



## MarinTrust Standard V2

# By-product Fishery Assessment DNK17- Saithe (*Pollachius virens*) in FAO 27, ICES 5.b (Faroes grounds)

**MarinTrust Programme**

Unit C, Printworks

22 Amelia Street

London

SE17 3BZ

E: [standards@marin-trust.com](mailto:standards@marin-trust.com)

T: +44 2039 780 819

**Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome**

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Saithe ( <i>Pollachius virens</i> )
	Geographical area:	FAO 27, ICES 5.b (Faroes grounds)
	Country of origin of the product:	Denmark Flag countries: Faroe Islands, Iceland
	Stock:	Saithe ( <i>Pollachius virens</i> ) in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds)
Date	April 2024	
Report Code	DNK17	
Assessor	Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Denmark Flag countries: Faroe Islands, Iceland	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	N/A	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s):	Thyborøn, FF Skagen A/S		
Country:	Denmark	Flag countries:	Faroe Islands, Iceland
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		NSF / Global Trust Certification Ltd	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval
Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	Léa Lebechnech	0.5	Re-approval
Assessment Period		April 2024 – April 2025	

Scope Details	
Main Species	Saithe ( <i>Pollachius virens</i> )
Stock	Saithe ( <i>Pollachius virens</i> ) in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds)
Fishery Location	FAO 27 - Division 5.b (Faroes grounds)
Management Authority (Country/ State)	European Union Common Fisheries Policy, Danish Directorate of Fisheries ( <i>Fiskeristyrelsen</i> ), Ministry of Fisheries of Faroe Islands, Icelandic Ministry of Industries and Innovation
Gear Type(s)	Pair trawls, others
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 Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species - IUCN's Red List, or if it appears in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as MarinTrust raw material. Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>) is not categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>) is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>There is a species-specific management regime in place for this stock including a stock assessment with reference points defined, thus the stock was assessed under Category C. The last stock assessment was published in November 2023. In the last stock assessment, removals are considered and the stock is above its limit reference point Blim, therefore the stock PASSES clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>) in FAO 27, ICES Division 5.b (Faroes grounds) is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products standard.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>) in FAO 27 - ICES Division 5.b (Faroes grounds) 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 and the most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is above limit reference point. Therefore, the stock is considered to satisfy C1.1. and C1.2.</p> <p>In conclusion, saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>) in FAO 27 - ICES Division 5.b (Faroes grounds) passes both clauses (C1.1 and C1.2) and therefore should be approved under the MarinTrust Standard v2.3.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
N/A

## 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 <sup>1</sup>	CITES Appendix 1 <sup>2</sup>
Saithe	<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Saithe ( <i>Pollachius virens</i> ) in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds)	Yes	C	LC <sup>3</sup>	No

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/190304/45098360>

## 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.	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

**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.**

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2024 should be no more than 15,323 tonnes (ICES, 2023). ICES is not in a position to advise on the corresponding level of fishing effort.

The assessment type is a state-space model (SAM) that uses catches in the model and in the forecast. Input data include commercial catches (mainly Faroese catches, ages and length frequencies from catch sampling); preliminary estimate of catch-at-age in the year (January to September) in which the assessment is carried out; Faroese bottom-trawl surveys FO-GFS-Q1 (G1264) and FO-GFS-Q3 (G3284); annual maturity data from FO-GFS-Q1 (G1264); natural mortality set at  $M = 0.2$ . Discarding is considered negligible. An interbenchmark assessment was performed in 2022.

### Catches

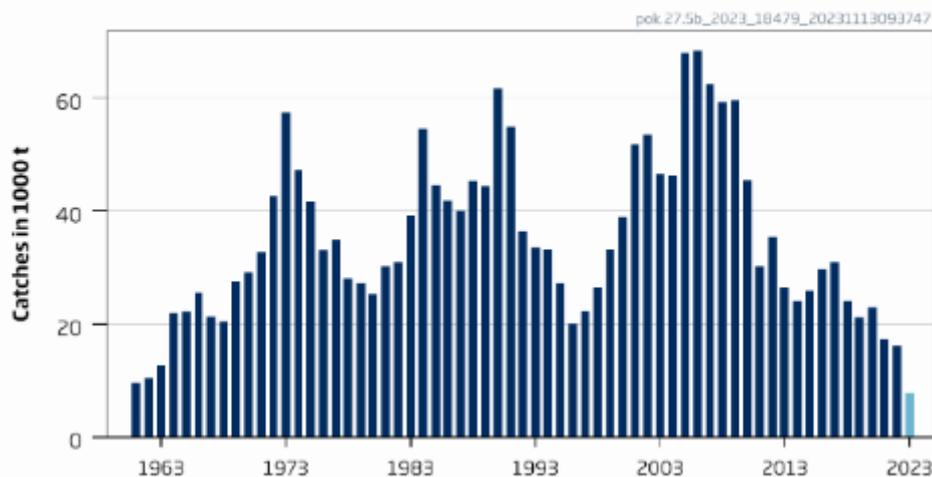


Figure 1. Saithe catches in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds) [ICES 2023].

**Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process. C.1.1 is met.**

**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.

Fishing pressure on the stock is below FMSY, and spawning-stock size is above MSY Btrigger , Bpa , and Blim (ICES, 2023).

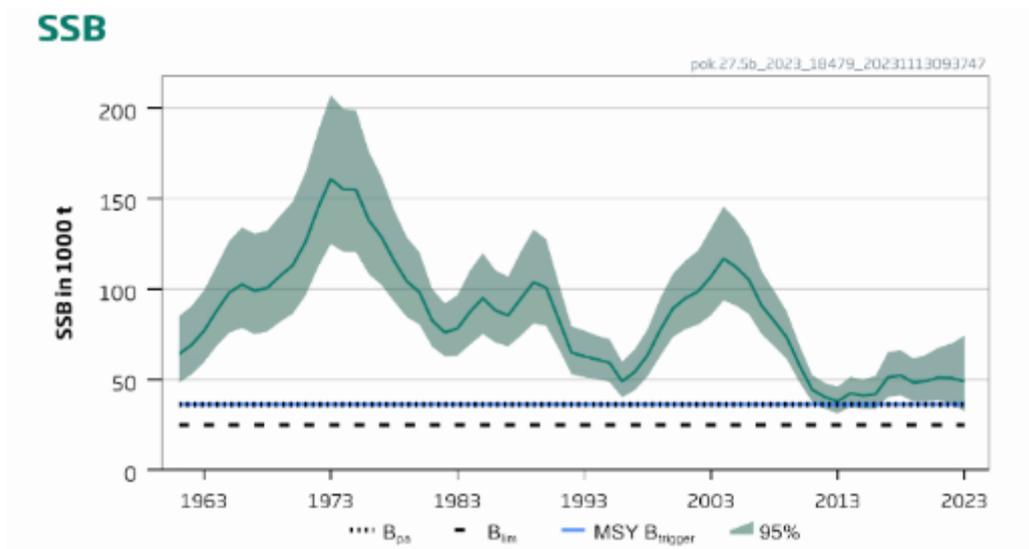


Figure 2. Spawning stock biomass for saithe in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds) [ICES 2023].

The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point. C.1.2 is met.

**References**

ICES. 2023. Saithe (*Pollachius virens*) in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2023. ICES Advice 2023, pok.27.5b, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21975212> (Published 24 November 2023).

**Links**

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