

MarinTrust RS V2.0



BYPRODUCT FISHERY ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE REPORT

MarinTrust Ltd, Unit C, Printworks, 22 Amelia Street, London, SE17 3BZ, United Kingdom

TABLE 1 APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Blue Mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO Area 27 Northeast Atlantic
	Country of origin of the product:	UK & Ireland
	Stock:	ICES Areas 6.a, 7.a, 7.b, 7.g, and 7.j
Date	February 2021	
Report Code	231-2020	
Assessor	Virginia Polonio	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	UK & Ireland	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Name: Pelagia UK & Ireland			
Address:			
Country: UK & Ireland		Zip:	
Tel. No.:		Fax. No.:	
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Key Contact:		Title:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Virginia Polonio	Geraldine Criquet	0.5	SURV 2
Assessment Period	February 2021		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Blue Mussel <i>Mytilus edulis</i>
Stock	ICES Areas 6.a, 7.a, 7.b, 7.g, and 7.j
Fishery Location	FAO Area 27 Northeast Atlantic
Management Authority (Country/ State)	DAFM (Ire), MMO (UK), MS (Scotland)
Gear Type(s)	Ropes, Bottom dredge
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor's recommendation
Recommendation	APPROVED

TABLE 2. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

Assessment Determination
<p>If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as MARINTRUST raw material. Blue mussel does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, nor does it appear in the CITES appendices; therefore, Blue mussel is eligible for approval for use as MARINTRUST raw material.</p> <p>With enhanced catch-and-grow (CAG) bivalve fisheries, management is not based on reference points or the concept of managing stock size.</p> <p>Implicit within the management objectives for the seed mussel fishery is that the seed mussel beds are essentially ephemeral and so harvesting of seed mussel is considered highly unlikely to have any consequence for mussel population size. The strategy is therefore to manage the seed mussel fishery, and not to manage the mussel stock, and so conventional stock assessments with target and limit reference points are not appropriate in this fishery.</p> <p>In the rope grown fishery under assessment larvae are captured on ropes and on-grown in favourable areas. Instead of immediate removal of animals from the system, survivorship is improved through the provision of substrate and better growing conditions (i.e. through a reduction in the rate of natural mortality). In the end, this process may actually contribute to increasing stock size and biomass instead of reducing it.</p> <p>Removals by the fishery under assessment are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible; therefore, the stock PASSES Clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Blue mussel in ICES Areas 6.a, 7.a, 7.b, 7.g, and 7.j is APPROVED by the assessor for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the MarinTrust v 2.0 by-products standard.</p>
Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly blue mussel in ICES Areas 6.a, 7.a, 7.b, 7.g, and 7.j as category C, the stock is managed.</p> <p>Implicit within the management objectives for the seed mussel fishery is that the seed mussel beds are essentially ephemeral and so harvesting of seed mussel is considered highly unlikely to have any consequence for mussel population size.</p> <p>In the rope grown fishery under assessment larvae are captured on ropes and on-grown in favourable areas and survivorship is improved through the provision of substrate and better growing conditions.</p> <p>Therefore, removals by the fishery under assessment are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible; therefore, blue mussel in ICES Areas 6.a, 7.a, 7.b, 7.g, and 7.j is approved.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
Empty space for on-site auditor notes

SPECIES CATEGORISATION

NB: If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in CITES Appendix 1, it **cannot** be approved for use as an MARINTRUST raw material.

IUCN Redlist Category

Byproduct material from a species listed by IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature) under the Red List for the following categories shall immediately fail the assessment;

- EXTINCT (E) AND EXTINCT IN THE WILD (EW)
- CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR) facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.
- ENDANGERED (EN) facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

Byproduct material may be used from the following categories provided that all clauses in the MarinTrust standard are passed.

- VULNERABLE (VU) facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
- NEAR THREATENED (NT) does not qualify for above now, but is close or is likely to qualify for, a threatened category in the near future.
- LEAST CONCERN (LC) Widespread and abundant.
- DATA DEFICIENT (DD) and NOT EVALUATED (NE)

TABLE 3 SPECIES CATEGORISATION TABLE

Common name	Latin name	Stock	Management	Category	IUCN Red List Category ¹	CITES Appendix 1 ²
Blue Mussel	<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	ICES Areas 6.a, 7.a, 7.b, 7.g, and 7.j FAO 27 Northeast Atlantic	DAFM (Ire), MMO (UK), MS (Scotland)	C	LC	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

² <https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

CATEGORY C SPECIES

In a by-product assessment, Category C species are those which are subject to a species-specific management regime and are usually targeted species in fisheries for human consumption.

Clause C1 should be completed for **each** Category C species. If there are no Category C species in the fishery under assessment, this section can be deleted. Where a species fails this Clause, it may be assessed as a Category D species instead, EXCEPT if there is evidence that it is currently below the limit reference point.

Species Name		Blue Mussel, <i>Mytilus edulis</i>	
C1	Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements		
	C1.1	Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, OR are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.	PASS
	C1.2	The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy), OR removals by the fishery under assessment are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.	PASS
Clause outcome:			PASS
<p>C1.1 Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, OR are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.</p> <p>In the fishery under assessment larvae are captured on ropes and on-grown in favourable areas. Instead of immediate removal of animals from the system, survivorship is improved through the provision of substrate and better growing conditions (i.e. through a reduction in the rate of natural mortality). In the end, this process may actually contribute to increasing stock size and biomass instead of reducing it.</p> <p>The active dredging of seed mussel beds prior to relaying is subject to regulation. UK Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) conduct stock assessments within their jurisdictions. In Ireland a 'Bottom Grown Mussel Consultative Forum', an all-Ireland industry advisory body, has been formed. Seed mussel surveys (wild fisheries) are undertaken annually.</p> <p>Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, OR are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible and it PASSES clause C1.1.</p>			
<p>C1.2 The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy), OR removals by the fishery under assessment are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.</p> <p>With enhanced catch-and-grow (CAG) bivalve fisheries, management is not based on reference points or the concept of managing stock size.</p> <p>Implicit within the management objectives for the seed mussel fishery is that the seed mussel beds are essentially ephemeral and so harvesting of seed mussel is considered highly unlikely to have any consequence for mussel population size. The strategy is therefore to manage the seed mussel fishery, and not to manage the mussel stock, and so conventional stock assessments with target and limit reference points are not appropriate in this fishery.</p> <p>In the rope grown fishery under assessment larvae are captured on ropes and on-grown in favourable areas. Instead of immediate removal of animals from the system, survivorship is improved through the provision of substrate and better growing conditions (i.e. through a reduction in the rate of natural mortality). In the end, this process may actually contribute to increasing stock size and biomass instead of reducing it.</p> <p>Based on the above evidence, removals by the fishery under assessment are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.</p> <p>Therefore, the fishery PASSES clause C1.2.</p>			
<p>References</p> <p>http://www.marinespecies.org/photogallery.php?album=1954&pic=34382 Marine Stewardship Council Full Assessment Public Certification Report For Ireland rope grown mussel SAI Global 209pp July 2019 https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/ireland-rope-grownmussel/@@assessments</p>			

Gosling, E. M. (ed.) 1992. The mussel, Mytilus: ecology, physiology, genetics and culture. Amsterdam: Elsevier Science Publications.

Links

MARINTRUST Standard clause	1.3.2.2
FAO CCRF	7.5.3
GSSI	D.3.04, D5.01

SOCIAL CRITERION

In addition to the scored criteria listed above, applicants must commit to ensuring that vessels operating in the fishery adhere to internationally recognised guidance on human rights. They must also commit to ensuring there is no use of enforced or unpaid labour in the fleet(s) operating upon the resource.

Appendix B: From MARINTRUST Standard V2.0 Annex 2: Fish By-product Assessment Methodology

Definition of a Fish By-product

A by-product is a useful and marketable product that is not the primary product being produced. A marketable by-product is from a process that can technically not be avoided. This includes materials that may be traditionally defined as waste such as industrial scrap that is subsequently used as a raw material in a different manufacturing process.

"Fish By-products" refers to commodities that are manufactured from fish, including shellfish, and crustaceans in a form that is different than conventional foods and which are intended for human consumption (either directly or as a food ingredient). Fish By-products include, but are not limited to:

- By-products derived from fish, including fish cartilage, fish oils, and fish proteins; and
- By-products derived from the carapaces of crustaceans; but do not include marine plants or marine plant products.

(Canadian Food Inspection Agency Definition)

In addition, a whole fish which is rejected on an intrinsic quality ground e.g. does not meet the specification for human consumption due to physical damage or the quality is substandard. These whole fish shall in these cases be classified as a by-product from the human consumption fishery, and can be used for marine ingredients production.

A whole catch of fish that is rejected by a fish processing factory on economic grounds is not considered to be a fish by-product. This fish can only be used for marine ingredients production if the fishery has been assessed and approved under the requirements of the IFFO Responsible Sourcing Standard.

Why utilise Fish By-products?

FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

General Principles Article 6

6.7 The harvesting, handling, processing and distribution of fish and fishery products should be carried out in a manner which will maintain the nutritional value, quality and safety of the products, reduce waste and minimize negative impacts on the environment.

Responsible fish utilisation Article 11.1

11.1.8 States should encourage those involved in fish processing, distribution and marketing to reduce post-harvest losses and waste.

Benefits of Including Fish By-Products in the MARINTRUST Standard:

1. Improved fish resource utilisation
2. Reduction in waste for nutritional value
3. 35% of fish by-products are currently used to make quality fishmeal and oil
4. Excellent Economic return
5. Better compliance with FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

What Fish By-products cannot be used?

1. IUCN

Fishery By-products shall Not be taken from a species listed by IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature) under the Red List for certain categories;

- EXTINCT (E) AND EXTINCT IN THE WILD (EW)
- CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR) facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.
- ENDANGERED (EN) facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

Fish By-product material may be used from the vulnerable category, but it shall incur a fishery surveillance conducted by the certification body prior to it being included in the scope of this standard.

- VULNERABLE (VU) facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

The Fish By-product material from these species will be acceptable for use in the scope of this standard;

- NEAR THREATENED (NT) does not qualify for above now, but is close or is likely to qualify for, a threatened category in the near future.
- LEAST CONCERN (LC) Widespread and abundant.

Fish By-product material may be used from the following category, but it shall incur a fishery surveillance prior to it being included in the scope of this standard;

- DATA DEFICIENT (DD) and NOT EVALUATED (NE)

The fishery surveillance conducted by the certification body will review the following areas:

Stock Assessment

- From a recognised Institution
- Fisheries are recognised as legal
- Fisheries do not contradict scientific opinion

2. FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

In addition the Fish By-products shall not come from fisheries that do not comply with the following criteria;

1. Fisheries should prohibit dynamiting, poisoning and other comparable destructive fishing practices.
2. Fishery material shall not be from IUU fishing activity nor sourced from vessels officially listed as engaging in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activity.

Sources of Information

1. Food Standards Agency
2. Canadian Food Inspection Agency
3. DEFRA
4. GAA Feed mill BAP standard
5. EU Commission

6. IUCN