



FISHERY ASSESSMENT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY:	NORWAY POUT (<i>Trisopterus esmarki</i>)
LOCATION:	North Sea & Skagerrak-Kattegat (ICES Sub Area IV & IIIa)
DATE OF REPORT:	11th October 2012
ASSESSOR:	Sam Peacock

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Issue No; 2; Issue Date; Nov 09

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CCM Code:

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1. Application Details and Summary of the Assessment Outcome			
Name: Norwegian Seafood Federation			
Address:			
Country: Norway		Zip:	
Tel. No.		Fax. No.	
Email address:		Applicant Code	
Key Contact:		Title:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:			
Assessor Name: Sam Peacock	Peer Reviewer: Mike Platt	Assessment Days: 1	Initial/Surveillance/Re-certification: Surveillance
Assessment Period	11/10/12		
Scope Details			
1. Scope of Assessment:		IFFO Global Standard for Responsible Supply – Issue 1	
2. Fishery		Norwegian Norway Pout (<i>Trisopterus esmarki</i>)	
3. Fishery Location		ICES Subarea IV and Division IIIa	
4. Fishery Method		Pelagic trawl	
Outcome of Assessment			
5. Overall Fishery Compliance Rating		HIGH	
6. Sub Components of Low Compliance		NONE	
7. Information deficiency		NONE	
8. Peer Review Evaluation		Agree with assessment	
9. Recommendation		Maintain approval	

2. Quality of Information
Good, primarily ICES advice

3. Compliance Level Achieved
High
Recommendation
Maintain fishery approval

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

5. Assessment Determination
<p>There have been no significant changes in the management of this fishery. ICES continues to provide advice to fishery managers, and this advice continues to be used to inform management decisions. Additional information is still required on the potential impacts of the fishery on protected, endangered and threatened non-target species.</p> <p>Quotas continue to be set on the basis of ICS advice, both initial and in-year. TACs and landings in 2010 and 11 were low due to poor recruitment; however the most recent ICES advice reports very high levels of recruitment in 2012 and recommends appropriately increased landings for this and next year. This advice has yet to be turned into policy.</p>
HIGH COMPLIANCE
A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, C1, D1, D2, E1, E2
MEDIUM COMPLIANCE
D3

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	High 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 [Red Box] Medium Compliance [Yellow Box] High Compliance: [Green Box]

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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>Determination: Fisheries management in Norway continues to be subject to an iterative, stakeholder-driven management process, led by the Norwegian Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs. There is an effective legal and administrative basis for the implementation of management measures.</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> <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 chain connects ICES and Institute of Marine Research (IMR, the primary marine research agency in Norway) science, international negotiations, national fisheries management decisions, and engagement with fishery stakeholders.</p> <p>For more detail on the regulatory chain, and broader information on the fishery management process in Norway, please refer to the initial assessment.</p>	R1	HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

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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>Determination: <i>There have been no changes in the scientific understanding or management definitions of the stock since the initial assessment. Stock assessments and management decisions continue to include consideration of all fishery removals and species biology.</i></p> <p>The entire distribution of the Norway pout is in the jurisdiction of the EU and Norway, and is defined by the ICES regions Subarea IV and Division IIIa (Skagerrak-Kattegat). All fisheries removals (EU and Norway) and the biology of the species are accounted for in the formulation of management strategies which principally commence at EU level within the CFP framework and with reference to ICES scientific advice. Norway and EU Agree on the TAC under The Framework Agreement which was adopted by Council Regulation (EEC) 2214/80 of 27 June 1980, OJ - L 226 of 29 August 1980, page 47.</p>	R1, R3	HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			
	a.iii .Management actions should be based on long-term conservation objectives	References	Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: <i>There have been no changes in the way the fishery is managed in relation to long-term objectives, although additional assessment has been conducted by ICES and may be used to inform the management process in future.</i></p> <p>The management of the Norway Pout fishery includes the setting of preliminary catch and/or fishing effort limits at the beginning of the year based on available survey information. Further scientific information from the spring survey is used to up-date and revise the TAC allowing the final maximum fishing effort and/or catch levels to be fixed. A 2007 ICES assessment of the escapement strategy currently used to manage the stock concluded that it was capable of generating stock trends that keep the stock at or above B_{pa} and avoid falling below B_{lim} with a high probability in the long term</p> <p>Long term management strategies for the stock were evaluated by ICES in September 2012 based on a joint EU/Norway request. ICES concluded that all three strategies evaluated “are in accordance with the precautionary approach and lead to sustainable yields, under certain constraints.” As the results</p>	R1, R3-R5	HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

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	of this evaluation were only published in October 2012, it remains to be seen whether any of these strategies will be adopted by fishery managers; at present the ICES bi-annual advice continues to follow the escapement strategy.	
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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>Determination: <i>Research in support of fisheries conservation and management exists, is principally compiled by ICES, and is used as the basis of management decisions by the nations fishing for Norway Pout.</i></p> <p>This stock is assessed twice a year. The spring assessment provides stock status up to 1st of April of the current year. The autumn assessment provides stock status for the current year and a forecast of fishing possibilities in the rest of the year and next year. Stock assessments utilise four research survey indices and three quarterly commercial fleet CPUE indices with data included up to 2006.</p> <p>An Inter-benchmark conducted by ICES in spring 2012 used revised estimates of natural mortality, maturity at age and mean weight at age in the assessment. The benchmark group did not recommend revised reference points for the stock at this stage, but concluded that higher escapement targets could be considered in the future based on the importance of Norway pout as a forage species in the ecosystem</p>	R1-R5	HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

	<p>Landings: Bar chart showing landings in 1000t from 1983 to 2008. Values range from approximately 20 to 450.</p> <p>Recruitment (age 0): Bar chart showing recruitment in billions from 1983 to 2008. Values range from approximately 10 to 160.</p> <p>Fishing Mortality: Line graph showing fishing mortality (F_{ages 1-2}) from 1983 to 2008. Values range from 0.0 to 1.5.</p> <p>Spawning Stock Biomass: Line graph showing SSB in 1000t from 1983 to 2008. Includes lines for Blim (solid blue), Bpa (dashed blue), and MSYBtrigger (dashed green). Values range from 0 to 500.</p> <p>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 October 2012 ICES advice.</p>		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	b.ii Best scientific evidence available should be taken into account when designing conservation and management measures	References	Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: Best Scientific advice continues to be taken into account when designing conservation and management measures.</p> <p>The Norway pout fishery is regulated through a single-species TAC which is divided into quotas for the active fishing nations. There is also a series of technical measures such as 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 also by-catch regulations in the</p>	R1, R4	HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

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	<p>fishery to protect other species.</p> <p>Potential fishery management strategies have been assessed and compared by ICES twice in recent years. In 2007, the current escapement-strategy-based regime was found to be in line with the precautionary approach. The most recent comparison, conducted in October 2012, has not yet been integrated into fishery management due to the short time since results were published.</p>	
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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>Determination: <i>There have been no significant changes in the management approach towards either this specific stock or Norwegian fisheries in general. Biological reference points have not changed.</i></p> <p>ICES concluded that the present management strategy approach is in accordance with the precautionary approach for the long term conservation of the stock. Currently fishing levels are above the level that equates to an escapement estimated to be the precautionary SSB of 150,000 tonnes. Historically, actual reported catches have been less than or in accordance with TAC.</p> <p>Biological reference points are established for the fishery based on the precautionary approach, and have not changed since the initial assessment. For more information on the reference points and management approach, see the initial fishery assessment.</p>	R1, R3, R4	HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

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>Determination: <i>The management advice continues to be in full compliance with the scientific advice and is complied with by the fishers</i></p> <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>In recent years the quota for the fishery has been consistently set in accordance with both initial and in-year ICES advice. Note that in the table from the ICES advice, below, quotas listed include division IIa, which is not part of this assessment. The TAC in the areas covered by this assessment in 2011 was 6,000t, as per the ICES advice.</p> <p>For the 2012 season, the initial advice was for the fishery to remain closed until the in-year advice. This advice was followed, and the quota has not yet been updated in response to the in-year advice.</p>	R1-R5	HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

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Year	ICES Advice	Predicted catch corresp. to advice	Agreed TAC ¹	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 ² :	Maintain SSB > B _{pa}	< 148	115	39	36
2009	Reduce F to increase SSB > B _{pa}	< 35	28.3 (EU)		
In year ² :	Maintain SSB > B _{pa}	< 157	116 (EU)	55	56
2010	Maintain SSB > B _{pa}	< 307	76 (EU)		
In year ² :	Maintain SSB > MSY B _{escapement}	< 434	162	137	126
2011	No directed fisheries	0			
In year ² :	Maintain SSB > MSY B _{escapement}	< 6	3 + 4.5 ³		
2012	No fisheries	0	0		
In year ⁴ :	Maintain SSB > MSY B _{escapement}	< 101			
2013	Maintain SSB > MSY B _{escapement}	< 458 (Catch ₂₀₁₂ =0) < 393 (Catch ₂₀₁₂ =101)			

Weights in '000 t.
¹ Divisions IIa(EU) and IIIa, and Subarea IV(EU).
² 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.
³ TACs set by Norway and EU, respectively.
⁴ In year advice was updated in autumn 2012.

Norway pout in Subarea IV and Division IIIa. ICES advice, management, and landings. From the ICES advice, October 2012.

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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>Determination: <i>The capacity-reducing mechanisms identified in the original assessment continue to be functional and effective.</i></p> <p>The initial assessment described the licensing, quota and registration requirements used by Norwegian fisheries managers to control fishing capacity and reduce it when necessary. There have been no significant changes in these management tools since the time of the initial assessment; please refer to it for more detail.</p>	R1	HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			
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>Determination: <i>The initial assessment found the fishery to be managed with appropriate consideration of non-target species, but noted that information on the frequency with which PET species were affected was insufficient to award a high compliance rating. In the absence of new information on the impacts of the fishery on PET species, the assessment team considers a medium compliance rating to remain appropriate.</i></p> <p>The Norway pout fishery is regulated through a single-species TAC and by technical measures such as minimum mesh size in the trawls, fishing area closure in e.g. the Norway pout box in the north-western part of the North Sea, and by-catch regulations in the fishery to protect other species. In addition, sorting grids and square mesh panels have been implemented to reduce the by-catch of nontarget species like Haddock, Saithe etc. These two measures have shown to reduce by-catches of whiting and haddock by 57% and 37%, respectively. 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 %, 1.5 % and 3.5%, respectively.</p> <p>Impacts of the fishery on marine mammals, seabirds and turtles are unknown. Habitat effects are</p>	R1, R4	MEDIUM
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

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	generally low for pelagic trawls, 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.	
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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>Determination: <i>The initial fishery assessment identified a robust system of sanctions in place for those violating laws, regulations, quotas and international agreements. There have been no major changes in the Norwegian sanctions system since that time.</i></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>There is a full list of Norwegian fisheries regulations available at: http://www.fiskeridir.no/english/fisheries/regulations</p> <p>For more information on sanctions applied by Norwegian fishery managers, please refer to the initial fishery assessment.</p>	R1	HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	e.ii A management system for fisheries control and enforcement should be established.	References	Rating
LOW	Determination: <i>Norway continues to maintain a robust management system for fisheries control and enforcement.</i>	R1	HIGH
MEDIUM	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, whereas landings and exports are monitored by the Directorate of Fisheries. In addition, so aid the management of shared fish stocks, Norway has cooperative agreements in place with Russia, Iceland, England, Ireland, Scotland, Sweden, Denmark, Faroe Islands, Netherlands, Germany, Portugal, Canada and Poland.		
HIGH	For more information on Norwegian fisheries control and enforcement, please refer to the initial assessment.		

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References

R1 – Norway Pout initial IFFO RS assessment, September 2011:

<http://www.iffo.net/downloads/IFFO%20RS/Whole%20Fish/Norway%20Pout%20Norway%20Fishery%20report.pdf>

R2 – ICES advice June 2012: <http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2012/2012/nop-34%20june.pdf>

R3 – ICES advice October 2012:

<http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2012/2012/nop-34%20oct.pdf>

R4 – Special request, Advice October 2012: Joint EU–Norway request on management measures for Norway pout:

<http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2012/Special%20Requests/EUNorway%20Norway%20pout.pdf>

R5 – ICES Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak, Norway Pout in ICES Subarea IV and Division IIIa (May 2012):

[http://www.ices.dk/reports/ACOM/2012/WGNSSK/Sec%2005%20Norway%20Pout%20in%20ICES%20Subarea%20IV%20and%20Division%20IIIa%20\(May%202012\).pdf](http://www.ices.dk/reports/ACOM/2012/WGNSSK/Sec%2005%20Norway%20Pout%20in%20ICES%20Subarea%20IV%20and%20Division%20IIIa%20(May%202012).pdf)

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