



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment Saithe (*Pollachius virens*) in ICES Subareas 4 and 6, Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skaggerak, Kattegat)

MarinTrust Programme

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO Area 27 Northeast Atlantic
	Country of origin of the product:	UK & Ireland
	Stock:	Saithe in Subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat)
Date	December 2022	
Report Code	GBR34	
Assessor	Léa Lebechnech	
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			
Company Name(s): Pelagia			
Country: UK & 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
Léa Lebechnech	Matthew Jew	0.5	Surveillance 2
Assessment Period	To December 2022		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>)
Stock	Saithe in Subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat)
Fishery Location	FAO Area 27 Northeast Atlantic
Management Authority (Country/ State)	European Union Common Fisheries Policy / UK and Ireland Fisheries departments
Gear Type(s)	Bottom trawl (84%), gillnets (6%) and other (10%)
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's recommendation
Recommendation	APPROVED

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>If a 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 MarinTrust RS raw material. Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>) is not categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN's Red List and it does not appear in the CITES appendices. Therefore, saithe is eligible for approval for use as MarinTrust RS by-product raw material.</p> <p>An EU multiannual plan (MAP) has been agreed by the EU for this stock.</p> <p>The stock is subject to a specific management regime and reference points are defined. Therefore, it is assessed under Category C.</p> <p>Fishery removals of the saithe stock are considered in the last stock assessment processes, made by ICES in 2022, and the spawning stock biomass is above the limit reference point, so the fishery PASSES Clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, saithe in Subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat) is recommended for APPROVAL for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust RS v 2.0 by-product standard.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified saithe in Subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat) as Category C, 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. The most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is above B_{lim}. Therefore, the stock is considered to have biomass above the limit reference point.</p> <p>Saithe in Subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat) passes both clauses (C1.1 and C1.2) and therefore should be approved under the MarinTrust Standard v.2.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
<p>Determine which flag state(s) the plant is sourcing its saithe 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 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
Saithe	<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Saithe in Subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat)	European Union Common Fisheries Policy / UK and Ireland Fisheries departments	C	LC	No

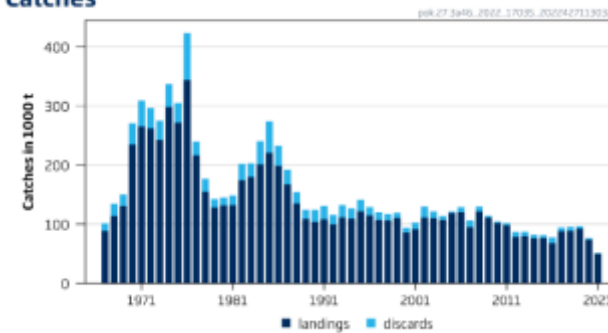
¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

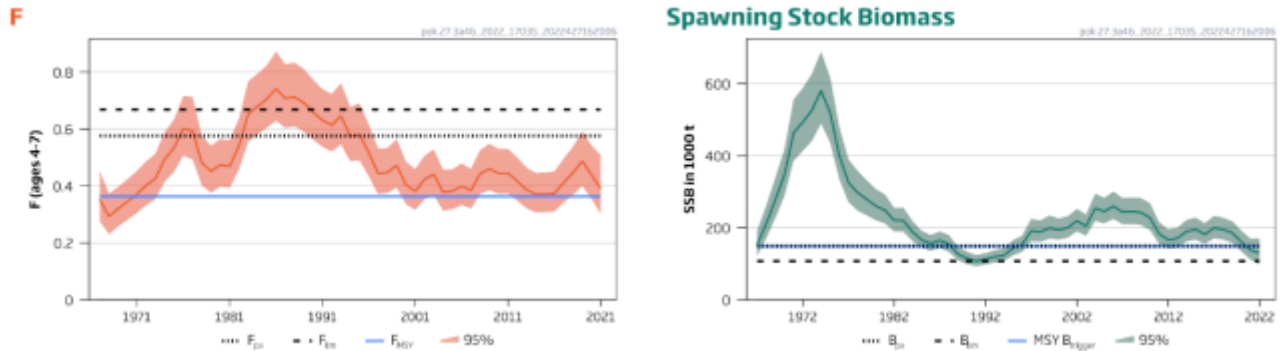
² <https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

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		Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</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
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>ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2023 should be no more than 58 912 tonnes. ICES notes the existence of a precautionary management plan, developed and adopted by one of the relevant management authorities for this stock. The catches are reported in Figure 1 below.</p> <p>The assessment type is an age-based analytical assessment SAM (ICES, 2022b) that uses catches in the model and in the forecast. The input data used for the assessment were the following: Commercial catches (international landings, BMS landings, discards, and age frequencies from catch sampling); survey index (IBTS Q3 [G2829], ages 3–8); combined commercial index scaled to the exploitable biomass (French, German, and Norwegian trawler fleets). Maturity-at-age and natural mortality are assumed to be constant. Stock weights are equal to catch weights.</p>			
<div><div>Catches</div></div>			
<p>Figure 1. Catches of Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. Landings and discards are for ages 3–10+ only, as used in the assessment. Source: ICES 2022.</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, so it PASSES Clause C1.1.			
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>Fishing pressure on the stock is above F_{MSY} but below F_{pa} and F_{lim}; spawning-stock size is below MSY $B_{trigger}$ and between B_{pa} and B_{lim}.</p> <p>Assumed recruitment for the intermediate year tends to be revised considerably downward with successive assessments. Assumed recruitment contributes substantially to the landings in 2023.</p>			



Therefore, the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy), so it PASSES Clause C1.2.

References

ICES. 2022. Saithe (*Pollachius virens*) in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2022. ICES Advice 2022, pok.27.3a46. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19453649>.

Links

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