MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

Plaice (Pleuronectes platessa) in ICES Subarea 4 & Subdivision 20

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa)*
	Geographical area:	FAO Fishing Area 27 Atlantic Northeast
	Country of origin of the product:	Denmark
	Stock:	Plaice in ICES Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Subdivision 20 (Skagerrak)
Date	14 March 2022	
Report Code	BP038	
Assessor	Geraldine Criquet	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Denmark	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): FF Skagen			
Country: Denmark			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Geraldine Criquet	Conor Donnelly	0.5	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	To March 2022		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa)*
Stock	Plaice in ICES Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Subdivision 20 (Skagerrak)
Fishery Location	FAO Fishing Area 27 Atlantic Northeast
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU & Denmark
Gear Type(s)	Beam trawl, otter trawl and other gears
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with recommendation
Recommendation	**APPROVED**

Table 2. Assessment Determination

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 Marin Trust raw material. Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) is neither listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, nor listed in CITES appendices; therefore, plaice is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material. An EU Multi-annual management plan has been agreed by the EU for this stock, and refence points are defined. The stock is classified as Category C. Fishery removals of the stock are considered in the stock assessment processes so the stock **PASSES** Clause C1.1. In the most recent stock assessment, the stock is considered to have a biomass above the limit reference point, the stocks **PASSES** Clause C1.2. Therefore, North Sea and Skagerrak plaice stock is **APPROVED** for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current Marin Trust v 2.0 by-products.
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The assessor correctly classified plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in ICES Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Subdivision 20 (Skagerrak) as category C, this stock is managed, and reference points are defined. Fishery removals are considered in the stock assessment process. The most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is above B_{lim}. Therefore, the stock is considered to have a biomass above the limit reference point. Plaice (Pleuronectes platessa) in ICES Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Subdivision 20 (Skagerrak) passes both Clauses C1.1 and C1.2 and is therefore approved under the Marin Trust Standard v.2.
Notes for On-site Auditor
NA

Species Categorisation

NB: If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in CITES Appendix 1, it **cannot** be approved for use as an MarinTrust raw material.

IUCN Red list Category

By-product material from a species listed by IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature) under the Red List for the following categories shall immediately fail the assessment;

- EXTINCT (E) AND EXTINCT IN THE WILD (EW)
- CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR) facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.
- ENDANGERED (EN) facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

By-product material may be used from the following categories provided that all clauses in the MarinTrust standard are passed.

- VULNERABLE (VU) facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
- NEAR THREATENED (NT) does not qualify for above now, but is close or is likely to qualify for, a threatened category in the near future.
- LEAST CONCERN (LC) Widespread and abundant.
- DATA DEFICIENT (DD) and NOT EVALUATED (NE)

Table 3 Species Categorisation Table

Common name	Latin name	Stock	Management	Category	IUCN Red List Category[1]	CITES Appendix 1[2]
Plaice	*Pleuronectes platessa*	Plaice in ICES Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Subdivision 20 (Skagerrak)	EU & Denmark	C	LC	No

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

CATEGORY C SPECIES

In a by-product assessment, Category C species are those which are subject to a species-specific management regime and are usually targeted species in fisheries for human consumption.

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 should be assessed as a Category D species instead.

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.	Yes
	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.	Yes
		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.

The stock assessment type is an age-structured assessment based on Aarts and Poos (2009) that uses catches in the model and the forecast. Stock assessment input data include commercial catch, ages, and length frequencies from port and observer sampling. Plaice catches (landings and discards) for the 1957-2020 period are shown in Figure 1. Therefore, the stock **PASSES** Clause C1.1.

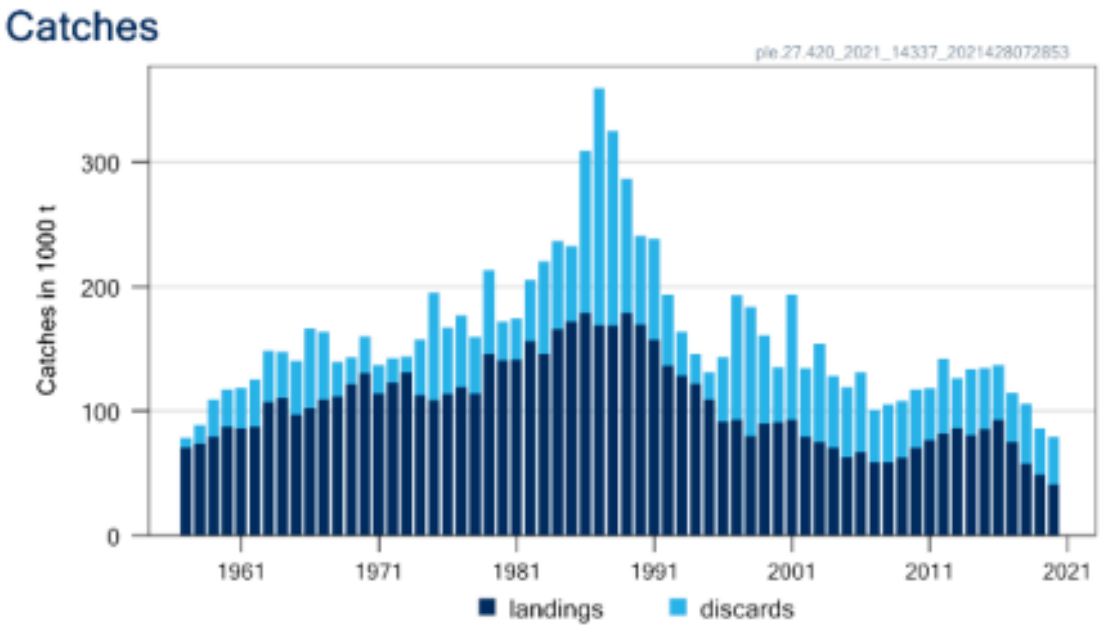

Figure 1. Plaice in subarea 4 and subdivision 20. Catches for the 1957-2020 period.

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.

As per the most recent ICES advice, the spawning-stock size is above MSY $B_{trigger}$, B_{pa} and B_{lim}.(Figure 2). Therefore, the assessor determines that, the stock is considered to have a biomass above the limit reference point, it **PASSES** Clause C1.2.

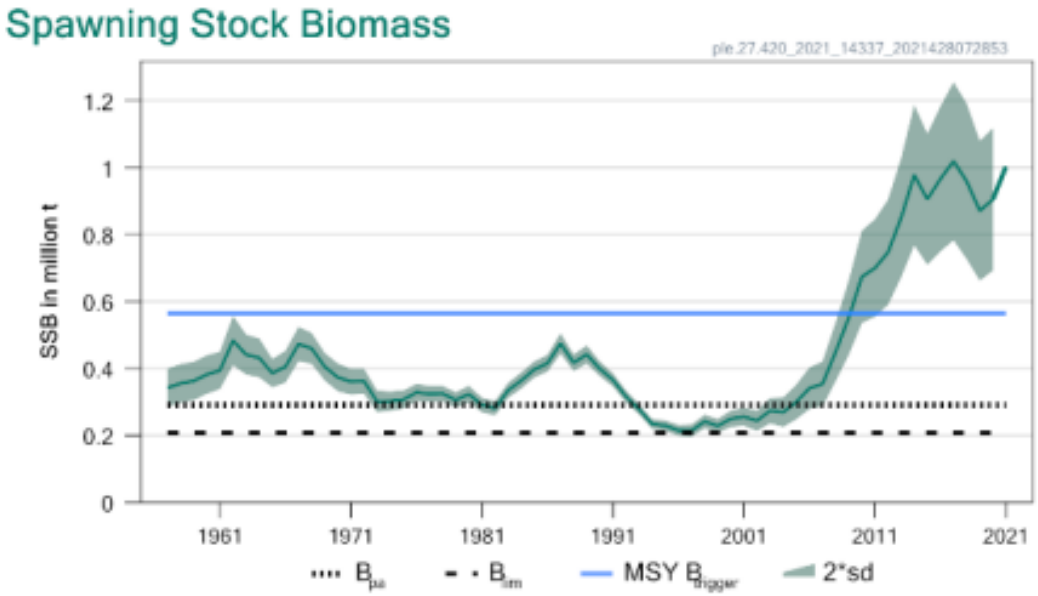

Figure 2. Plaice in subarea 4 and subdivision 20. Summary of the stock assessment.

References

ICES. 2021. Plaice (Pleuronectes platessa) in Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Subdivision 20 (Skagerrak). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2021. ICES Advice 2021, ple.27.420. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.7819.

Freyhof, J. 2014. *Pleuronectes platessa*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* 2014: e.T135690A50018800. https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2014-1.RLTS.T135690A50018800.en. Accessed on 14 March 2022. https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/135690/50018800

Links	
MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.2.2
FAO CCRF	7.5.3
GSSI	D.3.04, D5.01

CATEGORY D SPECIES

Category D species are those which are not subject to a species-specific management regime. In the case of mixed trawl fisheries, Category D species may make up the majority of landings. The comparative lack of scientific information on the status of the population of the species means that a risk-assessment style approach must be taken.

D1	Species Name			
	Productivity Attribute		**Value**	**Score**
	Average age at maturity (years)			
	Average maximum age (years)			
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)			
	Average maximum size (cm)			
	Average size at maturity (cm)			
	Reproductive strategy			
	Mean trophic level			
			Average Productivity Score	
	Susceptibility Attribute		**Value**	**Score**
	Overlap of adult species range with fishery			
	Distribution			
	Habitat			
	Depth range			
	Selectivity			
	Post-capture mortality			
			Average Susceptibility Score	
			PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)	
			Compliance rating	
References				
Standard clauses 1.3.2.2				

Table D2 - Productivity / Susceptibility attributes and scores.

Productivity attributes	Low productivity/ High risk	Medium productivity/ Medium risk	High productivity/ Low risk
	Score 3	Score 2	Score 1
Average age at maturity (years)	>4	2 to 4	<2
Average maximum age (years)	>30	10 to 30	<10
Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	<1 000	1 000 to 10 000	>10 000
Average maximum size (cm)	>150	60 to 150	<60
Average size at maturity (cm)	>150	30 to 150	<30
Reproductive strategy	Live bearer, mouth brooder or significant parental investment	Demersal spawner "berried"	Broadcast spawner
Mean trophic level	>3.25	2.5–3.25	<2.5

Susceptibility attributes		High susceptibility/ High risk	Medium susceptibility/ Medium risk	Low susceptibility/ Low risk
		Score 3	Score 2	Score 1
Availability	1) Overlap of adult species range with fishery	>50% of stock occurs in the area fished	Between 25% and 50% of the stock occurs in the area fished	<25% of stock occurs in the area fished
	2) Distribution	Only in the country/ fishery	Limited range in the region	Throughout region/ global distribution
Encounterability	1) Habitat	Habitat preference of species make it highly likely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. demersal, muddy/sandy bottom)	Habitat preference of species make it moderately likely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. rocky bottom/reefs)	Depth or distribution of species make it unlikely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. epi-pelagic or meso-pelagic)
	2) Depth range	High overlap with trawl fishing gear (20 to 60 m depth)	Medium overlap with trawl fishing gear (10 to 20 m depth)	Low overlap with trawl fishing gear (0 to 10 m, >70 m depth)
Selectivity		Species >2 times mesh size or up to 4 m length	Species 1 to 2 times mesh size or 4 to 5 m length	Species <mesh size or >5 m length
Post capture mortality		Most dead or retained Trawl tow >3 hours	Alive after net hauled Trawl tow 0.5 to 3 hours	Released alive Trawl tow <0.5 hours

Note: Availability 2 is only used when there is no information for Availability 1; the most conservative score between Encounterability 1 and 2 is used.

D3		Average Susceptibility Score		
		1 - 1.75	1.76 - 2.24	2.25 - 3
Average Productivity Score	1 - 1.75	PASS	PASS	PASS
	1.76 - 2.24	PASS	PASS	TABLE D4
	2.25 - 3	PASS	TABLE D4	TABLE D4

D4	Species Name		
	Impacts On Species Categorised as Vulnerable by D1-D3 - Minimum Requirements		
	D4.1	The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts.	
	D4.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.	
		Outcome:	

Evidence

D4.1: The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts.

D4.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.

References

Links	
MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.2.2, 4.1.4
FAO CCRF	7.5.1
GSSI	D.5.01