Germany, Portugal, Canada and Poland.</p>		
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