

# FISHERY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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



<b>FISHERY:</b>	<b>NORWAY POUT (<i>Trisopterus esmarki</i>)</b>
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>North Sea &amp; Skagerrak-Kattegat (ICES Sub Area IV &amp; IIIa)</b>
<b>DATE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> September 2011</b>
<b>ASSESSORS:</b>	<b>Sam Peacock</b>

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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:		Global Trust Certification Ltd.	
Assessor Name:	Peer Review:	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Sam Peacock	Mike Platt	10	Initial
Assessment Period	15 Aug to 9 Sept		
1. Scope of Assessment			
1. Scope of Assessment		IFFO RS scheme approval.	
2. Fishery			
2. Fishery		Norwegian Norway Pout ( <i>Trisopterus esmarki</i> )	
3. Fishery Location			
3. Fishery Location		ICES Subarea IV and Division IIIa	
4. Fishery Method			
4. Fishery Method		Pelagic trawl.	
Outcome of Assessment			
5. Overall Fishery Compliance Rating			
5. Overall Fishery Compliance Rating		High	
6. Sub Components of Low Compliance			
6. Sub Components of Low Compliance			
7. Information deficiency			
7. Information deficiency		No information available on PET species by-catch.	

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<b>8. Peer Review Evaluation</b>	Agree with Assessor review and approve the fishery on a condition that PET species interaction reporting is enhanced.
<b>9. Recommendation</b>	Approve fishery on condition of improved PET interaction reporting.

**Agreed Conditions for approval**

**IFFO Norway Pout Fishery Assessment Report 2011.**

- **Interactions of gear with sea mammals/ sea turtles/sharks must be recorded and all this evidence used for future scientific research.** Evidence that captains and relevant crew have been trained in identification of marine mammals and sea turtle species and how to record interactions must be made available. Evidence can be in the form of taking part in training and the actual records of interactions observed.
- **Where sea mammals/ sea turtles/sharks are captured there must be documented procedures in place to establish an effective release of the animal without causing it damage.** Evidence of the release procedures and the training that captain’s and crews have undertaken to ensure that these release procedures are implemented. Records of the success of releases (animals returned alive and undamaged) should also be made to demonstrate the effectiveness of release procedures.

<b>. QUALITY OF INFORMATION</b>
Good, mainly from Norwegian Fishery and ICES websites.
<b>. COMPLIANCE LEVEL ACHIEVED</b>
Mainly high; some concern over availability of PET species data.
<b>Recommendation</b>
Undertake on-site audit of the assessment.
<b>. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT</b>
<b>Based on HIGH compliance findings</b>
During on site audits, evidence of reporting compliance of catches to the Competent Authority should be undertaken to support verification of this information.
<b>Based on MEDIUM compliance findings</b>
What information, if any, must be returned by skippers in relation to interactions with PET species?
<b>Based on LOW compliance findings</b>
<b>. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION</b>

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<b>HIGH Compliance</b>
<b>A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, C1, D1, D2, E1, E2</b>
<b>MEDIUM Compliance</b>
<b>D3</b>
<b>LOW Compliance</b>

**Fishery Background**




This report reviews the Norway Pout (*Trisopterus esmarki*) fishery in the fishing grounds covered by ICES Subarea IV and IIIa.

The Norway Pout is the most abundant of the small members of the cod group, and is a benthopelagic species. Spawning takes place between January and March in the northern North Sea, north of Scotland, off the Orkneys, Shetlands and the Faroes. 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. They are an important fish in the diets of Whiting, Haddock and Saithe.

**Fishery development**

During the 1960s, a significant small meshed Norway Pout fishery developed in the northern North Sea, with peak landings of 740,000 tonnes in 1974. Since the early 1980s, annual landings have fluctuated around 200,000 tonnes. In recent years, landings have decreased substantially to 13,500 tonnes in 2004. The fishery was closed in 2005, re-opened in September 2006 (46,600 tonnes), and closed again in 2007. The fishery is mainly carried out by Danish and Norwegian vessels using small-mesh trawls in the north-western North Sea. The main fishing seasons are 3rd and 4th quarters of the year, with high catches also in the 1st quarter, especially occurring before 1999. In addition to the directed Norway pout fishery, the species is also taken as by-catch in the blue whiting fishery.

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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	A1				
Fisheries management should be concerned with the whole stock unit	A2				
Management actions should be scientifically based	A3				
Research in support of fisheries conservation and management should exist		B1			
Best scientific evidence available should be taken into account when designing conservation and management measures		B2			
The precautionary approach is applied in the formulation of management plans			C1		
The level of fishing permitted should be set according to management advice given by research organisations				D1	
Where excess fishing capacity exist, mechanisms should be in established to reduced capacity				D2	
Management measures should ensure that fishing gear and fishing practices do not have a significant impact on non-target species and the physical environment				D3	
A framework for sanctions of violation of laws and regulations should be efficiently exists					E1
A management system for fisheries control and enforcement should be established					E2
<b>KEY:</b>	Low Compliance: 	Medium Compliance: 	High Compliance: 		

### 6. Rationale of the Assessment Outcome

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**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: Fisheries management in Norway is 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.</b></p>	R1, R5, R6	HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			
<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 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>			



The Norwegian system for quota allocation and regulation – the ‘regulatory chain’

About 90 per cent of Norway’s fish stocks are shared with other states (Capelin is shared with Russia (for the Barents & 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:

- when to start and stop the fishing
- technical regulations
- size of by-catch
- criteria for participating in various fisheries

This is then presented to stakeholders in an open meeting held in late November or early December. A broad

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	<p>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 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>		
	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>Determination: Fisheries management is concerned with the whole stock unit, and all fisheries removals (EU and Norway) and the biology of the species are accounted for in the formulation of management strategies.</b></p> <p>The Norway pout in the North Sea and Skagerrak/Kattegat area are assessed to be one unit stock. It has no importance as a fishery for human consumption but is a target species for industrial fishing predominantly by Norway and Denmark. The fish form dense shoals close to the seabed and are predominantly caught with</p>		HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			



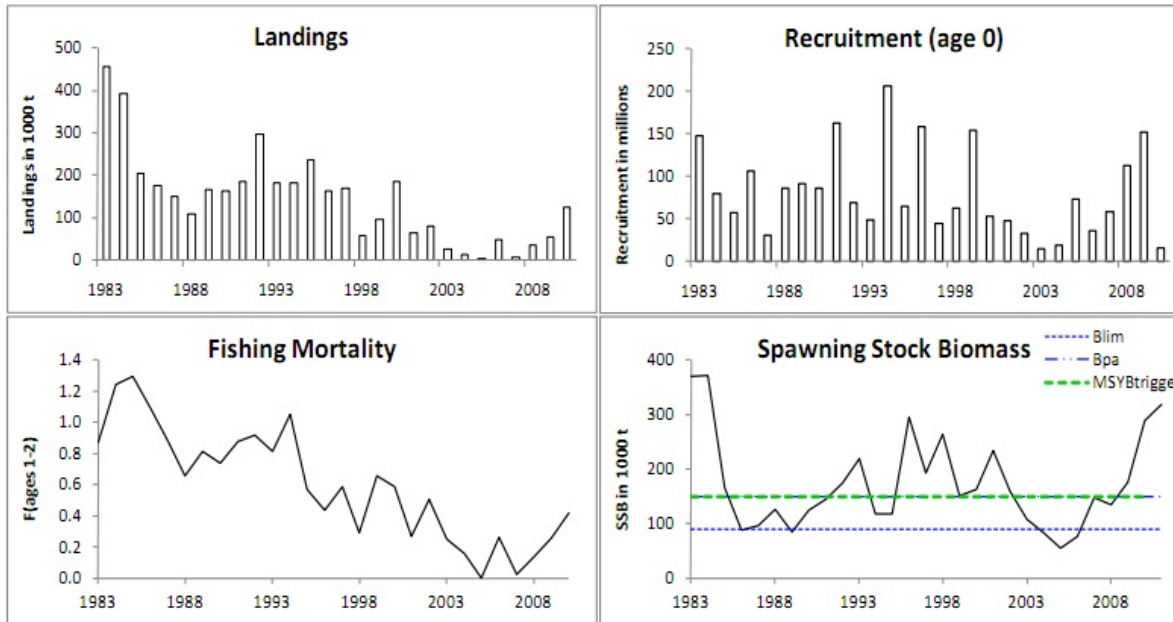
	<p>bottom trawls.</p> <p>The Norway pout is found in the North Sea and research has shown that it does not have any seasonal differences in its distribution. The main concentrations are found in waters deeper than 100m, however they can be found in shallower waters around the Skagerrak. The juveniles and adults distribution patterns overlap fully although the juveniles are more abundant in shallower waters.</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>		
a.iii .Management actions should be based on long-term conservation objectives		References	Rating
LOW	<p><b>Determination: <i>Management actions are based on long term conservation objectives and actions are science based.</i></b></p> <p>In 2006 the EC Commission and Norway requested ICES for advice on the management of Norway pout. ICES provided advice on the Harvest control rules for Norway Pout in the North Sea (and Skagerrak-Kattegat) with an aim to “Allow the Maximum Sustainable Yield to be obtained consistent with the precautionary approach; taking into account the function of Norway pout in the ecosystem.”</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. Harvest rules include rules for setting preliminary and final fishing effort levels (expressed as a percentage of the reference level in kW-days) and/or catch levels.</p>		
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

	<p>The fisheries Management Actions used to meet the conservation objectives set by ICES include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring systems and assessment methodologies required to implement the advised harvest control rules.</li> <li>Level of by-catches in Norway pout fisheries are separated for Division IIIa and Sub-area IV;</li> <li>A series of technical measures, including the possibility to close areas from fishing intended to reduce by-catches in Norway Pout catches, particularly for cod, haddock, coley, whiting and herring.</li> </ul>	
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**b. Stock Assessment Procedures and Management Advice**

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		References	Rating
LOW	<p>bi. Research in support of fisheries conservation and management should exist.</p> <p><b>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></b></p> <p>The ICES Working Group for the North Sea and the Skagerrak carries out research assessments of the demersal stocks of the North Sea and the Skagerrak. The 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 next year.</p> <p>The analytical seasonal XSA age based assessment model is used for this fishery. It utilises 4 survey indices (IBTS Q1 and Q3, EGFS Q3, and SGFS Q3), and 3 quarterly fleet CPUE indices. Catch at age data is used in the assessment of the stock status. The stock assessment estimates population parameters on the basis of fishing</p>		HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

mortality, recruitment index, and stock number at age data. A benchmark assessment is planned for 2012.



**Figure 1 - Norway Pout in Subarea IV and Division IIIa. From the ICES advice, June 2011.**

The first half year estimates calculations use data up to and including the first half of the previous year of assessment. The second half of the year parameters are estimated by applying different weights to survivor estimates between the first and the second half of the year according to the seasonal differences of the species biology.

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: <i>Best Scientific advice is taken into account when designing conservation and management measures.</i></b></p> <p>ICES evaluated 3 different management strategies to advise on harvest control rules that will ensure the long term conservation of the stock: Fixed Mortality (0.35), Fixed TAC (50,000t) and a variable TAC escapement strategy. ICES concluded that all three options maintain a minimum biomass above the 90,000t considered to represent the biomass limit below which serious recruitment impairment is expected for conservation purposes. Therefore the ICES evaluation concluded that any of the three would keep the stock at or above the biomass precautionary level and well above the minimum sustainable limit for this stock.</p> <p>ICES has advised that there should not be a shift in management strategies and that a fixed Fishing effort should be adopted. Although a long term management plan has not been agreed at this time, there has been considerable scientific advice and support to management.</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 fishery to protect other species.</p>		HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

**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>Determination: ICES has concluded that a precautionary approach is adopted for the management of this Norway Pout stock. In a multinational agreement, EU Common Fisheries Policy and Norway Fisheries Management oversees the Norway Pout, and by its application implicitly follows the precautionary approach.</b></p>		
MEDIUM			
HIGH			
<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>The level of by-catch in Norway Pout catches is regulated. A series of technical measures designed to limit the impact on juvenile fish are applied when necessary, such as closed areas (e.g. Norway Pout Box in EU waters and closed areas within Norway EEZ).</p> <p><b>Background to the Policy on The Precautionary approach in Norway</b></p> <p>The implementation of the precautionary approach, the ecosystem-based approach and the integrated ocean management approach are significant aspects of the current oceans policy in Norway. While a precautionary approach to fisheries management has been pursued in Norway since the late 1990s, efforts to implement an</p>			

ecosystem approach and integrated oceans management are more recent.

**Biological reference points**

Biological Reference Points are established for the fishery and are based on the precautionary approach as follows:

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

*(unchanged since: 2010)*

**Figure 2 - Norway Pout biological reference points. From the ICES supporting information, June 2011.**

Some uncertainty is introduced through maturity-at-age data, and the potential impact on the stock size estimate and predictions is large due to the reduced number of year classes present in the stock at any one time. The update of the assessment at half year intervals provides timely information on changes in the stock and a good indication of the stock status in the following year. Discards are not included in the assessment, but are considered by ICES to **be negligible**.

**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	<b>Determination: <i>The level of fishing permitted is set according to management advice given by ICES.</i></b>		HIGH
MEDIUM	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 it is important to keep the stock sufficiently high so as not to cause trophic impact.		
HIGH	Since 1996, landings have never exceeded the set TAC, except in 2007 when the fishery was officially closed (set TAC = 5,000 t; landings of about 6,000 t). Since 2008, when ICES began making specific TAC recommendations, the agreed TAC has never exceeded the advice.		

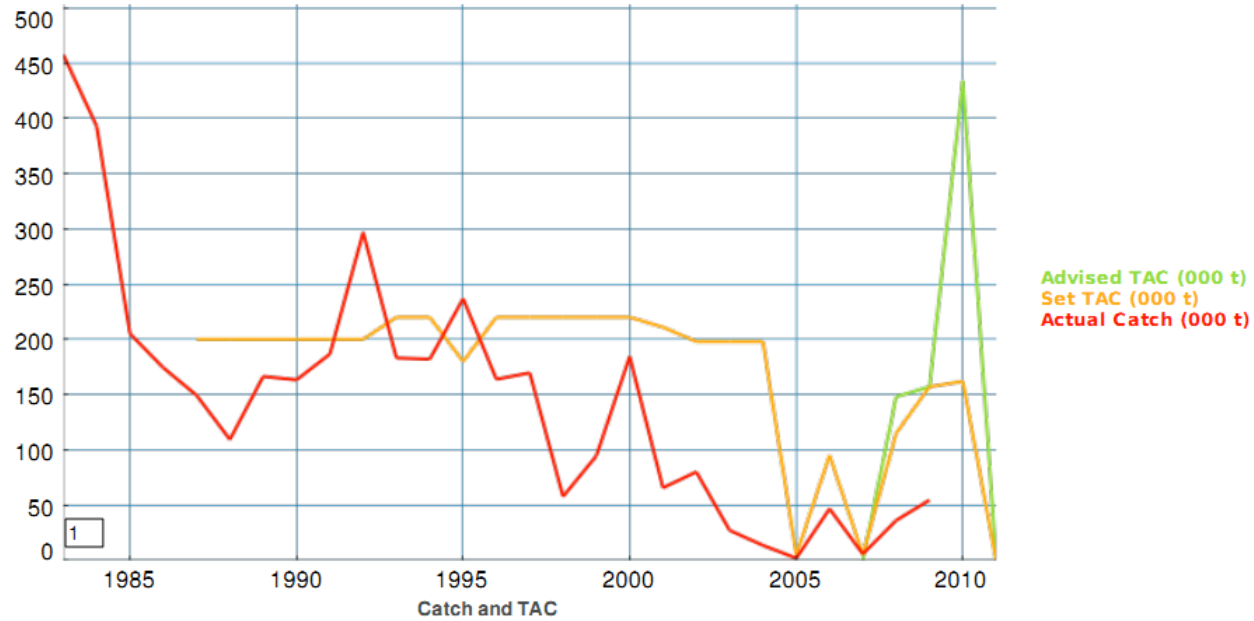


Figure 3 – Norway Pout historical TACs and catches. From Fishsource ([www.fishsource.org](http://www.fishsource.org)).

In 2010 a TAC was set at 162,000t of which the Norwegians were allocated 81,000t; only 60,900t were taken. In 2011 ICES stated that the total TAC should not exceed 6,000t; the fishery is closed this year.



LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		References	Rating	
LOW	<p><i>D2. Where excess fishing capacity exist, mechanisms should be in established to reduced capacity to allow for the recovery of the stock to sustainable levels.</i></p> <p><b>Determination: Norway has a demonstrably functional system for reducing fishing capacity when it is demanded by fishery management conclusions.</b></p> <p><b>Licenses in Norway</b></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.</p> <p>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><b>Registration requirements</b></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>		HIGH	
MEDIUM				
HIGH				

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LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	D3. 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>Determination: The management of the Norway Pout has taken account of by-catches of other important fish species by introducing technical measures to minimize the effect on these fisheries. The fishery is therefore acting in a responsibly compliant manner to non-target species. However, the effect of fishing activity on endangered species is not fully known.</b></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. The location of the Norway pout box is defined in EC Regulation No 3094/86. 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.</p> <p>In the Norwegian zone, 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 %, 1.5 % and 3.5%, respectively.</p> <p>In addition, sorting grids and square mesh panels have been implemented to reduce the by-catch of non-target species like Haddock, Saithe etc. These two measures have shown to reduce by-catches of whiting and haddock by 57% and 37%, respectively.</p> <p><b>Impact of the Fishery on the Ecosystem</b></p> <p>Although the direct impact of Norway Pout fishery on ETP species (such as seabirds) is not fully known, it is recognised that it is important to ensure that the stock remains at a sufficiently high level to provide food for a variety of predator species. In addition to concerns about reproductive capacity, this is one reason why in 2005, when the stock estimates were low, no TAC was set and the fishery was effectively closed.</p>		Medium
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

		<p><b>PET Species</b></p> <p>Harbour (Phoca vitulina) and grey seals (Halichoerus grypus), minke whales (Balaenoptera acutorostrata), harbour porpoises (Phocoena phocoena), and white-beaked dolphins (Lagenorhynchus albirostris) 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>Habitat</b></p> <p>Habitat effects are 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. The risk of ghost fishing by lost gear is also 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>Determination: Norway has a robust system of sanctions in place for those violating laws, regulations, quotas and international agreements.</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>There is a full list of Norwegian fisheries regulations available at <a href="http://www.fiskeridir.no/english/fisheries/regulations">http://www.fiskeridir.no/english/fisheries/regulations</a></p>		HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

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	<p><b>Black list of vessels</b></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.</p> <p>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> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Refusal of a licence to fish/ trans-ship in the Norwegian Economic Zone and the Fishery Zone around Jan Mayen.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Refusal of being registered as a fishing vessel under Norwegian flag.</p>		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	e.ii A management system for fisheries control and enforcement should be established.	References	Rating
LOW	<p><b>Determination: <i>Norway has a robust system for the management of fisheries control and enforcement.</i></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, checking their catch against their log books, and checking they are licensed.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>		HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

	<p>transponders that makes it possible to track their activity 24 hours a day all around the year.</p> <p>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. 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><b>Cooperation between the affected states</b></p> <p>Controlling the fishing on shared fish stocks requires close cooperation between the affected states. Norway currently has co-operative agreements with Russia, Iceland, England, Ireland, Scotland, Sweden, Denmark, Faroe Islands, Netherlands, Germany, Portugal, Canada and Poland. Also the Directorate of Fisheries inspects activities on the fishing grounds.</p>		
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## REFERENCES

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