MarinTrust RS V2.0

WHOLEFISH FISHERY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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

Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Name:			
Address:			
Country: U.K. & Ireland		**Zip:**	
Tel. No.		**Fax. No.**	
Email address:		**Applicant Code**	
Key Contact:		**Title:**	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		**Global Trust Certification**	
Assessor Name	**CB Peer Reviewer**	**Assessment Days**	**Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval**
Sam Dignan	Géraldine Criquet	3	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	To April 2021		
Scope Details			
Management Authority (Country/State)		1. United Kingdom 2. Republic of Ireland	
Main Species		Boarfish (*Capros aper*) Stock = boarfish in ICES subareas 6 – 8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay)	
Fishery Location		FAO Area 27 (Atlantic, Northeast)	
Gear Type(s)		Pelagic trawl, pelagic pair trawl	
Outcome of Assessment			
Overall Outcome		Pass	
Clauses Failed		None	
CB Peer Review Evaluation		Agree with the assessor's determination.	
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Group Evaluation		Approved see appendix	
Recommendation		Approved	

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
The fishery under assessment meets the minimum requirements for all applicable Clauses such that products arising from the fishery should be approved for use in MarinTrust approved products.
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The assessor correctly classified the two species in conformity with the Species categorisation requirements. The fishery is managed by the European Union, the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom fishery management system. There is a monitoring, surveillance and control system in place. There is a harvest strategy in place to ensure that stocks are fished at sustainable levels. Data are collected and stocks are assessed. In the most recent stock assessment, the latest estimate the boarfish stock (category A) may be considered above a target reference point of MSY $B_{trigger.}$ In the most recent stock assessment, the mackerel stock (category C) has a biomass above the limit reference point. Given the type of gear, there is no evidence that the fishery impacts significantly habitats. There is no evidence that the fishery has significant negative impacts on ETP species and the ecosystem. Therefore, both stocks should be awarded continued approval for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the IFFO-RS v 2.0 standard.
Notes for On-site Auditor

Table 3 General Results

General Clause	Outcome (Pass/Fail)
M1 - Management Framework	PASS
M2 - Surveillance, Control and Enforcement	PASS
F1 - Impacts on ETP Species	PASS
F2 - Impacts on Habitats	PASS
F3 - Ecosystem Impacts	PASS

Table 4 Species- Specific Results

Category	Species and stock	% landings	Outcome (Pass/Fail)	
Category A	Boarfish (*Capros aper*) in ICES subareas 6 – 8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay)	>95%	A1	PASS
			A2	PASS
			A3	PASS
			A4	PASS
Category B	Not applicable.			
Category C	Mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) in ICES subareas 1 – 8 and 14, and Division 9.a (the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	<5%	PASS	
Category D	Not applicable.			

SPECIES CATEGORISATION

Species should be categorised, and Table 5 completed as fully as the available information permits according to the following requirements:

- If a 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 IFFO RS raw material.
- Any species representing more than 0.1% of the annual catch should be listed, along with an estimate of the proportion of the catch each species represents. Species which make up less than 0.1% of landings do not need to be listed.
- Species should be divided into Type 1 and Type 2 as follows:
  - **Type 1 Species** which make up the bulk of annual landings and can be considered the 'target' or 'main' species in the fishery. Cumulatively, Type 1 Species must represent 95% of the total annual catch. Type 1 species must then be further sub-divided as follows:
    - **Category A:** Type 1 species with a species-specific management regime in place.
    - **Category B:** Type 1 species with no species-specific management regime in place.
  - **Type 2 Species** which make up a small proportion of the annual landings up to a cumulative maximum of 5% of the annual catch and can be considered the 'non-target' species in the fishery. Type 2 species must then be further sub-divided as follows:
    - **Category C:** "Non-target" species with a species-specific management regime in place.
    - **Category D:** "Non-target" species with no species-specific management regime in place
- ETP species are considered separately, irrespective of their % occurrence in the catch, where ETP species:
  - appear in the CITES appendices, or
  - are categorised by the IUCN as Endangered or Critically Endangered.

Information on the bycatch of other species in the boarfish fishery is sparse, though thought to be minimal. According to Oskarsson *et al*., 2019[1], the boarfish fishery targets dense shoals of boarfish from September to March and, while catches are generally free from bycatch from September to February, anecdotal evidence suggests that mackerel and boarfish are caught in mixed aggregations from March onwards. In any case, the fishery generally ceases at this time.

In order to mitigate potential bycatch of other TAC species in the boarfish fishery, a closed season is in place from 15 March to 31 August, to prevent bycatches of mackerel while ICES Division 7.g. is also closed from 1 September to 31 October, in order to prevent catches of Celtic Sea herring, which is known to form feeding aggregations in this region at these times. Finally, if catches of a species covered by a TAC, other than boarfish, amount to more than 5% of the total catch by day by ICES statistical rectangle, then fishing must cease in that rectangle for 5 days.

Given the characteristics of the fishery (i.e. targeting generally homogenous shoals of boarfish) above *a priori* approach to avoiding bycatch, it is likely that only small quantities of mackerel are bycaught in the fishery in sufficient quantities (≥0.1% of total landing) to warrant further consideration here.

Table 5 Species Categorisation Table

Common name	Latin name	Stock	IUCN Redlist Category[2]	% of landings	Management	Category
Boarfish	*Capros aper*	Boarfish in ICES subareas 6 – 8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay)	Least Concern	>95%	Species-specific management regime in place	A
Mackerel	*Scomber scombrus*	Mackerel in ICES subareas 1 – 8 and 14, and Division 9.a (the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	Least Concern	<5%	Species-specific management regime in place	C

[1] Oskarsson, GJ (ed.), Aldrin, M, Bal, G, Berge, B, Beukhof, E D, Björnsson, H, Brunel, T, Burns, F, Campbell, A, Campbell, N, Carrera, P, Costas, G, Dubroca, L, Egan, A, Eliasen, S, Gonçalves, P, Højnes, Å, Homrum, EÍ, Jacobsen, JA, Jansen, T, Jensen, GH, Krysov, A, Lambert, G, Nash, R, Nøttestad, L, O´Hea , B, Olafsdottir, AH, Orio, A, Óskarsson, GJ, Pastoors, M, Pronyuk, A, Readdy, L, Salthaug, A, Sanchez, S, Slotte, A, Sparrevohn, CR, Stenevik, EK, Timoshenko , N, Ulleweit, J, Vasilye, D, Vatnehol, S & Vinther, M (2019), *Working Group on Widely Distributed Stocks (WGWIDE)*. ICES Scientific Report, no. 36, vol. 1, International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5574

[2] IUCN Red List: https://www.iucnredlist.org/

MANAGEMENT

The two clauses in this section (M1, M2) relate to the general management regime applied to the fishery under assessment. The clauses should be completed by providing sufficient evidence to justify awarding each of the requirements a pass or fail rating. A fishery must meet all the minimum requirements in every clause before it can be recommended for approval.

M1	Management Framework – Minimum Requirements		
	M1.1	There is an organisation responsible for managing the fishery.	PASS
	M1.2	There is an organisation responsible for collecting data and assessing the fishery.	PASS
	M1.3	Fishery management organisations are publicly committed to sustainability.	PASS
	M1.4	Fishery management organisations are legally empowered to take management actions.	PASS
	M1.5	There is a consultation process through which fishery stakeholders are engaged in decision-making.	PASS
	M1.6	The decision-making process is transparent, with processes and results publicly available.	PASS
		Clause outcome:	PASS

M1.1 There is an organisation responsible for managing the fishery.

There are various organisations responsible for managing the boarfish fishery including the European Union and National Authorities in Ireland and the United Kingdom.

European Union (EU)

For EU Member States, fisheries policy is an exclusive competence of the EU which is exercised through the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The CFP sets rules, negotiated and agreed between Member States, that give European fishing fleets equal access to EU waters, allowing them to compete fairly while conserving fish stocks for the future and ensures that the interests of fishermen, fishing communities, the marine environment and consumers of fish products in EU member states are supported.

Republic of Ireland

As an EU Member State, the Republic of Ireland is subject to the revisions of the CFP. The Sea-Fisheries Policy & Management Division of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)[3] is responsible for the strategic, economic and sustainable development of the seafood sector, as well as the broad regulation of it, within the framework of the Common Fisheries Policy, the Sea-fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 and the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2003. The Division's overall goal is to implement national policies, negotiated within the Common Fisheries Policy,

United Kingdom

Fisheries management in the United Kingdom involves numerous different authorities and organisations. A summary of each party, including who is responsible for what, and how they interact with each other is provided here.

In brief, DEFRA is responsible for broad oversight of UK fisheries policy and governance. Fisheries management is carried out by the devolved fisheries administrations: the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in England, Marine Scotland in Scotland, DAERA in Northern Ireland, and the Welsh Government in Wales. Each home nation authority manages the distribution of quota between Producer Organisations (POs), non-sector vessels and under-10m vessels. Inshore fisheries are principally managed by regional bodies in England and Scotland (IFCAs and RIFGs, respectively), in contrast to Wales and Northern Ireland where a more centralised approach is taken. The main functions of these organisations are explained below.

Defra (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)[4]

[3] https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation/department-of-agriculture-food-and-the-marine/

[4] https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs

M1	Management Framework – Minimum Requirements		
	M1.1	There is an organisation responsible for managing the fishery.	PASS
	M1.2	There is an organisation responsible for collecting data and assessing the fishery.	PASS
	M1.3	Fishery management organisations are publicly committed to sustainability.	PASS
	M1.4	Fishery management organisations are legally empowered to take management actions.	PASS
	M1.5	There is a consultation process through which fishery stakeholders are engaged in decision-making.	PASS
	M1.6	The decision-making process is transparent, with processes and results publicly available.	PASS
		Clause outcome:	PASS

Defra is the government department responsible for UK fisheries policy, which the MMO and devolved authorities then put into practice including shaping the UK government's fisheries policy, apportioning quotas amongst UK fisheries administrations, liaising with Parliament on fisheries matters and leading the UK's discussion of fisheries matters with the EU.

MMO (Marine Management Organisation)[5]
The MMO's function is to promote sustainable marine development in England's waters. It does this by *inter alia* overseeing allocation of quota to English vessels/Producer Organisations (POs), issuing licenses to English fishing vessels, coordinating enforcement of fishing regulations in English waters, administering financial penalties for non-compliance. The MMO is the lead fisheries authority between 6 and 12 nautical miles offshore for England.
Marine Scotland[6]
Marine Scotland is a ministry under the jurisdiction of the Scottish Government. Marine Scotland leads on monitoring and enforcement for Scottish vessels and Scottish waters including overseeing quota allocations for Scottish vessels/POs, licencing and management of Scottish fishing vessels, monitoring and enforcement of marine laws in Scottish waters, undertaking scientific research and providing advice to the Scottish government.

DAERA (Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs)[7]
DAERA is the Northern Irish governmental department principally responsible for Northern Ireland's waters, including quotas, monitoring and enforcement. Amongst other things, DAERA oversees quota allocation for Northern Irish vessels /POs, licences Northern Irish fishing vessels, monitors and enforces legislation in Northern Irish waters and manages Northern Irish inshore fisheries through its Inshore and Environment Branch.

Welsh Government[8]
The Welsh Government takes a centralised approach to fisheries management including overseeing the allocation of quotas to Welsh vessels/POs, licencing Welsh fishing vessels, monitoring and enforcing legislation in Welsh waters and managing Welsh inshore fisheries, supported by the Welsh Marine Fisheries Advisory Group.

As there are organisations responsible for managing fisheries in the various jurisdictions under consideration here, **the fishery passes Clause M1.1**.

M1.2 There is an organisation responsible for collecting data and assessing the fishery.
As with fisheries management organisations, various organisations at both National and International levels, are responsible for collecting data and assessing the boarfish fishery.

Republic of Ireland

[5] https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/marine-management-organisation
[6] https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine
[7] https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/
[8] https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine

M1	Management Framework – Minimum Requirements		
	M1.1	There is an organisation responsible for managing the fishery.	PASS
	M1.2	There is an organisation responsible for collecting data and assessing the fishery.	PASS
	M1.3	Fishery management organisations are publicly committed to sustainability.	PASS
	M1.4	Fishery management organisations are legally empowered to take management actions.	PASS
	M1.5	There is a consultation process through which fishery stakeholders are engaged in decision-making.	PASS
	M1.6	The decision-making process is transparent, with processes and results publicly available.	PASS
		Clause outcome:	PASS

In Ireland, the primary provider of scientific information and advice at the national level is the Marine Institute with the annual assessment of boarfish spawning aggregations, the Western European Shelf Pelagic Acoustic Survey (WESPAS), being undertaken by the Institute's Fisheries Ecosystems Advisory Services (FEAS) section.

United Kingdom
In the UK, organisations responsible for collecting data include the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), the Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and Marine Scotland.

ICES
The stock is assessed by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)[9], an intergovernmental marine science organisation based in Copenhagen, Denmark comprising 20 member countries including the UK and Ireland. ICES provides impartial evidence on the state and sustainable use of marine resources in the ICES area of competence which includes *inter alia* the North Atlantic and the North Sea.

Overall, as there are organisations responsible for collecting data and assessing the boarfish fishery, **the fishery passes Clause M1.2**.

M1.3 Fishery management organisations are publicly committed to sustainability.

Republic of Ireland
The strategic goal of DAFM in respect of the Irish seafood industry is to deliver a **sustainable**, growth driven sector focused on competitiveness and innovation driven by a skilled workforce delivering value added products in line with market demands[10].

United Kingdom
In the United Kingdom, fishery management organisations are publicly committed to sustainability including the MMO whose stated purpose is to protect and enhance the UK's marine environment, and support UK economic growth by enabling **sustainable** marine activities and development[11], Marine Scotland whose responsibilities include *inter alia* promoting **sustainable**, profitable and well-managed fisheries[12] and Northern Ireland's Government Departments and District Councils who have a statutory duty to promote the achievement of sustainable development in the exercise of their functions[13].

Based on the above, fishery management organisations are publicly committed to sustainability such that **the fishery passes Clause M1.3**.

M1.4 Fishery management organisations are legally empowered to take management actions.

[9] Latest boarfish assessment and advice available here: http://www.ices.dk/advice/Pages/Latest-Advice.aspx
[10] https://www.gov.ie/en/policy/04164-marine/
[11] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/901328/mmo_the_next_10_years_web.pdf
[12] https://www.gov.scot/about/how-government-is-run/directorates/marine-scotland/
[13] https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/sustainable-development

M1	Management Framework – Minimum Requirements		
	M1.1	There is an organisation responsible for managing the fishery.	PASS
	M1.2	There is an organisation responsible for collecting data and assessing the fishery.	PASS
	M1.3	Fishery management organisations are publicly committed to sustainability.	PASS
	M1.4	Fishery management organisations are legally empowered to take management actions.	PASS
	M1.5	There is a consultation process through which fishery stakeholders are engaged in decision-making.	PASS
	M1.6	The decision-making process is transparent, with processes and results publicly available.	PASS
		Clause outcome:	PASS

In the UK, the UK Fisheries Act 2020 provides the legal framework for responsible fisheries management in the UK including providing the Devolved Administrations (Scotland and Northern Ireland) with fisheries management powers allowing them to tailor their approaches based on the specific needs of their industries and waters.

The equivalent piece of legislation in Ireland is the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006.

As fishery management organisations are legally empowered to take management actions, **the fishery passes Clause M1.4**.

M1.5 There is a consultation process through which fishery stakeholders are engaged in decision-making.

In each jurisdiction, fishery stakeholders are engaged in decision-making via public consultation processes including:

- Ireland: https://www.gov.ie/en/consultations/?q=marine&sort_by=published_date.
- Northern Ireland: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-development-fisheries-management-measures-marine-protected-areas-mpas-and-establishment.
- Scotland: https://www.gov.scot/publications/?topics=Marine+and+fisheries&publicationTypes=consultation-analysis%3Bconsultation-paper.
- MMO: https://www.gov.uk/search/policy-papers-and-consultations?organisations%5B%5D=marine-management-organisation&parent=marine-management-organisation

As there are a consultation processes in the various jurisdictions under consideration through which fishery stakeholders are engaged in decision-making, **the fishery passes Clause M1.5**.

M1.6 The decision-making process is transparent, with processes and results publicly available.

Decision-making processes are entirely transparent, with the processes and all results publicly available including assessments of stock status and advice arising from said assessments. Examples of the types of documents publicly available are available in the evidence relating to the analysis of Category A and C species below. Overall decision-making processes are transparent, with processes and results publicly available such that **the fishery passes Clause M1.5.**

References

See footnotes.

Links

MARINTRUST Standard clause	1.3.1.1, 1.3.1.2
FAO CCRF	7.2, 7.3.1, 7.4.4, 12.3
GSSI	D.1.01, D.4.01, D2.01, D1.07, D1.04,

M2	Surveillance, Control and Enforcement - Minimum Requirements		
	M2.1	There is an organisation responsible for monitoring compliance with fishery laws and regulations.	PASS
	M2.2	There is a framework of sanctions which are applied when laws and regulations are discovered to have been broken.	PASS
	M2.3	There is no substantial evidence of widespread non-compliance in the fishery, and no substantial evidence of IUU fishing.	PASS
	M2.4	Compliance with laws and regulations is actively monitored, through a regime which may include at-sea and portside inspections, observer programmes, and VMS.	PASS
		Clause outcome:	PASS

As with the overall management framework, surveillance, control and enforcement is within the remit of various parties within the EU, the Republic of Ireland as an EU Member State, and the United Kingdom including its devolved administrations.

M2.1 There is an organisation responsible for monitoring compliance with fishery laws and regulations.
European Union and the Republic of Ireland
The European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) is a European Union agency whose mission is to promote the highest common standards for control, inspection and surveillance under the CFP. EFCA's primary role is to organise coordination and cooperation between national control and inspection activities so that the rules of the CFP are respected and applied effectively.

In practice, organisational responsibility for monitoring compliance with fishery laws and regulations is carried out by the Member States' control authorities. In the Republic of Ireland this control authority is the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)[14]. The SFPA derives additional support from the Irish Naval Service and the Air Corps in providing at sea surveillance and on board inspections via a service level agreement between the Irish Department of Defence and the SFPA.

The United Kingdom and its Devolved Administrations
With the UK having left the EU, the CFP no longer applies in UK waters. Here bodies responsible for control and enforcement in the individual states are the MMO in England and Wales, Marine Scotland in Scotland and the Fisheries and Environment Division in Northern Ireland.

Based on the above, there are organisations in each jurisdiction responsible for monitoring compliance with fishery laws and regulations such that **the fishery passes Clause M2.1.**

M2.2 There is a framework of sanctions which are applied when laws and regulations are discovered to have been broken.
European Union and the Republic of Ireland
To ensure that fishing rules are applied equitably in member countries, and to harmonise the way similar infringements are sanctioned, the EU has established a list of serious infringements of the rules of the common fisheries policy. EU Member States must include in their legislation effective, proportionate, and dissuasive sanctions, and ensure that the rules are respected.

Infringements of CFP rules are dealt with by the Member State concerned. In the Republic of Ireland the current framework of sanctions is provided for in the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (No. 8 of 2006).[15].

The United Kingdom and its Devolved Administrations

[14] https://www.sfpa.ie/Who-We-Are/About-Us/Our-Work
[15] http://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC066426

In England and Wales, the MMO is the competent authority with responsibility of enforcement of sanctions and penalties with respect to the prosecution of fishery rules. In Scotland Marine Scotland; in Northern Ireland the Environment, Marine and Fisheries Group are the competent authorities for fisheries and seafood control.

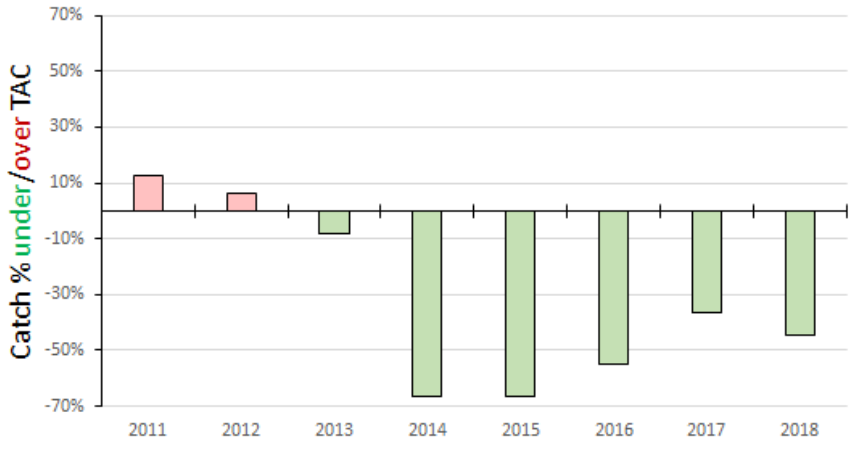
Based on the above, there is a framework of sanctions in each jurisdiction which are applied when laws and regulations are discovered to have been broken such that **the fishery passes Clause M2.1.**

M2.3 There is no substantial evidence of widespread non-compliance in the fishery, and no substantial evidence of IUU fishing.

Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 established a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Through EU Fishery Policy and Regulations, Member States must apply effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions against natural or legal persons engaged in IUU activities. A maximum sanction of at least five times the value of the fishery products obtained is provided for with regard to the committing of the said infringement. In the event of a repeated infringement within a five-year period, the Member States shall impose a maximum sanction of at least eight times the value of the fishery products obtained by committing the serious infringement. There is no substantial evidence of IUU fishing.

In April 2021, after finding that authorities had not taken appropriate measures to address noncompliance including evidence of the manipulation of weighing systems and under-declaration of catches, the European Commission revoked their approval of the Irish control plan for the weighing of fishery products in accordance with Article 61(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009. The decision document[16] also stated that the failure to ensure appropriate weighing puts at risk the accuracy of the data reported that are essential for control purposes and monitoring of the uptake of fishing quotas. Following this decision, Irish fisheries which had previously been permitted to weigh their catch in factories, they likely now will have to be weighed at the quayside.

The above might constitute evidence of widespread non-compliance in Irish fisheries but is likely unrelated to the boarfish fishery since is the fishery is largely not TAC-constrained with catches being substantially below TACs in recent years (Figure 1). Essentially, there is no incentive to underreport boarfish landings because the fishery is substantially less than permitted levels.



[16] European Commission Implementing Decision revoking the approval of the Irish control plan submitted for the weighing of fishery products in accordance with Article 61(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009: https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/20619598-commission-implementing-decision_revoke-61-weighing-after-transport

Figure 1. Boarfish total catches as a % of TACs (2011 – 2018) (Source: Data from ICES, 2019[17]).). Overall, there is no substantial evidence of widespread non-compliance in the fishery, and no substantial evidence of IUU fishing. Such that **the fishery passes Clause M2.3**
M2.4 Compliance with laws and regulations is actively monitored, through a regime which may include at-sea and portside inspections, observer programmes, and VMS. Compliance with laws and regulations in Irish waters is actively monitored, by the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)[18] with additional support from the Irish Naval Service and the Air Corps in providing at sea surveillance and on board inspections via a service level agreement between the Irish Department of Defence and the SFPA. In UK waters compliance with laws and regulations is monitored by the MMO in England and Wales, Marine Scotland in Scotland and the Fisheries and Environment Division in Northern Ireland. Based on the above, compliance with laws and regulations is actively monitored, through regimes which include at-sea and portside inspections, observer programmes and VMS such that **the fishery passes Clause M2.4.**
References See footnotes.
Links

MARINTRUST Standard clause	1.3.1.3
FAO CCRF	7.7.2
GSSI	D1.09

[17] ICES 2019. ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast, Celtic Seas, Greater North Sea, and Oceanic Northeast Atlantic ecoregions. Boarfish (*Capros aper*) in subareas 6 – 8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay): https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2019/2019/boc.27.6-8.pdf

[18] https://www.sfpa.ie/Who-We-Are/About-Us/Our-Work

CATEGORY A SPECIES

The four clauses in this section apply to Category A species. Clauses A1 - A4 should be completed for **each** Category A species. If there are no Category A species in the fishery under assessment, this section can be deleted. A Category A species must meet the minimum requirements of all four clauses before it can be recommended for approval. The clauses should be completed by providing sufficient evidence to justify awarding each of the requirements a pass or fail rating. The species must achieve a pass rating against all requirements to be awarded a pass overall. If the species fails any of these clauses it should be re-assessed as a Category B species.

Species Name		**Boarfish (*Capros aper*) in ICES subareas 6 – 8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay)**	
A1	**Data Collection - Minimum Requirements**		
	A1.1	Landings data are collected such that the fishery-wide removals of this species are known.	PASS
	A1.2	Sufficient additional information is collected to enable an indication of stock status to be estimated.	PASS
		Clause outcome:	PASS

A1.1 Landings data are collected such that the fishery-wide removals of this species are known.

Commercial catches (international landings and discards) are collected and included in the assessment process with Table 7 of the latest ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort for boarfish in ICES subareas 6 – 8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay) (Table 6 below) presenting a history of ICES estimated commercial catches by country as well as estimated discards for the period 2001 – 2018.

Table 6. Boarfish in subareas 6 – 8. History of commercial catch; ICES estimated values are presented by country. All weights are in tonnes (Source: ICES, 2019[19]).

Year	Ireland	Denmark	Scotland	Netherlands	England & Wales	Germany	Spain	Total landings	Estimated discards	Tota
2001	120	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	NA	
2002	91	0	0	0	0	0	0	91	NA	
2003	458	0	0	0	0	0	0	458	10929	
2004	675	0	0	0	0	0	0	675	4476	
2005	165	0	0	0	0	0	0	165	5795	
2006	2772	0	0	0	0	0	0	2772	4365	
2007	17615	0	772	0	0	0	0	18387	3189	
2008	21585	3098	0.45	0	0	0	0	24683	10068	
2009	68629	15059	0	0	0	0	0	83688	6682	
2010	88457	39805	9241	0	0	0	0	137503	6544	1
2011	20685	7797	2813	0	0	0	0	31295	5802	
2012	55949	19888	4884	0	0	0	0	80720	6634	
2013	52250	13182	4380	0	0	0		69812	5598	
2014	34622	8758	38	0	0	0		43418	1813	
2015	16325	29	0	375	104	4		16837	929	
2016	17496	337	0	171	21	7		18031	1284	
2017	15485	548	0	182	0	0		16215	1173	
2018*	9513	94	0	172	0	0	148	9927	1359	

* Provisional.
NA = not available.

As landings data are collected such that the fishery-wide removals of this species are known, **the fishery passes Clause A1.1.**

[19] ICES 2019. ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast, Celtic Seas, Greater North Sea, and Oceanic Northeast Atlantic ecoregions. Boarfish (*Capros aper*) in subareas 6 – 8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay): https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2019/2019/boc.27.6-8.pdf

Species Name		Boarfish (*Capros aper*) in ICES subareas 6 – 8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay)	
A1	**Data Collection - Minimum Requirements**		
	A1.1	Landings data are collected such that the fishery-wide removals of this species are known.	PASS
	A1.2	Sufficient additional information is collected to enable an indication of stock status to be estimated.	PASS
		Clause outcome:	PASS

A1.2 Sufficient additional information is collected to enable an indication of stock status to be estimated.
Aside from the landings data outlined above, sufficient additional information is available in the form of estimates of commercial discards from non-boarfish directed fisheries, acoustic surveys and six bottom-trawl survey indices. All of these data sources feed into a Bayesian Schaefer surplus production model which estimates the relative abundance of the stock which constitutes an indication of stock status. As sufficient additional information is collected to enable an indication of stock status to be estimated, **the fishery passes Clause A1.2.**

References
See footnotes.

Links	
MARINTRUST Standard clause	1.3.2.1.1, 1.3.2.1.2, 1.3.2.1.4, 1.3.1.2
FAO CCRF	7.3.1, 12.3
GSSI	D.4.01, D.5.01, D.6.02, D.3.14

A2	Stock Assessment - Minimum Requirements		
	A2.1	A stock assessment is conducted at least once every 3 years (or every 5 years if there is substantial supporting information that this is sufficient for the long-term sustainable management of the stock), and considers all fishery removals and the biological characteristics of the species.	PASS
	A2.2	The assessment provides an estimate of the status of the biological stock relative to a reference point or proxy.	PASS
	A2.3	The assessment provides an indication of the volume of fishery removals which is appropriate for the current stock status.	PASS
	A2.4	The assessment is subject to internal or external peer review.	PASS
	A2.5	The assessment is made publicly available.	PASS
		Clause outcome:	PASS

A2.1 A stock assessment is conducted at least once every 3 years (or every 5 years if there is substantial supporting information that this is sufficient for the long-term sustainable management of the stock), and considers all fishery removals and the biological characteristics of the species.

The latest assessment of boarfish was published in October 2019 and presented advice for the years 2020 and 2021[20]. The assessment before that was published in September 2017 and presented advice for 2018 and 2019[21] and the one before that was published in September 2016 and presented advice for 2017[22]; therefore, a stock assessment is conducted at least once every 3 years.

Data inputted into the stock assessment includes commercial catches (international landings and discards), acoustic surveys and bottom-trawl survey indices. Assessments also consider proxy catch numbers-at-age for Irish, Danish, Dutch, German and English landings based on commercial length-frequency data. Prior to 2013, the plus group for boarfish was 20+ but this was reduced to 15+ in 2013 due to potential inaccuracy of the age readings of older fish. Therefore, the assessment also considers the biological characteristics of the species.

All-in-all stock assessments are conducted at least once every 3 years which consider all fishery removals as well as the biological characteristics of the species such that **the fishery passes Clause A2.1.**

A2.2 The assessment provides an estimate of the status of the biological stock relative to a reference point or proxy.

There are no reference points defined for this stock for the purpose of managing the fishery; however, the stock assessment model provides an index of the total stock biomass (TSB), which is used as the index of stock development and the latest ICES Working Group on Widely Distributed Stocks (WGWIDE) report[23] states that MSY reference points can be estimated from the parameter values of the assessment. Based on the 2019 assessment, F_{MSY} and MSY $B_{trigger}$ are estimated as 0.168 and 137 kt respectively and status is estimated above and below those values respectively in the terminal year of the assessment.

[20] ICES 2019. ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast, Celtic Seas, Greater North Sea, and Oceanic Northeast Atlantic ecoregions. Boarfish (*Capros aper*) in subareas 6 – 8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay): https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2019/2019/boc.27.6-8.pdf

[21] ICES 2017. Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast, Celtic Seas, Greater North Sea, and Oceanic Northeast Atlantic Ecoregions. Boarfish (*Capros aper*) in subareas 6 – 8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay): https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2017/2017/boc.27.6-8.pdf

[22] ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort Celtic Seas, Greater North Sea, Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast, and Oceanic Northeast Atlantic Ecoregions. Boarfish (*Capros aper*) in subareas 6 – 8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay) https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/boc-nea.pdf

[23] ICES. 2020. Working Group on Widely Distributed Stocks (WGWIDE). ICES Scientific Reports. 2:82. 1019 pp. http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.7475

A2	Stock Assessment - Minimum Requirements		
	A2.1	A stock assessment is conducted at least once every 3 years (or every 5 years if there is substantial supporting information that this is sufficient for the long-term sustainable management of the stock), and considers all fishery removals and the biological characteristics of the species.	PASS
	A2.2	The assessment provides an estimate of the status of the biological stock relative to a reference point or proxy.	PASS
	A2.3	The assessment provides an indication of the volume of fishery removals which is appropriate for the current stock status.	PASS
	A2.4	The assessment is subject to internal or external peer review.	PASS
	A2.5	The assessment is made publicly available.	PASS
		Clause outcome:	PASS

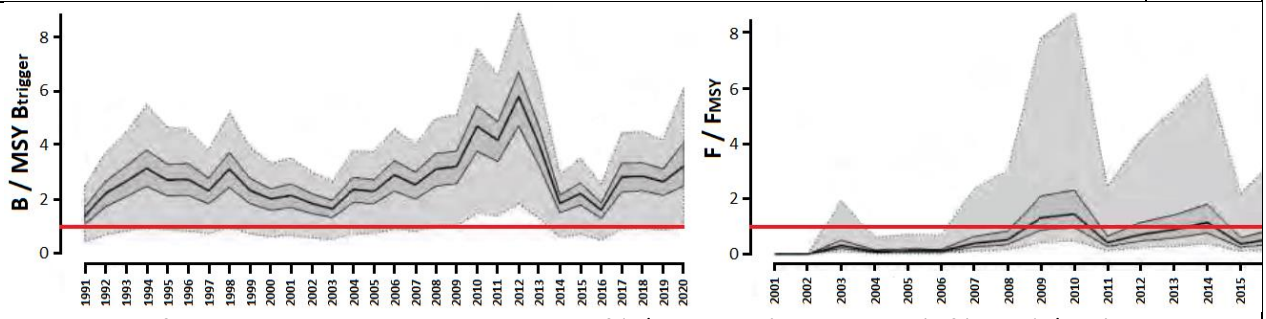


Figure 2. Boarfish in ICES Subareas 27.6, 7, 8. Ratios of 'B/MSY $B_{trigger}$' 1991– 2020 (left) and 'F/F_{MSY}' 2001 – 2019 (right) including 50% and 95% confidence intervals (Source: Modified from ICES 2020).

Overall, the assessment provides an estimate of the status of the stock relative to proxies such that **the fishery passes Clause A2.2.**

A2.3 The assessment provides an indication of the volume of fishery removals which is appropriate for the current stock status.

The ICES advice that follows the stock assessments, provides an indication of the volume of fishery removals which is appropriate for the current stock status in the form of recommended catches in the coming years. In the latest ICES advice[24], advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches should be no more than 19,152 mt in each of 2020 and 2021.

As the assessment provides an indication of the volume of fishery removals which is appropriate for the current stock status, **the fishery passes Clause A2.3.**

A2.4 The assessment is subject to internal or external peer review.

The biomass dynamic model currently used in the stock assessment is based on a benchmarked assessment of megrim in Subdivisions 4 and 6. ICES considers the current basis for the advice on this stock to be an interim measure prior to development of an age-based assessment.

The ICES Working Group on Widely Distributed Stocks (WGWIDE) is an expert group that meets annually to *inter alia* consider update assessments for all stocks within its remit including boarfish and, based on those assessments and associated short term forecasts, produce draft advice as appropriate. The WG additionally audits advice sheets, reports and assessments and updates stock annexes. WGWIDE 2020 was attended by 39 delegates from the Netherlands, Ireland, Spain, Norway, Germany, Portugal, Iceland, UK (England and Scotland), Faroe Islands, France, Denmark, Greenland, Russia and Sweden.

[24] ICES. 2019. Boarfish (*Capros aper*) in subareas 6 – 8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2019. ICES Advice 2019, boc.27.6-8, https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.4880.

A2	Stock Assessment - Minimum Requirements		
	A2.1	A stock assessment is conducted at least once every 3 years (or every 5 years if there is substantial supporting information that this is sufficient for the long-term sustainable management of the stock), and considers all fishery removals and the biological characteristics of the species.	PASS
	A2.2	The assessment provides an estimate of the status of the biological stock relative to a reference point or proxy.	PASS
	A2.3	The assessment provides an indication of the volume of fishery removals which is appropriate for the current stock status.	PASS
	A2.4	The assessment is subject to internal or external peer review.	PASS
	A2.5	The assessment is made publicly available.	PASS
		Clause outcome:	PASS

Overall, the assessment is subject to internal and external peer review such that **the fishery passes Clause A2.4.**

A2.5 The assessment is made publicly available.

Assessments, working group reports and other documents associated with the boarfish stock are all made publicly available via the ICES website (https://www.ices.dk/advice/Pages/Latest-Advice.aspx) such that **the fishery passes Clause A2.5.**

References
See footnotes.

Links	
MARINTRUST Standard clause	1.3.2.1.2, 1.3.2.1.4, 1.3.1.2
FAO CCRF	12.3
GSSI	D.5.01, D.6.02, D.3.14

A3	Harvest Strategy - Minimum Requirements		
	A3.1	There is a mechanism in place by which total fishing mortality of this species is restricted.	PASS
	A3.2	Total fishery removals of this species do not regularly exceed the level indicated or stated in the stock assessment. Where a specific quantity of removals is recommended, the actual removals may exceed this by up to 10% ONLY if the stock status is above the limit reference point or proxy.	PASS
	A3.3	Commercial fishery removals are prohibited when the stock has been estimated to be below the limit reference point or proxy (small quotas for research or non-target catch of the species in other fisheries are permissible).	PASS
		Clause outcome:	PASS

A3.1 There is a mechanism in place by which total fishing mortality of this species is restricted.

The mechanism by which total fishing mortality on the boarfish stock is restricted includes a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the directed boarfish fishery in EU and international waters of ICES subareas 6, 7, and 8 as well as a maximum permitted bycatch of 5% boarfish which is then subtracted from EU quotas for western and North Sea horse mackerel[25].

Therefore, there is a mechanism in place by which total fishing mortality of the stock is restricted such that **the fishery passes Clause A3.1.**

A3.2 Total fishery removals of this species do not regularly exceed the level indicated or stated in the stock assessment. Where a specific quantity of removals is recommended, the actual removals may exceed this by up to 10% ONLY if the stock status is above the limit reference point or proxy.

Stock assessments for boarfish have been indicating appropriate levels of fishery removals since 2012. In the 7 years to date where both an advised catch and actual catches are available (2012 – 2018), actual catch has only exceeded advised catch in 1 year (Table 7).

Table 7. Advised catch, ICES catch and catch over/under advice for Boarfish in ICES subareas 6–8 (2012 – 2018). All weights are in metric tonnes (Source: ICES 2019[26]).

Year	Advised catch	ICES catch	Catch over/under advice
2012	82,000 mt	87,355 mt	+5,355 mt
2013	82,000 mt	75,409 mt	-6,591 mt
2014	133,957 mt	45,231 mt	-88,726 mt
2015	53,296 mt	17,766 mt	-35,530 mt
2016	42,637 mt	19,315 mt	-23,322 mt
2017	27,288 mt	17,388 mt	-9,900 mt
2018	21,830 mt	11,286 mt	-10,544 mt

As total fishery removals from the stock have only exceeded the levels indicated by the stock assessment in 1 of 7 years for which such information is available, it can be said that fishery removals do not regularly exceed recommended levels such that **the fishery passes Clause A3.2.**

A3.3 Commercial fishery removals are prohibited when the stock has been estimated to be below the limit reference point or proxy (small quotas for research or non-target catch of the species in other fisheries are permissible).

[25] EU. 2016. Council Regulation (EU) 2016/72 of 22 January 2016 fixing for 2016 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in Union waters and for Union fishing vessels in certain non-Union waters and amending Regulation (EU) 2015/104. Official Journal of the European Union, L 22: 1–165. http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/72/oj.

[26] ICES. 2019. Boarfish (*Capros aper*) in subareas 6–8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay). *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2019. ICES Advice 2019, boc.27.6-8, https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.4880

A3	Harvest Strategy - Minimum Requirements		
	A3.1	There is a mechanism in place by which total fishing mortality of this species is restricted.	PASS
	A3.2	Total fishery removals of this species do not regularly exceed the level indicated or stated in the stock assessment. Where a specific quantity of removals is recommended, the actual removals may exceed this by up to 10% ONLY if the stock status is above the limit reference point or proxy.	PASS
	A3.3	Commercial fishery removals are prohibited when the stock has been estimated to be below the limit reference point or proxy (small quotas for research or non-target catch of the species in other fisheries are permissible).	PASS
		Clause outcome:	PASS

The management strategy for boarfish aims to achieve sustainable exploitation of boarfish in line with the precautionary approach to fisheries management and states that TACs shall be set depending on ICES advice and in accordance with set procedures for the different ICES stock categories (1 – 6). Boarfish is currently considered a Category 3 stock and as such TACs are advised based on the ICES framework for category 3 stocks (ICES, 2012[27]).

The management strategy includes provisions including:

- If, in the opinion of ICES, the stock is at risk of recruitment impairment, a TAC may be set a lower level than that calculated via the appropriate mechanism (§2)
- If the stock, estimated in either of the 2 years before the TAC is to be set, is at or below B_{lim} or any suitable proxy thereof, the TAC shall be set at 0 mt (§3).
- The TAC shall not exceed 75,000 t in any year (§4).
- The TAC shall not be allowed to increase by more than 25% per year. However, there shall be no limit on the decrease in TAC (§5).

Given that §3 of the boarfish management strategy states that where the stock is estimated B_{lim} (or proxy) the TAC shall be set at 0 mt, it can be said that commercial fishery removals would be prohibited (i.e. zero TAC) were the stock estimated below the limit reference point or proxy; therefore, **the fishery passes Clause A3.3.**

References
See footnotes.

Standard clause 1.3.2.1.3

Links	
MARINTRUST Standard clause	1.3.2.1.3, 1.3.2.1.4
FAO CCRF	7.2.1, 7.22 (e), 7.5.3
GSSI	D3.04, D6.01

[27] ICES. 2012. ICES Implementation of Advice for Data-limited Stocks in 2012 in its 2012 Advice. ICES CM 2012/ACOM:68. 42 pp. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5322.

A4	Stock Status - Minimum Requirements		
	A4.1	The stock is at or above the target reference point, OR IF NOT: The stock is above the limit reference point or proxy and there is evidence that a fall below the limit reference point would result in fishery closure OR IF NOT: The stock is estimated to be below the limit reference point or proxy, but fishery removals are prohibited.	PASS
		Clause outcome:	PASS

A4.1 The stock is at or above the target reference point.

As discussed previously, there are no reference points defined for this stock for the purpose of managing the fishery; however, MSY reference points can be estimated from parameter values of the assessment[28]. Based on the 2019 assessment, MSY $B_{trigger}$ was estimated as 137,000 mt whereas total stock biomass in 2019 was estimated at 347,350 mt (95% confidence limits 206,502 mt – 730,597 mt) (see Figure 2 above).

In the ICES advice framework[29], MSY $B_{trigger}$ is the lower bound of SSB fluctuation around B_{MSY} and is a biomass reference point that triggers a cautious response; therefore, MSY $B_{trigger}$ may be considered as a target reference point for the boarfish stock. As B_{2019}/MSY $B_{trigger}$ = 2.5, as of the latest estimate the stock may be considered above a target reference point of MSY $B_{trigger}$ such that **the fishery passes Clause A4**.

References
See footnotes.

Links

MARINTRUST Standard clause	**1.3.2.1.4**
FAO CCRF	**7.2.1, 7.2.2 (e)**
GSSI	**D6 01**

[28] ICES. 2020. Working Group on Widely Distributed Stocks (WGWIDE). ICES Scientific Reports. 2:82. 1019 pp. http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.7475

[29] https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/1.2_General_context_of_ICES_advice_2013_June.pdf

CATEGORY B SPECIES

There are no Category B species of relevance to the fishery under assessment.

CATEGORY C SPECIES

In a whole fish assessment, Category C species are those which make up less than 5% of landings, but which are subject to a species-specific management regime. In most cases this will be because they are a commercial target in a fishery other than the one under assessment.

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		**Mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) in ICES subareas 1 – 8 and 14, and in ICES Division 9.a (the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)**	
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

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.

Input data for the mackerel stock assessment includes catch data, steel tagging data (1980 – 2006) and RFID tagging data (2014 – 2019), and three survey indices: SSB index from the triennial egg survey (1992–2019), abundance indices from the IBTS survey (combined Q1 and Q4; age 0, 1998–2019), and from the IESSNS survey (ages 3–11, 2010, 2012–2020) and a value for Natural Mortality of 0.15 for all ages and years based on tagging studies from the early-1980s. The assessment additionally includes partial discard estimates.

While mackerel removals in the boarfish fishery are in all likelihood negligible in the context of total mackerel catches that have not been less than 500, 000 mt since the time series began in 1980, where they occur they are included in the stock assessment process; therefore, **the fishery passes Clause C1.1.**

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.

Advice for mackerel is provided based on the MSY approach and a stock assessment that employs an age-based analytical model. A full suite of reference points is available for the mackerel stock including, of relevance here, a limit reference point for biomass of 2 million mt. That limit reference point is based B_{loss} as estimated in the 2019 WGWIDE assessment where B_{loss} refers to the lowest observed value in the time series, coming in this case in 2003.

As of the recent stock assessment[30], SSB_{2020}/B_{lim} (3,681,413 mt/2,000,000 mt) = 1.84 such that the stock is considered to have a biomass above its corresponding limit reference point; therefore, **the fishery passes Clause C1.2.**

References
See footnotes.

Links

MARINTRUST Standard clause	1.3.2.2

[30] ICES. 2020. Mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) in subareas 1–8 and 14, and Division 9.a (the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters). *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2020. ICES Advice 2020, mac.27.nea. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.5907.

FAO CCRF	7.5.3
GSSI	D.3.04, D5.01

CATEGORY D SPECIES

There are no Category D species of relevance to the fishery under assessment.

FURTHER IMPACTS

The three clauses in this section relate to impacts the fishery may have in other areas. A fishery must meet the minimum requirements of all three clauses before it can be recommended for approval.

F1	Impacts on ETP Species - Minimum Requirements		
	F1.1	Interactions with ETP species are recorded.	PASS
	F1.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative effect on ETP species.	PASS
	F1.3	If the fishery is known to interact with ETP species, measures are in place to minimise mortality.	PASS
		Clause outcome:	PASS

F1.1 Interactions with ETP species are recorded.

The ICES Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC) is an ICES expert group that meets annually and reports to the attention of the Advisory Committee. The Terms of Reference for the working group include to review and summarise annual national reports submitted to the European Commission under Regulation 812/2004 and other published documents to collate bycatch rates and estimates in EU waters and wider North Atlantic. The 2019 working group report includes extensive background related to reporting requirements for European fisheries[31]. Interactions with ETP species are recorded such that **the fishery meets Clause F1.1.**

F1.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative effect on ETP species.

The latest evidence of ETP species interactions with pelagic fisheries is available in the 2019 report of the ICES Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC)[32] which includes data to 2017.

For 2017, Ireland reported a total of 33 trips comprising 106 days at sea and 98 hauls as being observed in pelagic trawl fisheries. No cetacean bycatch was observed in pelagic fisheries in 2017. A total of 7 common dolphins have been observed from a total of 1,635 days at sea observed in pelagic trawls since monitoring under EC 812/2004 commenced in 2005. Results to date suggest that the risk of bycatch of cetaceans and other protected species in Irish pelagic trawl fisheries is low.

For the United Kingdom, in 2017, 114 dedicated protected species bycatch monitoring days were conducted during 41 trips on pelagic trawlers. Under other English, Welsh and Northern Irish fishery monitoring programmes 14 days monitoring were also achieved in midwater trawl and line fisheries. No marine mammals were recorded as bycaught in pelagic trawls.

Overall, there is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative effect on ETP species such that **the fishery meets Clause F1.2.**

F1.3 If the fishery is known to interact with ETP species, measures are in place to minimise mortality.

As outlined above, there is no evidence that the fishery has a significant negative effect on ETP species that would require measures to minimise mortality over and above the manner in which the fishery currently operates; therefore, Overall, measures to minimise mortality are not required (because it already appears minimised) such that **the fishery meets Clause F1.3.**

[31] ICES. 2019. Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC). ICES Scientific Reports. 1:51. 163 pp. http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5563.

[32] ICES. 2019. Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC). ICES Scientific Reports. 1:51. 163 pp. http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5563.

References See footnotes.	
Links	
MARINTRUST Standard clause	1.3.3.1
FAO CCRF	7.2.2 (d)
GSSI	D4.04, D.3.08

F2	Impacts on Habitats - Minimum Requirements		
	F2.1	Potential habitat interactions are considered in the management decision-making process.	PASS
	F2.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on physical habitats.	PASS
	F2.3	If the fishery is known to interact with physical habitats, there are measures in place to minimise and mitigate negative impacts.	PASS
		Clause outcome:	PASS

F2.1 Potential habitat interactions are considered in the management decision-making process.

The fishery is conducted only with pelagic trawls which operate entirely in the water column and as such do not impact physical habitats; therefore, it is not necessary that potential habitat interactions are considered by management (because there are none). As there are no potential habitat interactions requiring consideration in management decision-making processes, **the fishery passes Clause F2.1.**

F2.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on physical habitats.

The fishery is conducted only with pelagic trawls which do not impact physical habitats; therefore, there is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on physical habitats such that **the fishery passes Clause F2.2.**

F2.3 If the fishery is known to interact with physical habitats, there are measures in place to minimise and mitigate negative impacts.

As the fishery is known not to interact with physical habitats, this Clause is not applicable such that **the fishery passes Clause F2.3.**

References

Links	
MARINTRUST Standard clause	1.3.3.2
FAO CCRF	6.8
GSSI	D.2.07, D.6.07, D3.09

F3	Ecosystem Impacts - Minimum Requirements		
	F3.1	The broader ecosystem within which the fishery occurs is considered during the management decision-making process.	PASS
	F3.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the marine ecosystem.	PASS
	F3.3	If one or more of the species identified during species categorisation plays a key role in the marine ecosystem, additional precaution is included in recommendations relating to the total permissible fishery removals.	PASS
		Clause outcome:	PASS

F3.1 The broader ecosystem within which the fishery occurs is considered during the management decision-making process.

The broader ecosystem within which the fishery occurs is considered during management decision-making processes as can be seen by Ecosystem considerations section (§3.13) of the most recent ICES Working Group on Widely Distributed Stocks (WGWIDE) report[33]

WGWIDE additionally encourages further work to be carried out on ecosystem considerations linked to widely distributed fish stocks including that close collaboration with the other Integrated Assessment groups within ICES would help in operationalising ecosystem approaches for the widely distributed pelagic stocks assessed by WGWIDE which include boarfish.

Overall, the broader ecosystem within which the fishery occurs is considered during management decision-making processes such that **the fishery passes Clause F3.1.**

F3.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the marine ecosystem.

The ecological role and significance of boarfish in the Northeast Atlantic is largely unknown. However, they have been shown to occupy an important position in the marine food web as a predatory species in Portuguese waters where they consume copepods, mysid shrimp and euphausiids (Macpherson 1979; Fock *et al.* 2002; Lopes *et al.* 2006). There is no evidence that boarfish feed on fish eggs and larvae to the extent that an increase in the abundance of boarfish is likely to affect recruitment of commercial fish species. An increase in the boarfish stock might however increase competition with other widely distributed planktivorous species.

According to WGWIDE, while boarfish appear an unlikely target of predation given their array of strong dorsal and anal fin spines and covering of ctenoid scales, there is evidence (albeit few studies in the Northeast Atlantic) to suggest that they may be an important component of some species' diets. In the Azores, boarfish was found to be one of the most important prey items for tope, thornback ray, conger eel, forkbeard, bigeye tuna, yellowmouth barracuda, swordfish, blackspot seabream, axillary seabream and blacktail comber (Clarke *et al.* 1995; Morato *et al.* 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003; Arrizabalaga *et al.* 2008). Given their frequency in the diets of marine and bird life in the Azores, boarfish appear to be an important component of the marine ecosystem in that region but, given that size and depth distributions of boarfish as well as the availability of other prey species differ between the Azores and the Northeast Atlantic, this does not necessarily follow for the Northeast Atlantic. Overall, there is currently insufficient evidence to suggest that boarfish occupy a similarly important ecosystem role in the Northeast Atlantic

Even were boarfish to occupy an important ecosystem role in the Northeast Atlantic, the current level of removals where and average of 12.3% of total stock biomass was removed annually by directed fishing in the years 2011 – 2018 should ensure sufficient fish remain to fulfil the stocks ecosystem role thereby ensuring significant negative impact on the marine ecosystem do not occur.

[33] ICES. 2020. Working Group on Widely Distributed Stocks (WGWIDE). ICES Scientific Reports. 2:82. 1019 pp. http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.7475

Overall, there is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the marine ecosystem such that **the fishery passes Clause F3.2.**

F3.3 If one or more of the species identified during species categorisation plays a key role in the marine ecosystem, additional precaution is included in recommendations relating to the total permissible fishery removals.

Of the species identified during species categorisation, Atlantic mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) likely plays a key role in the marine ecosystem. The ecosystem role of the mackerel stock accounted for in recommendations relating to total permissible fishery removals from that stock of which removals in the fishery under assessment here are a negligible proportion[34].

For species/stocks identified during species categorisation that play a key role in the marine ecosystem, additional precaution is included in recommendations relating to the total permissible fishery removals of those species/stocks such that **the fishery passes Clause F3.3.**

References

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[34] ICES. 2020. Mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) in subareas 1–8 and 14, and Division 9.a (the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters). *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2020. ICES Advice 2020, mac.27.nea. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.5907.

See also footnotes.	
Links	
MARINTRUST Standard clause	1.3.3.3
FAO CCRF	7.2.2 (d)
GSSI	D.2.09, D3.10, D.6.09

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.

This is not assessed by Global Trust Certification as part of MarinTrust fisheries assessments.

Glossary

Non-target:
Species for which the gear is not specifically set, although they may have immediate commercial value and be a desirable component of the catch. OECD (1996), Synthesis report for the study on the economic aspects of the management of marine living resources. AGR/FI(96)12.

Target:
In the context of fishery certification, the target catch is the catch of stock under consideration by the unit of certification – i.e. the fish that are being assessed for certification and ecolabelling. (GSSI).

Appendix

MarinTrust Fishery Assessment Peer Review Template

This section comprises a summary of the fishery being assessed against version 2 of the MarinTrust Standard.

Fishery under assessment	NE Atlantic Boarfish
Management authority (Country/State)	UK Republic of Ireland
Main species	Boarfish (*Capros aper*) Stock = boarfish in ICES subareas 6 – 8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay)
Fishery location	FAO Area 27 (Atlantic, Northeast)
Gear type(s)	Pelagic trawl, pelagic pair trawl

Summary: in this section, provide any additional information about the fishery that the reviewers feel is significant to their decision.

Assessment looks comprehensive

Summary of Peer Review Outcomes

Peer reviewers should review the fishery assessment report with the primary objective of answering the key questions listed in the table below. Where the situation is more complicated, reviewers may instead answer "See Notes".

	YES	NO	See Notes
A – Fishery Assessment			
1. Has the fishery assessment been fully completed, using the recognised MarinTrust fishery assessment methodology and associated guidance?	Y		
2. Does the Species Categorisation section of the report reflect the best current understanding of the catch composition of the fishery?	Y		
3. Are the scores in the following sections accurate (i.e. do the scores reflect the evidence provided)?	Y		
Section M - Management	Y		
Category A Species	Y		
Category B Species	Y		
Category C Species	Y		
Category D Species	Y		
Section F – Further Impacts	Y		

Detailed Peer Review Justification

Peer reviewers should provide support for their answers in the boxes provided, by referring to specific scoring issues and any relevant documentation as appropriate.

Detailed justifications are only required where answers given are one of the 'No' options. In other (Yes) cases, either confirm 'scoring agreed' or identify any places where weak rationales could be strengthened (without any implications for the scores).

Boxes may be extended if more space is required.

1. Is the scoring of the fishery consistent with the MarinTrust standard, and clearly based on the evidence presented in the assessment report?
Yes

2. Has the fishery assessment been fully completed, using the recognised MARINTRUST fishery assessment methodology and associated guidance?
Generally yes – though referencing could be occasionally clearer rather than just stating 'see footnotes' (e.g. A3)

3. Does the Species Categorisation section of the report reflect the best current understanding of the catch composition of the fishery?
Yes

3M. Are the scores in "Section M – Management" clearly justified?

Yes

3A. Are the "Category A Species" scores clearly justified?
Yes

3B. Are the "Category B Species" scores clearly justified?
Yes

3C. Are the "Category C Species" scores clearly justified?
Yes *Note – that there is no agreement on the TAC for NE Atlantic Mackerel by coastal states, as such catches are exceeding the scientific advice (though this is a moot point for the purpose of this MarinTrust assessment, as agreement on the TAC is not a consideration for Category C stocks)*

3D. Are the "Category D Species" scores clearly justified?
Yes

3F. Are the scores in "Section F – Further Impacts" clearly justified?
Yes

Optional: General comments on the Peer Review Draft Report