



## MarinTrust Standard V2

# By-product Fishery Assessment *Report Template (Pollack)*

**MarinTrust Programme**

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**Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome**

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Pollack, <i>Pollachius pollachius</i>
	Geographical area:	FAO 27, ICES Subareas 6 & 7
	Country of origin of the product:	UK
	Stock:	Pollack in ICES Subareas 6 & 7
Date	22 April 2022	
Report Code	BP059	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	UK	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL		

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Pelagia			
Country:			
Email address: geraldine.fox@pelagia.com		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body: LRQA			
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Kate Morris	0.25	Re-approval
Assessment Period	April 2022		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Pollack, <i>Pollachius pollachius</i>
Stock	Pollack in FAO 27, ICES subareas 6 & 7
Fishery Location	Celtic Seas
Management Authority (Country/ State)	UK & EU
Gear Type(s)	Bottom trawl & pelagic gears
Outcome of Assessment	
Overall Outcome	Approve
Clauses Failed	None
Peer Review Evaluation	Approve
Recommendation	Approve

## Table 2. Assessment Determination

<b>Assessment Determination</b>
<p>Pollack (<i>Polachius pollachius</i>) in the Celtic Seas is considered a data-limited Stock. There is no consensus regarding stock structure or whether the ICES Subareas 6 &amp; 7 unit, used for ICES reporting, constitutes an appropriate management unit. There are no reference points or proxies established for the stock, and the stock size is unknown. As a TAC is set for the stock, it was assessed under Category C. The stock failed this assessment, so as per the by-product assessment methodology it was subsequently assessed under Category D.</p> <p>In the Category D assessment, based primarily on information available on Fishbase, pollack scored an average productivity rating of 1.71 and an average susceptibility rating of 2.5. These ratings were cross-referenced using Table D3, which assigned a Pass rating to the by-product.</p>
<b>Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments</b>
<p>The by-product fishery under assessment here is the Pollack (<i>Polachius pollachius</i>), targeted by EU and UK vessels in FAO 27, ICES 6 &amp; 7. Pollack is managed under the EU Multi-Annual Management Plan (MAP) set out by EU Regulation 2019/472. The UK and EU do not have a shared management plan in place but do set species-specific management plans independently, therefore Pollack is correctly classified by the auditor as category C species. The C1 scoring table has been completed by the auditor with sufficient evidence presented to support their final determination. The fishery under assessment fails C1 scoring but as per MT by-product methodology was scored correctly against Category D and now passes the MT by-product assessment.</p> <p>The peer review supports the auditor's recommendation to approve this fishery under the Marin Trust IFFO RS v2.0 by-product standard for the production of fishmeal and fish oil.</p>
<b>Notes for On-site Auditor</b>
<p>There is nothing to highlight to the onsite auditor at this stage.</p>

## 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 <sup>1</sup>	CITES Appendix 1 <sup>2</sup>
Pollack	<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>	Pollack in the Celtic Seas (ICES Subareas 6 & 7)	Yes	C	Least Concern <sup>3</sup>	Not listed

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/18125103/45098355>

## 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		Pollack ( <i>Pollchius pollachius</i> ) in ICES Subareas 6 & 7	
<b>C1</b>	<b>Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements</b>		
	<b>C1.1</b>	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.	FAIL
	<b>C1.2</b>	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.	FAIL
			<b>Clause outcome:</b> FAIL
<p><b>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.</b></p> <p>Pollack in Subareas 6 and 7 is managed via a separate TAC applied to each Subarea, agreed between the EU and UK. ICES provides total catch advice for both Subareas. When combined, the total TAC for both Subareas has been set substantially higher than the advice every year since 2013. However, total landings have been much lower than the TAC in every year since at least 2000, and have rarely exceeded the ICES advice.</p> <p>The fishery is managed according to an EU Multi-Annual Management Plan (MAP) set out by EU Regulation 2019/472, which ICES considers to be precautionary. There is no shared management plan between the EU and UK.</p> <p>Landings are recorded for all components of the commercial fishery via logbook, and discards are estimated to be negligible (though are included in the stock assessment). Recreational catch is estimated by ICES to be substantial – potentially similar to commercial catch in some years - but is not incorporated into the assessment. As recreational catch is not included in the assessment and may be substantial, the fishery is considered by the assessor not to meet the requirement C1.1.</p>			
<p><b>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.</b></p> <p>There is no limit reference point or proxy established for the stock. ICES advice is based on the Depletion-Corrected Average Catch (DCAC) method, where the DCAC for each Subarea is used as a proxy for MSY. Catches in both Subareas have declined substantially over the last 35 years and fishing mortality is considered by ICES to be “below possible reference points” (ICES, 2021).</p> <p>Due to the absence of any estimate of stock size, it is not possible to determine the health of the stock. This makes it challenging to determine whether the stock has a biomass above any potential limit reference point, and it is also not possible to determine whether the annual commercial landings of around 2-3,000t are negligible relative to the biomass. Additionally, despite being ostensibly managed according to a MAP which states that scientific advice should be followed, the TAC is consistently set above the level recommended by ICES, and was not reduced when the ICES advice suggested it should be. Overall, the assessor considers that the by-product does not meet requirement C1.2.</p> <p>As the by-product has failed the Category C assessment, it should be assessed under Category D.</p>			
<p><b>References</b></p> <p>ICES (2021) Pollack (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>) in subareas 6-7 (Celtic Seas and the English Channel). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2021. ICES Advice 2021, pol.27.67. <a href="https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.7831">https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.7831</a></p>			

Regulation (EU) 2019/472 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019 establishing a multiannual plan for stocks fished in the Western Waters and adjacent waters, and for fisheries exploiting those stocks, amending Regulations (EU) 2016/1139 and (EU) 2018/973, and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 811/2004, (EC) No 2166/2005, (EC) No 388/2006, (EC) No 509/2007 and (EC) No 1300/2008. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32019R0472>

**Links**

<b>MarinTrust Standard clause</b>	1.3.2.2
<b>FAO CCRF</b>	7.5.3
<b>GSSI</b>	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.

<b>D1</b>	<b>Species Name</b>	<b>Pollock (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>)</b>	
	<b>Productivity Attribute</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Score</b>
	Average age at maturity (years)	3	2
	Average maximum age (years)	8	1
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	3 million+	1
	Average maximum size (cm)	130cm	2
	Average size at maturity (cm)	41cm	2
	Reproductive strategy	Broadcast spawner	1
	Mean trophic level	4.3	3
	<b>Average Productivity Score</b>		<b>1.71</b>
	<b>Susceptibility Attribute</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Score</b>
	Availability (area overlap)	Species found throughout region	1
	Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear)	High overlap – targeted	3
	Selectivity of gear type	Species >2 times mesh size	3
	Post-capture mortality	Retained	3
	<b>Average Susceptibility Score</b>		<b>2.5</b>
	<b>PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)</b>		<b>PASS</b>
	<b>Compliance rating</b>		<b>PASS</b>
	<b>Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant)</b>		
	<i>For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision</i>		
<b>References</b>			
Fishbase (2022). Species page, Pollack. <a href="https://www.fishbase.se/summary/34">https://www.fishbase.se/summary/34</a> Accessed 22/4/22.			
Fecundity estimate taken from the Biological Traits Information Catalogue, BIOTIC. <a href="http://www.marlin.ac.uk/biotic/browse.php?sp=6193">http://www.marlin.ac.uk/biotic/browse.php?sp=6193</a> Accessed 22.4.22			
<i>Standard clauses 1.3.2.2</i>			



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.



<b>D3</b>		<b>Average Susceptibility Score</b>		
		<b>1 – 1.75</b>	<b>1.76 – 2.24</b>	<b>2.25 – 3</b>
<b>Average Productivity Score</b>	<b>1 – 1.75</b>	PASS	PASS	PASS
	<b>1.76 – 2.24</b>	PASS	PASS	TABLE D4
	<b>2.25 – 3</b>	PASS	TABLE D4	TABLE D4

<b>D4</b>	<b>Species Name</b>	<b>N/A</b>	
<b>Impacts On Species Categorised as Vulnerable by D1-D3 - Minimum Requirements</b>			
<b>D4.1</b>	The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts.		
<b>D4.2</b>	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.		
			<b>Outcome:</b>
<b>Evidence</b>			
<b>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.</b>			
<b>D4.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.</b>			
<b>References</b>			
<b>Links</b>			
<b>MarinTrust Standard clause</b>		1.3.2.2, 4.1.4	
<b>FAO CCRF</b>		7.5.1	
<b>GSSI</b>		D.5.01	