



RESPONSIBLE
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IFFO RS
Global Standard for Responsible Supply
of Marine Ingredients

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**Global Standard for
Responsible Supply
of Marine Ingredients**
Fishery Assessment
Methodology and
Template Report V2.0



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Fishery Under Assessment	Plaice <i>Pleuronectes platessa</i> North Sea
Date	March 2020
Assessor	Jim Daly
Stock Pass	ICES Subarea 4, Sub Division 20
Stock Fail	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome				
Name: FF Skagen and others				
Address:				
Country: Denmark		Zip:		
Tel. No.:		Fax. No.:		
Email address:		Applicant Code:		
Key Contact:		Title:		
Certification Body Details				
Name of Certification Body:		SAI Global Ltd		
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval	Whole fish/ By-product
Jim Daly	Vito Romito	0.5	SURV 2	By-product
Assessment Period	2020			

Scope Details	
Management Authority (Country/State)	EU/Common Fisheries Policy
Main Species	Plaice <i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>
Stock:	ICES Subarea 4, Sub Division 20
Fishery Location	North Sea
Gear Type(s)	All compliant gears
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	AGREE
Recommendation	APPROVE

Assessment Determination

If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as IFFO RS raw material. Plaice does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, nor does it appear in CITES appendices; therefore, Plaice is eligible for approval for use as IFFO RS by-product raw material.

One stock forms part of this assessment:

- 1) ICES Subarea 4, Sub Division 20 North Sea

Fishery removals of the stock are considered in the various stock assessment processes so the stock **PASSES** Clause C1.1.

For Plaice in the assessment area the most recent estimated spawning stock biomass (SSB₂₀₂₀ 1,184,762t) is above Blim (207, 288t) and removals are not considered to be negligible therefore, the stock **PASSES** Clause C1.2.

In order to be approved, the stock assessed must pass both Clause C1.1 and C1.2; therefore:

- 1) Plaice is **APPROVED** by SAI Global assessors in the assessment area for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current IFFO RS v 2.0 by-products standard.

Peer Review Comments

Spawning-stock biomass (SSB₂₀₂₀ 1,184,762t) for plaice in the assessment area is well above MSY Btrigger (564,599t) and (BLIM 207, 288t). Accordingly, the reviewer agrees that this stock should be approved for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current IFFO RS v 2.0 by-products standard.

Notes for On-site Auditor

HOW TO COMPLETE THIS ASSESSMENT REPORT

By-products

The process for completing the template for **by-product raw material** is as follows:

1. ALL ASSESSMENTS: Complete the Species Characterisation table with the names of the by-product species and stocks under assessment. The '% landings' column can be left empty; all by-products are considered as Category C and D.
2. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY C BYPRODUCTS UNDER ASSESSMENT: Complete clause C1 for **each** Category C by-product.
3. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY D BYPRODUCTS UNDER ASSESSMENT: Complete Section D.
4. ALL OTHER SECTIONS CAN BE DELETED. Clauses M1 - M3, F1 - F3, and Sections A and B do not need to be completed for a by-product assessment.

By-product approval is awarded on a species-by-species basis. Each by-product species scoring a pass under the appropriate section may be approved against the IFFO RS Standard.

SPECIES CATEGORISATION

The following table should be completed as fully as the available information permits. 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. The species should then be divided into Type 1 and Type 2 as follows:

- **Type 1 Species** can be considered the 'target' or 'main' species in the fishery. They make up the bulk of annual landings and are subjected to a detailed assessment.
- **Type 2 Species** can be considered the 'bycatch' or 'minor' species in the fishery. They make up a small proportion of the annual landings and are subjected to relatively high-level assessment.

Type 1 Species must represent 95% of the total annual catch. Type 2 Species may represent a maximum of 5% of the annual catch (see Appendix B).

Species which make up less than 0.1% of landings do not need to be listed (NOTE: ETP species are considered separately). The table should be extended if more space is needed. Discarded species should be included when known.

The 'stock' column should be used to differentiate when there are multiple biological or management stocks of one species captured by the fishery. The 'management' column should be used to indicate whether there is an adequate management regime specifically aimed at the individual species/stock. In some cases, it will be immediately clear whether there is a species-specific management regime in place (for example, if there is an annual TAC). In less clear circumstances, the rule of thumb should be that if the species meets the minimum requirements of clauses A1-A4, an adequate species-specific management regime is in place.

NOTE: If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it **cannot** be approved for use as an IFFO RS raw material. This applied to whole fish as well as by-products.

TYPE 1 SPECIES (Representing 95% of the catch or more)

Category A: Species-specific management regime in place.

Category B: No species-specific management regime in place.

TYPE 2 SPECIES (Representing 5% OF THE CATCH OR LESS)

Category C: Species-specific management regime in place.

Category D: No species-specific management regime in place.

Common name	Latin name	Stock	% of landings	Management	Category
Plaice	<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	ICES Subarea 4, Sub Division 20	N/A	Denmark/EU	C

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. 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. A Category C species does not meet the minimum requirements of clause C1 should be re-assessed as a Category D species.

Species Name		Plaice <i>Pleuronectes platessa</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	

C1.1

Evidence

This assessment covers PLAICE harvested from the area outlined in **Figure 1**:

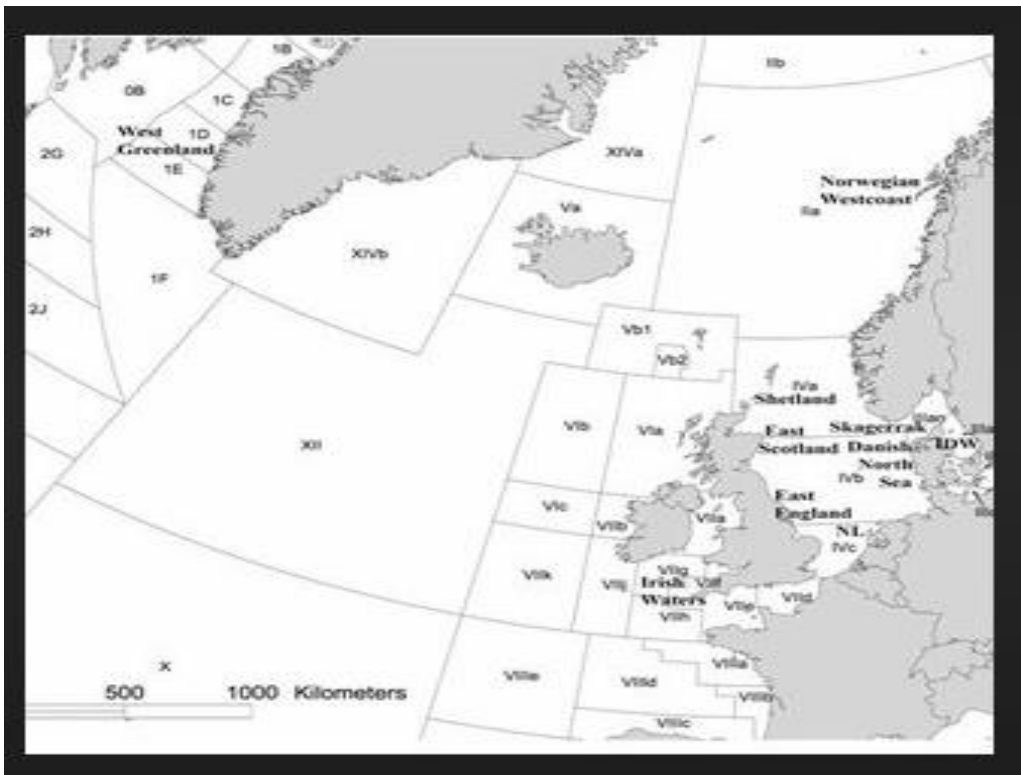


Figure 1: Plaice from the assessment area: ICES Subarea 4, Subdivision 20 (North Sea, eastern English Channel, Skagerrak) **R1**

The stock assessment is an age-structured stock assessment that uses catches in both model and forecast. Input data is derived from commercial catches, age and length frequencies from both port and observer sampling.

Six survey indices are used to generate fishery independent data. Maturity-at-age is assumed constant; natural mortality-at-age is assumed constant at 0.1 year^{-1} . Data from recorded discards, below minimum size (BMS) landings and bycatch from the majority of fleets were included in the assessment.

In 2018, 75% of total discards (Subarea 4) were obtained from sampling programmes. For Subdivision 20, 59% of total discards were obtained from sampling programmes. BMS (Below Minimum Size) landings, where reported, are included with discards as unwanted catch in the assessment from 2016. This stock was last benchmarked in 2017.

C1.2

Evidence

Spawning-stock biomass (SSB_{2020} 1,184,762t) is well above MSY Btrigger (564,599t) and (BLIM 207,288t) **Figure 2:**

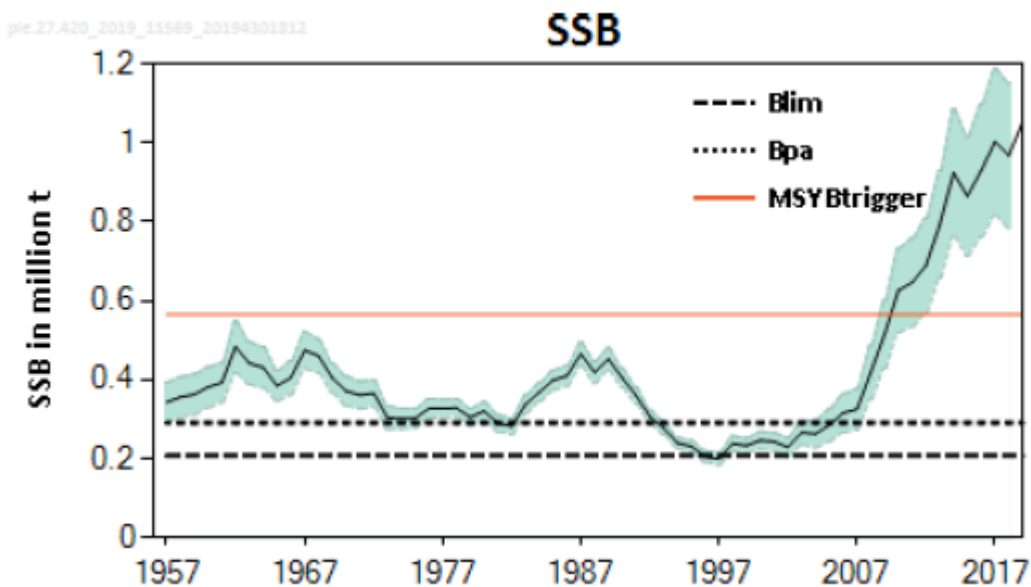


Figure 2: Plaice in Subarea 4 and Subdivision 20. Summary of the stock assessment. Shaded areas indicate 95% confidence intervals **R2**

An EU multiannual management plan (MAP) has been agreed by the EU for this stock. There is no agreement with Norway regarding this plan and it is not used as the basis of the advice for this shared stock. ICES was requested by the EC to provide advice based on the MSY approach, and to include the MAP as a catch option.

Since 2016, large mesh trawlers are under the landing obligation in Subarea 4. In 2019, the fleets that contribute most to total discards will fall under the landing obligation in Subarea 4, with de minimis exemptions in certain fisheries. In 2018, 52% of the total catch in Subarea 4 and 19% in Subdivision 20 was discarded. Reported BMS landings for fleets under the landing obligation in Subarea 4 are currently much lower than estimates of unwanted catch from catch monitoring programmes.

References

R1 Ruzzante, D. et al Conservation genetics of harbour porpoises, *Phocoena phocoena*, in eastern and central North Atlantic Conservation Genetics 2(4):309-324 · December 2001

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1023%2FA%3A1012534212853>

R2 ICES (2019) Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Subdivision 20 (Skagerrak) <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2019/2019/ple.27.420.pdf>

R3 ICES. 2017. Report of the Benchmark Workshop on North Sea Stocks (WKNSEA), 6-10 February 2017, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2017/ACOM:34. 673 pp.

<https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5339>.

Standard clauses 1.3.2.2