MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

Plaice Pleuronectes platessa (ICES Division 6.a West of Scotland)

MarinTrust Programme
Unit C, Printworks
22 Amelia Street
London
SE17 3BZ
E: standards@marin-trust.com
T: +44 2039 780 819

Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Plaice *Pleuronectes platessa*
	Geographical area:	FAO 27 Northeast Atlantic. ICES divisions 6.a (West of Scotland)
	Country of origin of the product:	UK, Ireland (Flag states)
	Stock:	Plaice in ICES divisions 6.a (West of Scotland)
Date	May 2022	
Report Code	DNK24	
Assessor	Conor Donnelly	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	UK, Ireland (Flag states)	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL		

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Marine Ingredients Denmark; FFSkagen, TripleNine			
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
Conor Donnelly	Vito Romito	0.5	TBC
Assessment Period	To May 2022		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Plaice *Pleuronectes platessa*
Stock	ICES division 6.a (West of Scotland)
Fishery Location	FAO 27 Northeast Atlantic
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU/Common Fisheries Policy & UK
Gear Type(s)	Beam trawl, seines (Ref: The Stock Book 2021)
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's determination
Recommendation	**APPROVE**

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
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 Marin Trust raw material. Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, nor does it appear in the CITES appendices; therefore, plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in ICES Division 6.a (West of Scotland) is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust raw material. The species is not subject to a species-specific management regime and has no defined reference points and therefore, the stock was assessed under Category D. It was assessed using a Productivity – Susceptibility Analysis (PSA) and passed. Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in ICES Division 6.a (West of Scotland) is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the Marin Trust Standard v.2.
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The assessor correctly classified plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in ICES Division 6.a (West of Scotland) as category D, it is not subject to species-specific management and there are no reference points for either biomass or fishing mortality for this stock. Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in ICES Division 6.a (West of Scotland) passes the PSA and is therefore approved under the Marin Trust Standard v.2.
Notes for On-site Auditor
None.

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*	ICES Division 6.a (West of Scotland)	EU/Common Fisheries Policy & UK	D	LC (Europe)	Not listed

[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		
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.	
	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.	
		Clause outcome:

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.

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.

References

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	Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in ICES division 6.a (West of Scotland)	
	Productivity Attribute	**Value**	**Score**
	Average age at maturity (years)	3.09	2
	Average maximum age (years)	33.3	3
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	0 – 59,600	1
	Average maximum size (cm)	40	1
	Average size at maturity (cm)	25.77	1
	Reproductive strategy	Open water / substratum egg scatterers	1
	Mean trophic level	3.2	3
		Average Productivity Score	**1.71**
	Susceptibility Attribute	**Value**	**Score**
	Availability (area overlap)	>50% of stock occurs in area fished	3
	Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear)	High overlap with trawl fishing gear (20-60m depth)	3
	Selectivity of gear type	Species > 2 times mesh size	3
	Post-capture mortality	Most dead or retained	3
		Average Susceptibility Score	**3**
		PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)	**PASS**
		Compliance rating	

Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant)

For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision

Availability

Plaice to the West of Scotland occur in ICES divisions 6.a and beyond. It is caught in Irish fisheries in this area mainly as minor bycatch in mixed fisheries and mainly landed alongside anglerfish, megrim and whiting (Marine Institute, 2021). These occur near the Stanton Bank, along the continental shelf and south of Rockall. Information isn't available on the distribution of plaice across this area so, on a precautionary basis and, taking into account the distribution of fishing effort in subarea 6 noted above, high risk is identified for availability.

Encounterability

Plaice usually occur at depths of 10-50m but can occur down to 200m (Fishbase). In ICES division 6.a, they are mainly fished using demersal gears (MFRI, 2021). As such, risk is considered high: high overlap with trawl fishing gear (20-60m depth).

References

FAO 27 Fishing area and ICES statistical areas.

Fishbase. https://www.fishbase.de/Summary/SpeciesSummary.php?ID=1342&AT=plaice

Marine Institute, 2021. The Stock Book. Annual Review of Fish Stocks in 2021 with Management Advice for 2022. November 2021. https://oar.marine.ie/handle/10793/1726.

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