



## MarinTrust Standard V2

# By-product Fishery Assessment Report Template

**MarinTrust Programme**

Unit C, Printworks

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

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Blue Mussel ( <i>Mytilus edulis</i> )
	Geographical area:	FAO Area 27 Northeast Atlantic
	Country of origin of the product:	UK & Ireland
	Stock:	ICES Areas 6.a, 7.a, 7.b, 7.g, and 7.j
Date	December 2021	
Report Code	BP244	
Assessor	Virginia Polonio	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	UK & Ireland	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Name: Pelagia UK & Ireland			
Address:			
Country: Uk & Ireland		Zip:	
Tel. No.:		Fax. No.:	
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Key Contact:		Title:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:			
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Virginia Polonio	Conor Donnelly	0.5	Re-approval
Assessment Period	To December 2021		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Blue Mussel <i>Mytilus edulis</i>
Stock	ICES Areas 6.a, 7.a, 7.b, 7.g, and 7.j
Fishery Location	FAO Area 27 Northeast Atlantic
Management Authority (Country/ State)	DAFM (Ire), MMO (UK), MS (Scotland)
Gear Type(s)	Ropes, Bottom dredge
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with Recommendation
Recommendation	<b>APPROVED</b>

**Table 2. Assessment Determination**

Assessment Determination
<p>If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as MARINTRUST raw material. Blue mussel does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, nor does it appear in the CITES appendices; therefore, Blue mussel is eligible for approval for use as MARINTRUST raw material.</p> <p>With enhanced catch-and-grow (CAG) bivalve fisheries, management is not based on reference points or the concept of managing stock size.</p> <p>Implicit within the management objectives for the seed mussel fishery is that the seed mussel beds are essentially ephemeral and so harvesting of seed mussel is considered highly unlikely to have any consequence for mussel population size. The strategy is therefore to manage the seed mussel fishery, and not to manage the mussel stock, and so conventional stock assessments with target and limit reference points are not appropriate in this fishery.</p> <p>Seed mussel that is collected (either captured on ropes or dredged from the seabed) are on-grown in favourable areas (e.g. in subtidal areas on ropes or on the intertidal shore). Instead of immediate removal of animals from the system, survivorship is improved through the provision of substrate and better growing conditions (i.e. through a reduction in the rate of natural mortality). In the end, this process may actually contribute to increasing stock size and biomass instead of reducing it.</p> <p>Removals by the fishery under assessment are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible; therefore, the stock PASSES Clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Blue mussel in ICES Areas 6.a, 7.a, 7.b, 7.g, and 7.j is APPROVED by the assessor for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the MarinTrust v 2.0 by-products standard.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>Note that conventional stock assessments with target and limit reference points are generally not used in these fisheries. Further, that this fishing activity does not immediately remove larval animals from the system, but is considered instead to improve survivorship through the provision of substrate and better growing conditions a process which can contribute to increasing stock size and biomass instead of reducing it. Consequently, removals by the fishery under assessment are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible and the fishery can be approved.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
Empty space for on-site auditor notes

## 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>
Blue Mussel	<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	ICES Areas 6.a, 7.a, 7.b, 7.g, and 7.j FAO 27 Northeast Atlantic	DAFM (Ire), MMO (UK), MS (Scotland)	C	LC	No

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

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

## 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.

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.

<b>Species Name</b>		Blue Mussel, <i>Mytilus edulis</i>	
<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.	Yes
	<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.	Yes
			<b>Clause outcome:</b> PASS
<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>Mussel larvae are captured on ropes or dredged from the seabed and on-grown in favourable areas. These activities are managed by DAFM in Ireland, the Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) and Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in England, MS in Scotland. Management includes surveys which can be undertaken annually (e.g. Ireland bottom grown fishery) to identify seed mussel beds, the collection of seed mussel is regulated (e.g. vessels require a license to fish and areas may be excluded from fisheries e.g. if seed mussel is too small or to avoid sensitive habitat) and areas for on-growing are licensed. Information on mussel seed harvested and finished product produced is recorded (for example to meet the requirements of legislation governing the movement of shellfish) but, as noted at the start of this assessment, conventional stock assessments (which take into account fishery removals) are not undertaken for these fisheries. As previously noted, this fishing activity does not immediately remove larval animals from the system, but is considered instead to improve survivorship through the provision of substrate and better growing conditions a process which can contribute to increasing stock size and biomass instead of reducing it.</p> <p>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 and it PASSES clause 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>With enhanced catch-and-grow (CAG) bivalve fisheries, management is not based on reference points or the concept of managing stock size. The strategy is therefore to manage the seed mussel fishery, and not to manage the mussel stock, and so conventional stock assessments with target and limit reference points are not appropriate in this fishery. As previously noted, this fishing activity does not immediately remove larval animals from the system, but is considered instead to improve survivorship through the provision of substrate and better growing conditions a process which can contribute to increasing stock size and biomass instead of reducing it. Removals by the fishery under assessment are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.</p> <p>Therefore, the fishery PASSES clause C1.2.</p>			
<p><b>References</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.marinespecies.org/photogallery.php?album=1954&amp;pic=34382">http://www.marinespecies.org/photogallery.php?album=1954&amp;pic=34382</a>  Marine Stewardship Council Full Assessment Public Certification Report For Ireland rope grown mussel  SAI Global 209pp July 2019 <a href="https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/ireland-rope-grownmussel/@@assessments">https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/ireland-rope-grownmussel/@@assessments</a></p>			

BIM 2020a. BIM National Seafood Survey Aquaculture Report 2020. <a href="https://www.researchgate.net/publication/344188564_BIM_National_Seafood_Survey_Aquaculture_Report_2020">https://www.researchgate.net/publication/344188564_BIM_National_Seafood_Survey_Aquaculture_Report_2020</a>	
<b>Links</b>	
<b>MARINTRUST Standard clause</b>	1.3.2.2
<b>FAO CCRF</b>	7.5.3
<b>GSSI</b>	D.3.04, D5.01