

NORWAY NORTH SEA DEMERSAL FISHERIES – COMPONENT COD: SUSPENSION

CLIENT ACTION PLAN – 12TH DECEMBER 2019

The Norwegian Fishermen's Association (NFA) refers to the DNV GL expedited audit report of 24.09.2019 for the Norway North Sea demersal fisheries – component cod.

In light of the June 2019 ICES advice for the North Sea Cod stock, PI 1.1.1 was rescored to below 60, placing the cod component of the fishery in suspension. SSB was regarded to be unlikely to be above Blim. It should be noted that this is somewhat adjusted in the November advice, but it is our understanding that the main conclusions remain.

As the Norwegian share of the North sea cod stock is small, Norway's direct influence on NS cod SSB is limited, and NFA's direct influence is obviously even more so. Two conditions were already placed on the fishery under P1, related to rebuilding the stocks. The goals of these conditions coincide fully with the steps necessary to lift the suspension of the certificate. NFA has worked actively with these conditions and they are on target, albeit so far not at all with the desired results.

NFA is an active stakeholder partner with management authorities in questions regarding North Sea fisheries. This includes ongoing consultations and hearings, participation at regulatory meetings and as participants to international quota negotiations. NFA is also a part of the Norwegian delegation to the EU-Norway meetings. NFA will, in this context, remain in support of the continued rebuilding of North Sea cod and exploitation at FMSY or objective consistent with MSC objectives, until the stock is at a level where it can be scored at 80 or above on PI 1.1.1 a & b) within the present certification period ending 23rd October 2024.

NFA will report any relevant results or other information to DNV GL as they emerge and at scheduled surveillance audits.

Med vennlig hilsen

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