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:**	Sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*)
	Geographical area:	ATLANTIC, NORTHEAST (Major Fishing Area 27)
	Country of origin of the product:	France
	Stock:	Sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) in divisions 4.b–c, 7.a, and 7.d–h (central and southern North Sea, Irish Sea, English Channel, Bristol Channel, and Celtic Sea)
Date	December 2020	
Report Code	2020-248	
Assessor	Vito Romito	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	France	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	No	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Name:			
Address:			
Country:		**Zip:**	
Tel. No.:		**Fax. No.:**	
Email address:		**Applicant Code:**	
Key Contact:		**Title:**	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:			
Assessor	**Peer Reviewer**	**Assessment Days**	**Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval**
Vito Romito	Géraldine Criquet	0.5	Initial
Assessment Period	2020		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*)
Stock	Sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) in divisions 4.b–c, 7.a, and 7.d–h (central and southern North Sea, Irish Sea, English Channel, Bristol Channel, and Celtic Sea)
Fishery Location	ATLANTIC, NORTHEAST (Major Fishing Area 27)
ManagementAuthority (Country/ State)	EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture (DPMA
Gear Type(s)	All
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor's determination

Recommendation	Approve

TABLE 2. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

Assessment Determination
Seabass is listed as of least concern on IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and is not listed by CITES (accessed 15.12.20). Seabass is subject to species-specific management and yearly stock assessment (by ICES) in Division 4.b–c, 7.a, and 7.d–h and therefore this stock area is assessed under clause C. The species is managed under the EU Common Fisheries Policy and more specifically, under the multiannual plan (MAP) for Western Waters and adjacent waters. Monitoring, control and surveillance in the fishery is conducted by the EU member states through their national enforcement bodies. The EU Commission conducts controls by dispatching Community inspectors to check on member states´ control activities and to ensure that EU rules are being followed. The European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), established in 2005, coordinates the EU member state's fisheries control and inspection activities and provides assistance in the application of the CFP. The stock passed the requirement of Category 3 stocks and shall be granted continued approval against the Marin Trust standard.
Peer Review Comments
The assessor correctly classified the seabass in divisions 4.b–c, 7.a, and 7.d–h (central and southern North Sea, Irish Sea, English Channel, Bristol Channel, and Celtic Sea) as category C species as the stock is subject to specific management regime. The stock is assessed and stock status is assessed relative to reference points. Fisheries removals are considered in the stock assessment. According to the last stock assessment, the spawning stock biomass is currently just above the limit reference point and F has been below F_{MSY} in the recent years. Therefore, the peer reviewer agrees with the assessor’s determination that the fishery passes both C1.1 and C1.2.
Notes for On-site Auditor
None.

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]
Sea bass	*Dicentrarchus labrax*	Sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) in divisions 4.b–c, 7.a, and 7.d–h (central and southern North Sea, Irish Sea, English Channel, Bristol Channel, and Celtic Sea)	Yes	Category C	LC	No

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.

[1] https://www.iucnredlist.org/
[2] https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php

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		**Sea bass in ICES divisions 4.b–c, 7.a, and 7.d–h**	
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:	

Figure 1. ICES Divisions in European Waters.

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.

The is assessed using an age-and length-based analytical assessment (Stock Synthesis 3; NOAA Toolbox). The input to the model included commercial landings (international landings, ages and length frequencies from catch sampling); commercial discards (UK bottom otter trawl and nets and combined French fleet, length frequencies from catch sampling); one recruit survey (UK Solent autumn survey, 1986 to present, excluding 2010 and 2012); one bottom trawl survey (Channel Groundfish Survey, 1988–2014); one commercial tuning fleet (2001 to present); growth and maturity data from sampling of commercial catches and surveys; natural mortality (inferred from life history parameters and maximum observed ages).

Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process. C1.1 is met.

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.

Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has been declining since 2009 and is currently below MSY Btrigger and just above Blim. Fishing mortality (F) has increased over the time-series, peaking in 2013 before a rapid decline to below FMSY. After a period of above average recruitment (R), recruitment is low, fluctuating without trend since 2008.

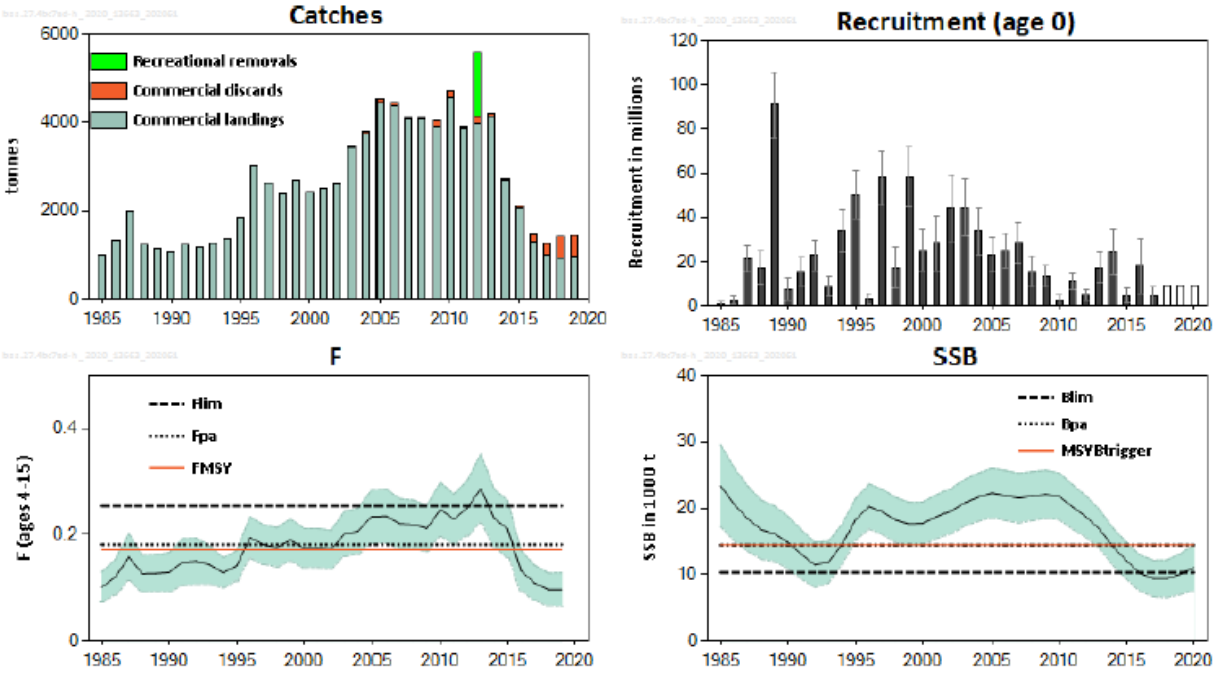

Figure 2. Sea bass in divisions 4.b–c, 7.a, and 7.d–h. Summary of the stock assessment. Survey-estimated recreational removals are only presented for 2012 where the data are available. Discard estimates are available from 2002. Fishing mortality (F) is

shown for the combined commercial and recreational fisheries. Assumed recruitment values are not shaded. Recruitment (R), F, and spawning-stock biomass (SSB) are shown with 95% confidence intervals.

The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point. C1.2 is met.

References

ICES. 2020. Sea bass (Dicentrarchus labrax) in divisions 4.b–c, 7.a, and 7.d–h (central and southern North Sea, Irish Sea, English Channel, Bristol Channel, and Celtic Sea. In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2020. ICES Advice 2020, bss.27.4bc7ad-h. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.5916.

Links. Specified above.

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 A - Determining Resilience Ratings

The assessment of Category B species described in this assessment report template utilises a resilience rating system suggested by the American Fisheries Society. This approach was chosen because it is also used by FishBase, and so the resilience ratings for many thousands of species are freely available online. As described by FishBase, the following is the process used to arrive at the resilience ratings:

"*The American Fisheries Society (AFS) has suggested values for several biological parameters that allow classification of a fish population or species into categories of high, medium, low and very low resilience or productivity (Musick 1999). If no reliable estimate of r_m (see below) is available, the assignment is to the lowest category for which any of the available parameters fits. For each of these categories, AFS has suggested thresholds for decline over the longer of 10 years or three generations. If an observed decline measured in biomass or numbers of mature individuals exceeds the indicated threshold value, the population or species is considered vulnerable to extinction unless explicitly shown otherwise. If one sex strongly limits the reproductive capacity of the species or population, then only the decline in the limiting sex should be considered. We decided to restrict the automatic assignment of resilience categories in the Key Facts page to values of K, t_m and t_{max} and those records of fecundity estimates that referred to minimum number of eggs or pups per female per year, assuming that these were equivalent to average fecundity at first maturity (Musick 1999). Note that many small fishes may spawn several times per year (we exclude these for the time being) and large live bearers such as the coelacanth may have gestation periods of more than one year (we corrected fecundity estimates for those cases reported in the literature). Also, we excluded resilience estimates based on r_m (see below) as we are not yet confident with the reliability of the current method for estimating rm. If users have independent r_m or fecundity estimates, they can refer to Table 1 for using this information*."

Parameter	High	Medium	Low	Very low
Threshold	0.99	0.95	0.85	0.70
r_{max} (1/year)	> 0.5	0.16 - 0.50	0.05 - 0.15	< 0.05
K (1/year)	> 0.3	0.16 - 0.30	0.05 - 0.15	< 0.05
Fecundity (1/year)	> 10,000	100 - 1000	10 - 100	< 10
t_m (years)	< 1	2 - 4	5 - 10	> 10
t_{max} (years)	1 - 3	4 - 10	11 - 30	> 30

[Taken from the FishBase manual, "Estimation of Life-History Key Facts", http://www.fishbase.us/manual/English/key%20facts.htm#resilience]

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