



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

Report Template

Lemon sole (*Microstomus kitt*) in
Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d
(North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat,
eastern English Channel)

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:	Lemon sole (<i>Microstomus kitt</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO 27 Northeast Atlantic
	Country of origin of the product:	EU, Norway and U.K (flag countries)
	Stock:	Lemon sole (<i>Microstomus kitt</i>) in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, eastern English Channel)
Date	April 2022	
Report Code	GBR011	
Assessor	Vito Romito	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	EU, Norway and U.K (flag countries)	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL		

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Pelagia			
Country: UK & Ireland			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Vito Romito	Conor Donnelly	0.5	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	To April 2022		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Lemon sole
Stock	Lemon sole (<i>Microstomus kitt</i>) in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, eastern English Channel)
Fishery Location	Northeast Atlantic
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU CFP, Norwegian and UK management authorities.
Gear Type(s)	All gear types
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with recommendation
Recommendation	APPROVE

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>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. Lemon sole is neither listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, nor listed in CITES appendices; therefore, it is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>The EU multiannual plan (MAP) for stocks in the North Sea (EU, 2018) and adjacent waters applies to bycatches of this stock. UK and Norway have not requested ICES to provide advice based on the EU MAP. The MAP stipulates that when the FMSY ranges are not available, fishing opportunities should be based on the best available scientific advice. ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches in 2022 should be no more than 3081 tonnes. Management of lemon sole and witch flounder under a combined species TAC prevents effective control of the single-species exploitation rates and could lead to the overexploitation of either species. ICES advises that management should be implemented at the species level in the entire stock distribution area (Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d).</p> <p>The stock is assessed by ICES and therefore assessed as a Category C here. Catches are accounted in the stock assessment model. Fishing pressure on the stock is below FMSY, and the biomass is assumed to be above Blim since long term fishing at FMSY level (or lower) should result in a stock biomass being at or above MSY. Accordingly, this stock is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current Marin Trust v 2.0 Standard for by-products.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified lemon sole (<i>Microstomus kitt</i>) in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, eastern English Channel) as category C, the stock is managed, and reference points are defined to assess the stock status against.</p> <p>Fishery removals from the stock are considered in the stock assessment process. The most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is considered to have a biomass above the limit reference point proxy. Therefore, lemon sole (<i>Microstomus kitt</i>) in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, eastern English Channel) passes both C1.1 and C1.2 and is approved.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor

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 a 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
Lemon sole	<i>Microstomus kitt</i>	Lemon sole (<i>Microstomus kitt</i>) in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, eastern English Channel)	EU CFP, Norwegian and UK management authorities.	C	LC	No

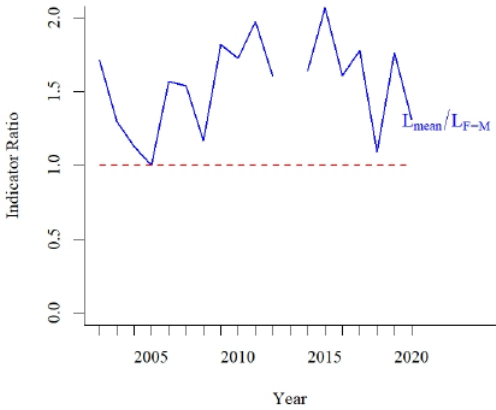
¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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		Lemon sole	
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
<p>C1.1 Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process.</p> <p>Catches are accounted in the survey trends-based assessment (SURBAR; ICES, 2021b). Inputs include commercial catches (international landings and discards), three survey indices (IBTS Q1 [G1022] and IBTS Q3 [G2829], BTS Q3 [B2453]), fixed maturity estimates, and annual weight-at-age data from the surveys. Discarding is known to take place and discards have been quantified for 2002–2020 (rate for 2020 – 12.9%).</p> <p>C1.1 is met.</p> <p>C1.2 The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy).</p> <p>Fishing pressure on the stock is below FMSY, as shown below.</p>  <p>Figure 1. Lemon sole in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d. The indicator ratio $L_{mean} / L_F = M$ from the length-based indicator (LBI) method is used for the evaluation of the exploitation status. The exploitation status is below the FMSY proxy when the indicator ratio value is higher than 1 (shown by a dotted red line). (Source: ICES, 2021).</p> <p>Fishing pressure on the stock is below FMSY, and the biomass is assumed to be above B_{lim} since long term fishing at FMSY level (or lower) should result in a stock biomass being at or above MSY. Long term $F < FMSY$ is considered here to be a reasonable proxy for B_{lim}.</p> <p>C1.2 is met.</p>			

References

CITES. 2022. Cites Appendix 1. <https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

ICES. 2021. Lemon sole (*Microstomus kitt*) in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, eastern English Channel). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2021. ICES Advice 2021, lem.27.3a47d. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.7782>.

Monroe, T., Costa, M., Nielsen, J., Herrera, J. & de Sola, L. 2015. *Microstomus kitt*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2015: e.T18227047A45790333. Accessed on 27 April 2022.

Links

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