

Dear partner with ling, tusk, and/or lumpfish in your portfolio,

We are writing to inform you that the fisheries *NFA Norway ling & tusk* and *NFA Norway lumpfish* have received a suspension notice of their MSC certificate from their Conformity Assessment Body (CAB), DNV. The suspension will be effective from **20 July 2025**, i.e., 30 days after the notice was issued on **20 June 2025**.

As a result, fish caught from and including 20 July 2025 will no longer meet the MSC standard requirements and cannot carry the blue MSC ecolabel nor be sold as MSC certified.

The suspension applies to the following species and areas:

- **Tusk (*Brosme brosme*)**: ICES areas I, II, IV, and VI; all gear types under the certificate
- **Ling (*Molva molva*)**: ICES areas I and II; all gear types
- **Lumpfish (*Cyclopterus lumpus*)**: ICES areas I and II; all gear types

The suspension follows the unfortunate failure to meet seven conditions by the deadline for this year's audit. Six of these have been delayed for two consecutive years. The outstanding issues include:

- Lack of formal harvest control rules for ling and tusk
- Inadequate documentation of non-commercial bycatch, including seabirds

DNV has concluded that there is insufficient basis to consider the conditions closed.

Fish caught up to and including **19 July 2025** may still be sold as MSC certified, provided that all MSC Chain of Custody requirements are met and catch dates can be documented.

The fishery now has 90 days to submit a corrective action plan to address the causes of the suspension. If such a plan is submitted and approved by the CAB, the suspension will remain in place until the issues are fully resolved. If no approved plan is submitted within the deadline, the MSC certificate will be withdrawn.

Alternatives for scouring for certified Tusk, Ling and Lumpfish can be found from these fisheries:

1. FISF – Faroe Islands Demersal Fishery

Species: Tusk (=Cusk) (*Brosme brosme*)

Catch Area: 27 (Atlantic, Northeast)

- UoC-1690 Hooks and lines – Handlines and pole-lines (hand-operated)
- UoC-1688 Trawls – Bottom trawls – Pair trawls

- UoC-1689 Hooks and lines – Longlines

2. Greenland Lumpfish Fishery

Species: Lumpfish (=Lumpsucker) (*Cyclopterus lumpus*)

Catch Area: 21 (Atlantic, Northwest)

- UoC-1088 Gillnets

3. ISF – Iceland Multi-species Demersal Fishery

Catch Area: 27 (Atlantic, Northeast)

This fishery supplies both ling and tusk

- Ling (*Molva molva*)
 - UoC-1883 Trawls – Bottom trawls
 - UoC-1884 Trawls – Bottom trawls – Nephrops trawls
 - UoC-1885 Seine nets – Boat or vessel seines – Danish seines
 - UoC-1886 Gillnets
 - UoC-1887 Hooks and lines – Longlines
 - UoC-1888 Hooks and lines – Handlines and pole-lines (mechanized)
- Tusk (=Cusk) (*Brosme brosme*)
 - UoC-1913 Trawls – Bottom trawls
 - UoC-1914 Trawls – Bottom trawls – Nephrops trawls
 - UoC-1915 Seine nets – Boat or vessel seines – Danish seines
 - UoC-1916 Gillnets
 - UoC-1917 Hooks and lines – Longlines
 - UoC-1918 Hooks and lines – Handlines and pole-lines (mechanized)

If you have any questions regarding the suspension or are looking for alternative sources of tusk, ling, or lumpfish, please don't hesitate to contact us – we would be happy to schedule a meeting or call.