



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment *Plaice (Pleuronectes platessa) in ICES subdivision 7.a (Irish Sea)*

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 (<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 Subdivision 7a (Irish Sea)
Date	18 Nov 2022	
Report Code	GBR35	
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. and 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 7.a
Fishery Location	FAO 27 northeast Atlantic Ocean
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU Common Fisheries Policy
Gear Type(s)	2021 estimates: Beam trawl (68%), Otter trawl (31%), others (<1%)
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessors' recommendation of approval
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) for stocks in Western Waters and adjacent waters takes into account bycatch of this species. There is no agree shared management plan with UK for this stock, and ICES provides advice according to ICES MSY approach. 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 subdivision 7.a (Irish Sea) 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 subdivision 7.a (Irish Sea) 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 subdivision 7.a should be approved under the MarinTrust Standard v.2.0.</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 Subdivision 7.a (Irish Sea)	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, and assuming that discard rates and fishery selection patterns do not change from the average of the years 2019 to 2021, total catches in 2023 should be no more than 2039 tonnes.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p>Figure 1. Long-term catches and discards for plaice in Subdivision 7.a (Irish Sea). Source: ICES 2022</p>			
<p>Therefore, fishery removals of the stock, including from 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 indicates that recruitment and fishing pressure have both been decreasing and that the average age of catches has been increasing. An increasing amount of the stock contained within the modelled plusgroup (47% in the last five years is age 8+). Consequently, the assessment and forecast have increased uncertainty, and a pattern of retrospective downscaling of SSB is seen in the recent history of the assessment.</p> <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}.</p>			

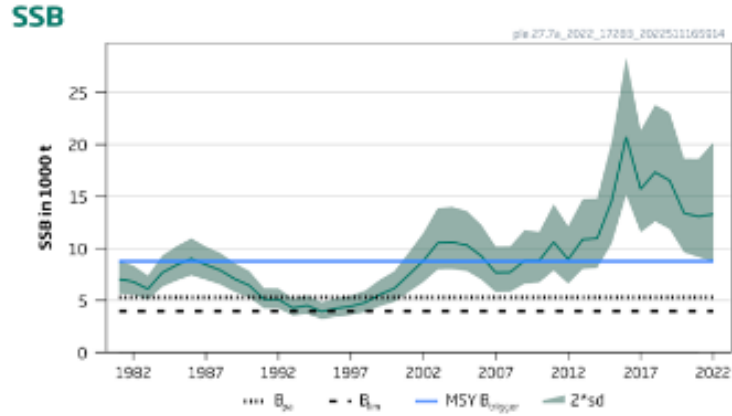


Figure 2. Long-term spawning stock biomass (SSB) trends in Subdivision 7.a (Irish Sea) with 95% confidence intervals. Source: ICES 2022.

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 Division 7.a (Irish Sea). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2022. ICES Advice 2022, ple.27.7a. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19453592>.

Links

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