IFFO RS ASSURED — RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY

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

Fishery Under Assessment	**Plaice _Pleuronectes platessa_ Kattegat, Belt Seas and the Sound**
Date	March 2020
Assessor	Jim Daly
Stock Pass	ICES Subdivisions 21‑23
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 _Pleuronectes platessa_
Stock:	ICES Subdivisions 21–23
Fishery Location	Kattegat, Belt Seas, and the Sound
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 Subdivisions 21–23 Kattegat, Belt Seas, and the Sound   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 Spawning-stock biomass SSB_{2020} (13,207t) has increased significantly from 2009, and has been above MSY Btrigger (4,730t) and BLIM (3,635t) since 2012; 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
The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) of plaice in the assessment area has increased significantly since 2009, and has been above MSY Btrigger since 2012. 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	*Pleuronectes platessa*	ICES Subdivisions 21-23	N/A	EU/Denmark	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 *Pleuronectes platessa*	
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: Kattegat, Belt Seas, and the Sound **R1**

The annual stock assessment is an age-based analytical assessment using catches in the model and forecast. Commercial catch data are compiled as are data from two combined survey indices. Natural mortalities are fixed and assumed to be 0.1 except for fish age 1, which has 0.2. Discard information is available from 1999 from the main fleets (covering 89% of the landings in 2018) and is included. The stock was last benchmarked in 2015 (ICES, 2015).

C1.2
Evidence
Spawning-stock biomass SSB2020 (13, 207t) has increased significantly from 2009, and has been above MSY Btrigger (4,730t) and BLIM (3,635t) since 2012 (**Figure 2**):
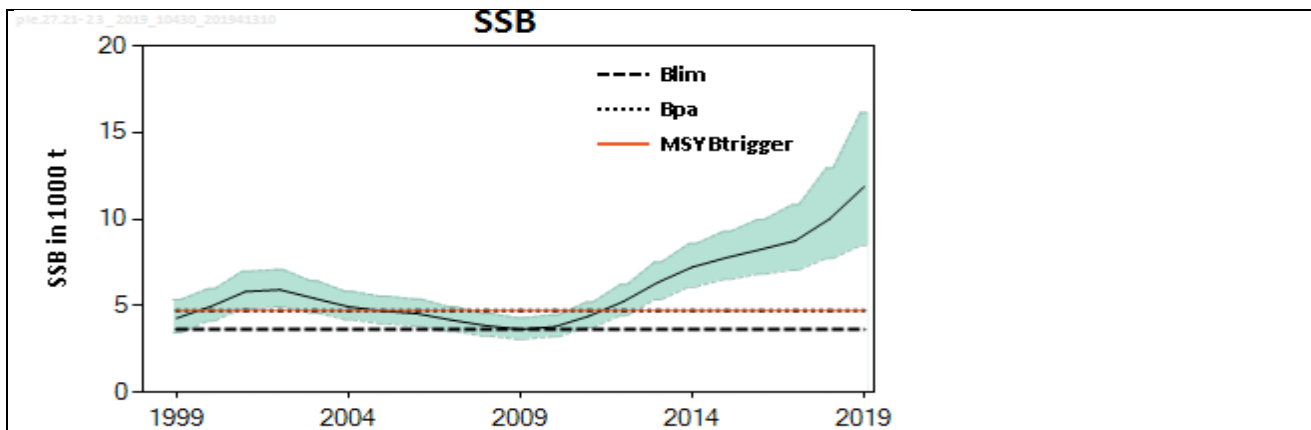
Figure 2: Plaice in subdivisions 21‑23. Summary of the stock assessment. Weights in thousand tonnes. Confidence intervals (95%) are included in the assessment **R2**

The EU landing obligation has covered plaice in the Baltic (Subdivisions 22–32) from January 2017. The implementation has been gradual in the Kattegat, main fisheries have been included from 2019 onwards. Landings of fish below the minimum conservation reference size (MCRS) are very low (13t BMS (Below Minimum Size) reported in 2018), discarding still takes place. The estimated discard amount, 1,387 tonnes in 2018 (approximately 29%) is based on observer data.

References
R1 Kattegat Sea
https://www.bing.com/images/search?q=kattegat&id=73AF9CD88ACEEA4B159C328D513E6FBDB3DB1468&FORM=IQFRBA
R2 ICES Advice Plaice (Pleuronectes platessa) in subdivisions 21‑23 (Kattegat, Belt Seas, and the Sound) http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2019/2019/ple.27.21-23.pdf
R3 ICES. 2015. Report of the Benchmark Workshop on Plaice (WKPLE), 23‑27 February 2015, ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2015\ACOM:33. 200 pp**.**

Standard clauses 1.3.2.2