



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment *Plaice (Pleuronectes platessa) in ICES subarea 4 and 3.a.20 (North Sea and Skaggerak)*

MarinTrust Programme

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO 27 north eastern Atlantic Ocean
	Country of origin of the product:	U.K. and Ireland (Flag states not provided by client)
	Stock:	Plaice in FAO area 27 Subarea 4 and 3.a.20
Date	18 Nov 2022	
Report Code	GBR28	
Assessor	Matthew Jew	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	U.K. and Ireland (Flag state(s) not provided by client)	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Pelagia			
Country: U.K & Ireland			
Email address: geraldine.fox@pelagia.com		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Matthew Jew	Léa Lebechnech	0.5	Re-approval
Assessment Period	Up to November 2022		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)
Stock	Plaice in FAO area 27 Subarea 4 and 3.a.20
Fishery Location	FAO 27 northeast Atlantic Ocean
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU Common Fisheries Policy
Gear Type(s)	2021 estimates: Beam trawl (52%), Otter trawl (33%), others (15%)
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor's determination
Recommendation	Approved

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. Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) is not assessed on IUCN’s Red List, and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, <i>Pleuronectes platessa</i> is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>An EU multiannual management plan (MAP) has been agreed by the EU for this stock. There is no agreement with Norway and UK regarding this plan, and it is not used as the basis of the advice for this shared stock. ICES was requested by the EC and UK to provide advice based on the MSY approach and to include F_{MSY} ranges in the catch scenarios.</p> <p>ICES notes the existence of a precautionary management plan, developed and adopted by one of the relevant management authorities for this stock. The stock is subject to a specific management regime and reference points are defined, therefore it was assessed under Category C.</p> <p>Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment and it PASSES Clause C1.1. The stock is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have biomass above the limit reference point, it PASSES Clause C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, plaice in ICES division 4 and subdivision 3.a.20 (North Sea and Skaggerak) is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.0 by-products.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The internal peer reviewer agrees with the assessor’s determination, who correctly classified plaice in ICES subarea 4 and subdivision 20 under Category C, as the stock is subject to a specific management regime and reference points are defined.</p> <p>Fishery removals are considered in the stock assessment process and the most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is above the limit reference point, so the stock PASSES Clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, plaice in ICES subarea 4 and subdivision 20 should be approved under the MarinTrust Standard v.2.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
<p>Determine which flag state(s) the plaice is being sources from.</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 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
Plaice	<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	ICES Subarea 4 and Subdivision 3.a.20 (North Sea and Skaggeak)	EU Common Fisheries Policy	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 (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)	
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
<p>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.</p> <p>The 2022 assessment is an age-based analytical assessment (SAM, Nielson and Berg, 2014) that uses catches in the model and in the forecast. Long-term catches are presented in Figure 1 below. ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2023 should be no more than 150,705 tonnes.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p>Figure 1. Long-term catches and discards for plaice in Subarea 4 and Subdivision 3.a.20 (North Sea, and Skaggeiak). Source: ICES 2022.</p>			
<p>Therefore, fishery removals of the stock, including form the fishery under assessment, are included in the stock assessment process. The stock passes Clause C1.1.</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), OR removals by the fishery under assessment are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.</p> <p>The assessment was updated during a benchmark in early 2022. A combined BTS and IBTS-Q3 index was applied to replace the two individual surveys indices. Age-specific natural mortalities were applied to replace the fixed 0.1 value across all ages. The stock assessment model was changed and reference point updated. The benchmark updates led to changes in the trajectory of SSB and recruitment of the stock while fishing pressure was scaled down. Changes also included a reduction in the estimated proportion of older fish in the stock (the plus group accounts for 48% of 2020 SSB in 2021 assessment to 17% in the current assessment).</p>			

According to the last ICES assessment, the spawning-stock biomass (SSB) and 95% confidence intervals are above $MSY B_{trigger}$, B_{pa} , and B_{lim} (Figure 2) and fishing pressure is below F_{MSY} .

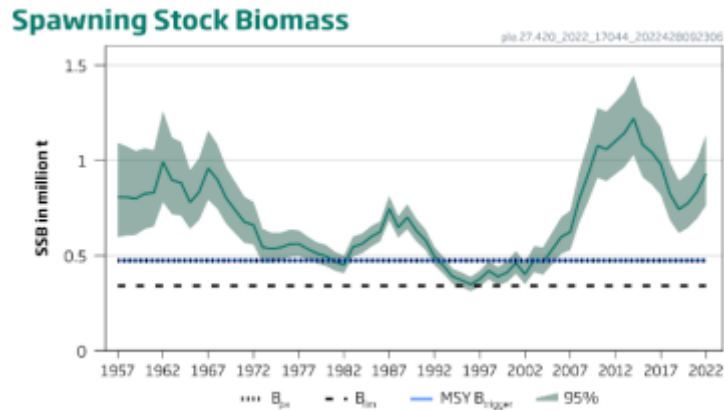


Figure 2. Long-term spawning stock biomass (SSB) trends in Subareas 4 and Subdivision 3.a.20 (North Sea and Skagerrak) with 95% confidence intervals. Source: ICES 2022.

Therefore, the stock is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have biomass above the limit reference point. The stock passes Clause C1.2.

References

ICES. 2022. Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Subdivision 20 (Skagerrak). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2022. ICES Advice 2022, ple.27.420. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19453586>.

Links

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