



RESPONSIBLE
SUPPLY

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> Baltic Sea, excluding the Sound and Belt Seas
Date	March 2020
Assessor	Jim Daly
Stock Pass	ICES Subdivisions 24 – 32
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 Subdivisions 24-32
Fishery Location	Baltic Sea, excluding the Sound and Belt Seas
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 24-32: Baltic Sea, excluding the Sound and Belt Seas

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

The stock assessment is an age-based analytical assessment; considered indicative of trends only (ICES Category 3 stock). Relative spawning stock size₂₀₁₈₋₁₉ (3.3) is estimated to be above MSY Btrigger proxy (0.5). Advice is based on a comparison of the two latest index values (index A) with three preceding values (index B), multiplied by the recent advised catch. The uncertainty cap was applied (**Figure 2, Table 1**).

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

No reference points are defined for this stock in terms of absolute values. However, the stock assessment estimates that the stock has been increasing significantly since 2002 and it is currently at its all-time high. Relative stock size is well above the MSY Btrigger proxy reference point. 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 Subdivisions 24-32	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 <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: Baltic Sea, excluding the Sound and Belt Seas **R1**

The assessment is an age-based analytical assessment and is considered indicative of trends only (Category 3 Stocks: stocks for which survey or other indices are available that provide reliable indications of trends in stock metrics, such as total mortality, recruitment, and biomass).

Input data includes commercial catches; two survey indices; averaged maturity data (2008-2018). Natural mortalities are fixed and assumed to be 0.2 (age 1) and 0.1 (age 2+). Discard estimates from the main fleets are included in the assessment from 2002 onwards; however, estimations of the first years (2002-2005) are considered uncertain.

SPiCT-estimated values of ratios F/F_{MSY} and B/B_{MSY} were used to estimate stock status relative to MSY reference points. This stock was last benchmarked in 2015 (ICES, 2015).

C1.2

Evidence

ICES assess relative spawning stock size (3.3) to be above MSY Btrigger proxy (0.5) (**Figure 2**):

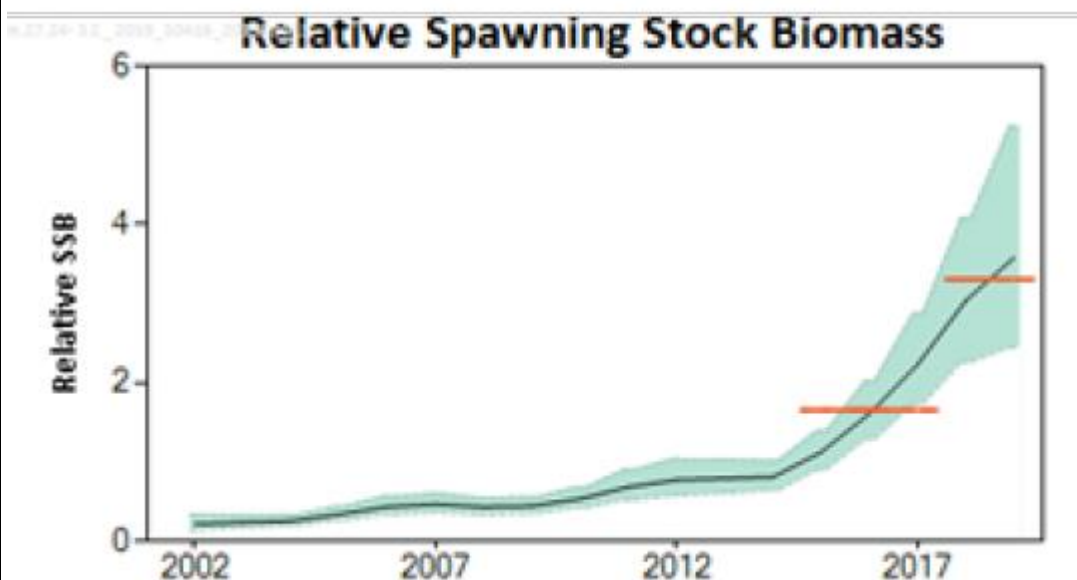


Figure 2: Plaice in subdivisions 24-32. Summary of stock assessment. SSB relative to the mean of the time-series. Dashed lines indicate average values of respective years. Index A (2018-19) 3.3; Index B (2015-2017) 1.64 **R2**

Advice is based on a comparison of the two latest index values (index A) with three preceding values (index B), multiplied by recent advised catch (in this case catches in 2018 used instead of the 3-year average because the stock has increased in recent years and higher catches than those in 2018 would be sustainable).

The index is estimated to have increased by more than 20%, thus the uncertainty cap was applied to calculate catch advice (**Table 1**):

Table 1: Plaice in subdivisions 24–32. The catch scenarios table ***R2**

Index A (2018, 2019)		3.3
Index B (2015, 2016, 2017)		1.64
Index ratio (A/B)		2.012
Uncertainty cap	Applied	1.2
Total catch 2018		2355 tonnes
Discard rate (2018)		0.305
Precautionary buffer	Not applied	-
Catch advice**		2826 tonnes
% change in advice ^		-24%

* The figures in the table are rounded. Calculations were done with unrounded inputs and computed values may not match exactly when calculated using the rounded figures in the table.

** Catch in 2018 × index ratio.

^ Advice 2020 relative to advice 2019.

No reference points are defined for this stock in terms of absolute values. Relative stock size is above MSY proxy (0.5).

References

R1 Assessment area: Baltic Sea, excluding the Sound and Belt Seas:

https://wikitravel.org/upload/shared/thumb/c/c5/Baltic_Sea.gif/250px-Baltic_Sea.gif

R2 ICES Advice Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in subdivisions 24-32 (Baltic Sea)

<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2019/2019/ple.27.24-32.pdf>

R3 ICES. 2015. 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